

# DRAFT NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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IN SUPPORT OF THE  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE  
**DRAFT GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN  
2025-2031**

for: **Galway County Council**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

by: **CAAS Ltd.**



**DECEMBER 2024**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (the Draft Plan) in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

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

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required under articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of a European site, in view of the conservation objectives. European sites are either SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable species and habitats.

## 1.3 The AA Process

The initial test in the AA process is to ascertain whether the Draft Plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites. If the Plan is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of European sites, then it will proceed to the first stage of the AA process. Subsequently, there are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

### **Stage One: Screening**

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

### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

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

### **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-

making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

### **1.3.1 Is the Draft Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?**

The overarching objective of the Draft Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to provide a framework for the future development of the settlements of Gort. Therefore, the Draft Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites and must proceed to Stage 1 AA - Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

## **1.4 Methodology**

### **1.4.1 Ecological desktop study**

AA is based on best scientific knowledge and ecological expertise, and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>1</sup>, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)<sup>2</sup> and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>3</sup> mapping websites (including data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

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

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

### **1.4.2 Source-pathway-receptor model**

The assessment for potential effects of the Draft Plan on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where, in order for a potential for effect to be identified, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. Examples of a source, a pathway and a receptor are:

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

As per the above examples; a source is any identifiable element of the Draft Plan that may interact with ecological processes of European sites. A pathway is any connection between the source and the receptor. A receptor is a Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interests of the European site being examined, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by, or provide support to, the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests of a European site.

When all three elements of the model are in place, they are examined further in the context of several factors such as, the nature of the source; the nature of the pathway, the QIs/SCIs involved, their threats and sensitivities and their Conservation Objectives, and best scientific evidence where required, in order to determine whether there is a likelihood for significant effects. As such, the presence of all three elements does not automatically constitute a likely significant effect, but is context dependent. However, the absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that there is no cause for potential effect(s) and thus no likelihood for significant effects.

Where a likelihood for significant effects is determined, mitigation measures are required in order to prevent adverse effects to the QIs/SCIs involved in light of their Conservation Objectives, and therefore

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

the European site(s) concerned would be subject to further assessment and proceed to Stage 2 AA, where a NIR is then required.

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

#### **1.4.3 Public participation**

This NIR has been prepared to accompany the Draft Plan on public display and inform the competent authority on conducting Stage 2 AA. The Draft Plan and AA NIR are placed on public display and submissions will be invited.

Submissions received may result in material alterations being proposed to the Draft Plan. These alterations will be subject to Screening for AA and subsequent stages of AA as relevant.

#### **1.4.4 Relevant guidance**

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

## Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan

### 2.1 Introduction and Content

The Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 has been prepared pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The purpose of the Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Gort area. The Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

### 2.2 Draft Plan Format

The Draft Plan comprises a written statement and a series of maps that provide a graphic representation of the content of the written text. Where there is any discrepancy between the text and maps, the text shall take precedence.

A Local Transport Plan forms part of the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan is accompanied by a number of additional supporting documents, including this AA Natura Impact Report, which have informed the crafting of the Plan.

### 2.3 Vision and Strategic Aims

The Draft Plan sets out a Vision as follows: "Gort is a Self-Sustaining, vibrant, and socially inclusive town with a focus on protecting and enhancing its historical core, natural environment, supporting an educated workforce, and providing a range of supporting services/facilities/amenities. This plan will be delivered through a managed and phase development strategy of appropriately zoned and serviced lands to achieve balanced and sustainable growth for Gort and the immediate environment that it serves."

The following Strategic Aims will assist in delivering the vision for Gort:

- Promote Gort as a Self-Sustaining Town as set out in the GCDP 2022 – 2028 and continue to support a sustainable level of population growth as established in the Core Strategy up to 2028 and beyond.
- Support the delivery of residential units on appropriately zoned land targeted in the Housing Strategy set out in Chapter 2 of the GCDP 2022 – 2028, encouraging sequential and compact growth in the town.
- Promote the reuse of existing buildings for residential use, where appropriate, having regard to the receiving environment, access to services, capacity of public infrastructure, and the delivery of a high quality of residential amenity.
- The strategic location of Gort shall be harnessed to enhance the economic and employment potential of the town, by creating sustainable employment opportunities, supported by investment on appropriately zoned lands.
- Maintain a strong and vibrant town centre that sustains the ability to attract new businesses, which meets the retail and service needs of the town and surrounding areas.
- Support the principle of the Gort Inse Guaire Town Centre First Plan (September 2023) which seeks to deliver holistic sustainable regeneration for the current and future needs of the local community through engagement with local business owners, community representatives, and stakeholders.
- Encourage and foster appropriate tourism opportunities that capitalise on Gort's tourist potential and better promote itself as a traditional Irish market town, with strong links to its natural, cultural and architectural heritage.
- Provide suitable recreation facilities, amenities and support services that shall promote an inclusive and cohesive local environment and serve the needs of the whole community.
- Support the redevelopment of underutilised buildings within the town centre to accommodate multi-functional community and cultural spaces, to facilitate the growth of remote-working, cultural, creative and community sectors in the town centre.
- Protect and enhance the heritage and character of Gort, including the natural assets, environment, built heritage, public realm, local character, and amenity for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Actively encourage sustainable mobility, including walking and cycling, in accordance with the aspirations of the LTP and support the continued provision of investment in public transport and active travel infrastructure.

The Plan addresses topics including:

- Land Use Zoning
- Residential Development
- Residential Infill
- Economic and Enterprise Development
- Community Facilities
- Built and Natural Heritage
- Tourism
- Agricultural
- Transportation and Movement – Local Transport Plan
- Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment
- Flood Risk Management
- Opportunity Sites



## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “Conservation Objectives” (COs), “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 and these are provided in Appendix I of this report. 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 (also provided in Appendix I).

The following NPWS First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) 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, SSCO designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>4</sup> or species<sup>5</sup> at that site have been considered (see Section 3.2 below).

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km pathway consideration zone to be considered for the assessment of Plans. Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of the Draft Plan area are listed in Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.1. European sites, that have surface hydrological connectivity with the Draft Plan area are mapped in Figure 3.2, and sites which occur within the same groundwater body<sup>6</sup> as the Draft Plan area<sup>7</sup> (these can occur beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone) are mapped on Figure 3.3.

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

- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Coole-Garryland Complex SAC [IE0000252] Version 2.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Coole-Garryland SPA [IE0004107] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for East Burren Complex SAC [IE0001926] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Cutra SAC [IE0000299] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Cutra SPA [IE0004056] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC [IE0000286] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Termon Lough SAC [IE0001321] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC [IE0002293] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA [IE0004168] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Coy SAC [IE0002117] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Caherglassaun Turlough SAC [IE0000238] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ballinduff Turlough SAC [IE0002295] Version 1.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>7</sup> Source: EPA datasets on waterways in Ireland (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: May 2024

NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Gortacarnaun Wood SAC [IE0002180] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Drummin Wood SAC [IE0002181] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Cahermore Turlough SAC [IE0002294] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Peterswell Turlough SAC [IE0000318] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC [IE0002317] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Ardrahan Grassland SAC [IE0002244] Version 2.  
 NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Ballyogan Lough SAC [IE0000019] Version 2.  
 NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Moyree River System SAC [IE0000057] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Galway Bay Complex SAC [IE0000268] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Inner Galway Bay SPA [IE0004031] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Fingall Complex SAC [IE0000606] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Sonnagh Bog SAC [IE0001913] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Kiltiernan Turlough SAC [IE0001285] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Castletaylor Complex SAC [IE0000242] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Glendree Bog SAC [IE0001912] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC [IE0000032] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SAC [IE0000322] Version 1.  
 NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SPA [IE0004089] Version 1.

The Conservation Objectives listed above focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each European site. Therefore, the screening process concentrated on assessing any likely significant effects of the Draft Plan on any European site with respect to the QIs/SCIs of each European site in view of their Conservation Objectives.

### 3.3 Screening and Potential Significant Effects

All Policy Objectives contained within the Draft Plan are considered in this report with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives, using the source-pathway-receptor model (described in subsection 1.4.2).

#### 3.3.1 Screening of Sites and Types of Potential Effects

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for likely significant effects on European sites, considering information provided above, including Appendix I.

European sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document "*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*" 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)
- Excavation Requirements
- Transportation Requirements
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

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

All Policy Objectives within the Draft Plan are considered in this assessment with respect to the likelihood for significant effects on the QIs and SCIs of each of the European sites identified by the assessment. This is carried out by considering the sensitivities and threats and pressures of each of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Subsequently, where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential significant effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs, and thereafter any likelihood for significant effects, or absence thereof, is identified.

The Draft Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Gort Plan area. Draft Plan elements that present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites are:

- The Draft Plan's provisions, including those relating to land use zoning, residential development, residential infill, economic and enterprise development, community facilities, built and natural heritage, tourism, agriculture, transportation and movement, water supply and wastewater treatment, flood risk management and opportunity sites, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources (Figure 3.3);
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.



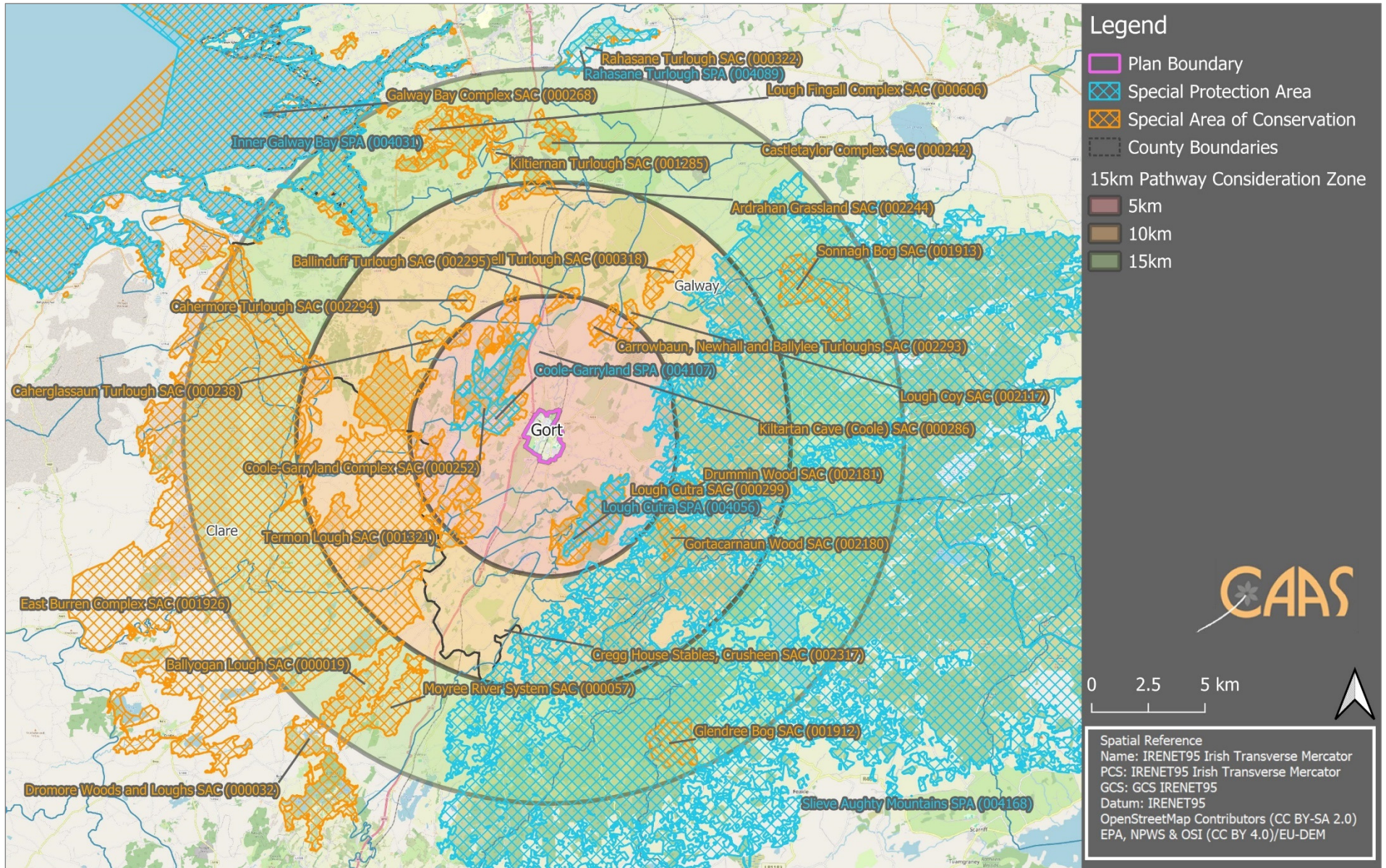
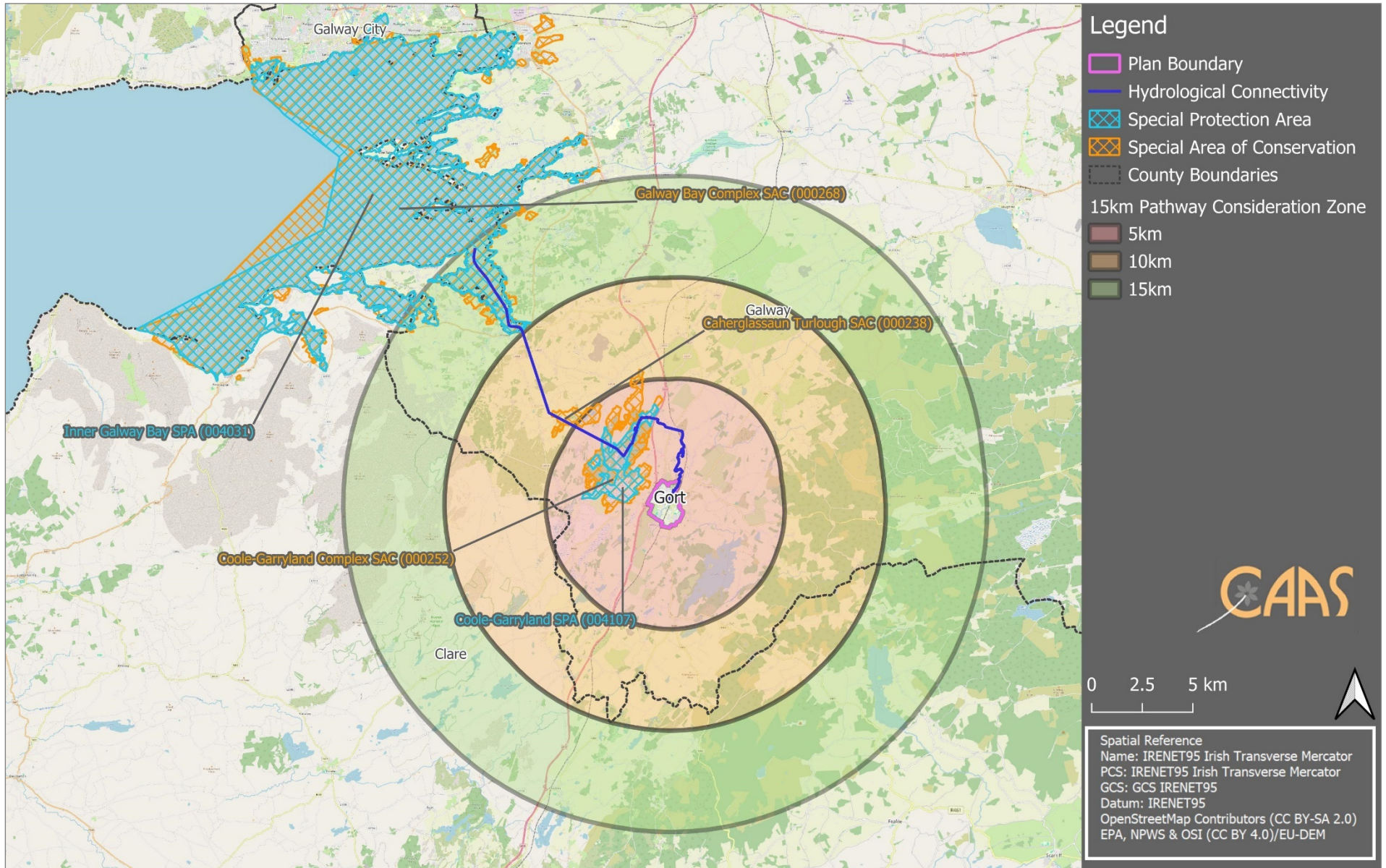


Figure 3.1 European sites within a 15km radius of the Draft Plan boundary<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Source: NPWS

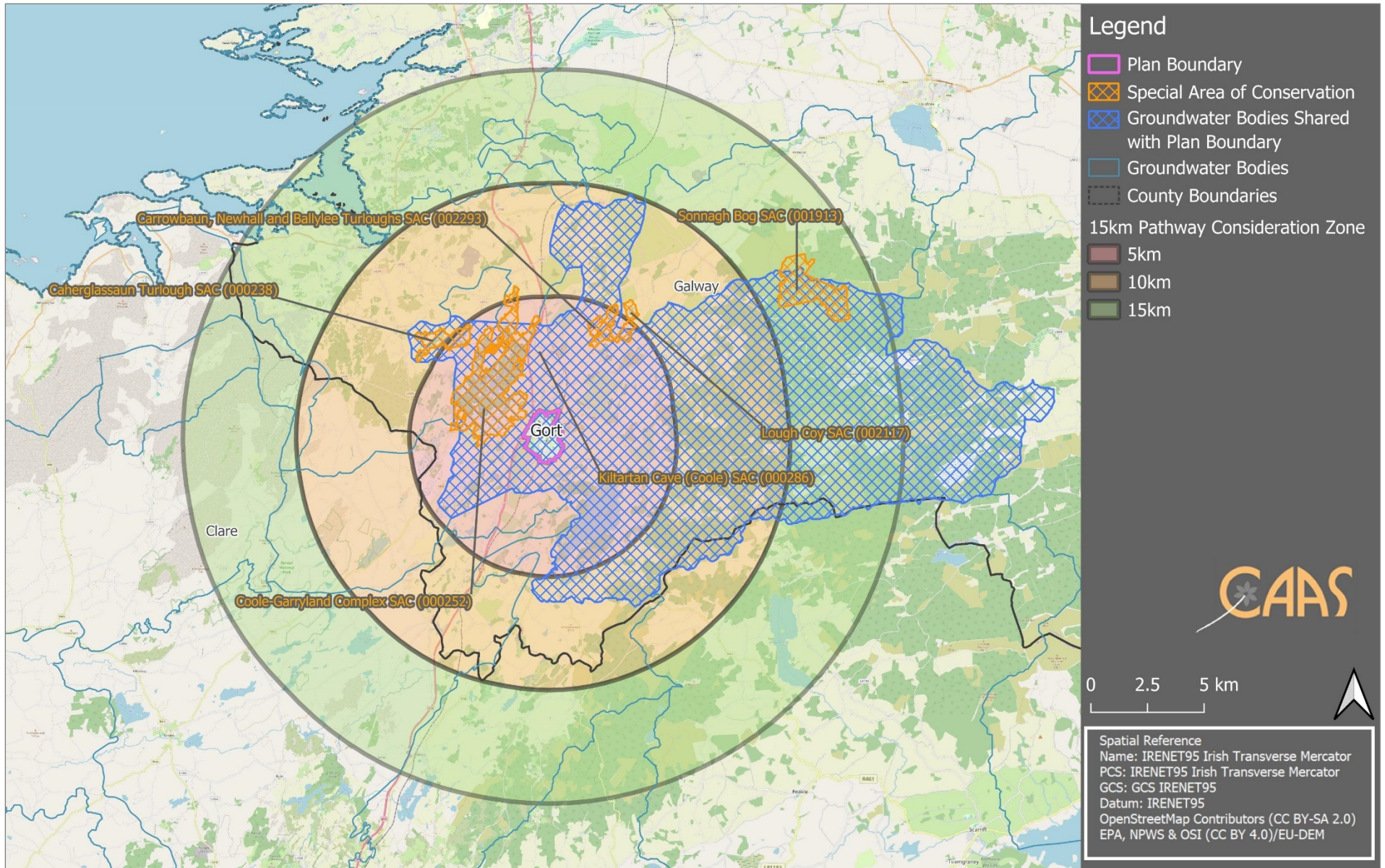




**Figure 3.2 European sites with surface hydrological connectivity<sup>9</sup> with the Draft Plan area**

<sup>9</sup> Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>





**Figure 3.3 European sites<sup>10</sup> with shared groundwater bodies<sup>11</sup> with the Draft Plan area**

<sup>10</sup> Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>11</sup> Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	0.33	Limestone pavements [8240], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Lesser Horseshoe Bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [9100], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270], Turloughs [3180], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 0.33 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for groundwater sensitive habitats. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC is in close proximity to the Draft Plan boundary at 0.33 km (Figure 3.3). In addition, this site has a direct surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions and surface hydrological interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	0.67	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, disturbance and hydrological interactions. The site exists 0.67 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a species which depends on maintenance of hydrological conditions within this site. This site has a direct surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan area (Figure 3.2). There are also sources for disturbance in the Draft Plan from visitor interactions. Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via surface hydrological interactions and disturbance effects.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
001926	East Burren Complex SAC	1.81	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Hard oligomesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Caves not open to the public [8310], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Turloughs [3180], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba</i>	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 1.81 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways for surface, groundwater, or direct land use management potential effects on this SAC.</p> <p>Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

<sup>12</sup> Qualifying Interests (SACs) or Special Conservation Interests (SPAs)  
CAAS for Galway County Council



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
			<i>officinalis</i> ) [6510], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]			
000299	Lough Cutra SAC	1.93	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 1.93 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004056	Lough Cutra SPA	2.07	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 2.07 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary and therefore there are no sources for direct land use management activities.</p> <p>Considering the SCI of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways for surface, groundwater, or direct land use management potential effects on this SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC	2.54	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Caves not open to the public [8310]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 2.54 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001321	Termon Lough SAC	2.71	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 2.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	3.13	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 3.13 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC proximate to the Draft Plan boundary at 3.13 km (Figure 3.3). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	3.55	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 3.55 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002117	Lough Coy SAC	3.92	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 3.92 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC proximate to the Draft Plan boundary at 3.92 km (Figure 3.3). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>	Yes	Yes
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	4.25	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 4.25 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body and a surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC proximate to</p>	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				<p>the Draft Plan boundary at 4.25 km (Figure 3.3). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater and surface hydrological interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified. As a result, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Report is required.</p>		
002295	Ballinduff Turlough SAC	4.27	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 4.27 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002180	Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	5.12	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 5.12 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002181	Drummin Wood SAC	5.14	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 5.14 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002294	Cahermore Turlough SAC	5.32	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 5.32 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p>	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	5.96	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 5.96 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002317	Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC	7.60	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 7.60 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	8.98	Limestone pavements [8240], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 8.98 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC	9.94	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Limestone pavements [8240]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 9.94 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with</p>	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
000057	Moyree River System SAC	10.01	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Caves not open to the public [8310], Limestone pavements [8240], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Alkaline fens [7230], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.01 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	10.09	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Coastal lagoons [1150], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Turloughs [3180], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Limestone pavements [8240], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Reefs [1170], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.09 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site; however, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of over 10 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SAC. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	10.10	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.10 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site; however, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of over 10 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SPA. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	10.71	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Limestone pavements [8240], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p>	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	10.76	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.76 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	11.05	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.05 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	11.23	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.23 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001912	Glendree Bog SAC	12.37	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 12.37 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body</p>	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>12</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				<p>between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>		
000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	14.39	Limestone pavements [8240], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 14.39 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	14.61	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 14.61 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	14.73	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 14.73 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

### 3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the likelihood for potential significant effects on European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Draft Plan to cause in-combination effects on European sites, such as the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Galway County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029. These plans and programmes were considered throughout the assessment.

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

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

### 3.5 Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on the following 5 (no.) European sites:

Site Code	Site Name
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC
002117	Lough Coy SAC

Therefore, under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031. Section 4 of this report provides information in order to inform the competent authority on carrying out Stage 2 AA. An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.4.



Áras an Chontae,  
Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh.  
H91 H6KX.

Áras an Chontae,  
Prospect Hill, Galway.  
H91 H6KX.

Fón/Phone: (091) 509 000  
Facs/Fax: (091) 509 010  
Idirlíon/Web: www.gaillimh.ie  
www.galway.ie

@GalwayCoCo  
GalwayCounty

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha  
Corporate Services  
(091) 509 225  
corpserv@galwaycoco.ie

Tithíocht  
Housing  
(091) 509 300  
housing@galwaycoco.ie

Timpeallacht & Tréidiacht  
Environment & Veterinary  
(091) 509 510  
environment@galwaycoco.ie

Bóithre, Iompar, Córsaí Mara  
& Seirbhísí Ginearálta  
Roads, Transportation, Marine  
& General Services  
(091) 509 309  
roads@galwaycoco.ie

Acmhainní Daonna  
Human Resources  
(091) 509 303  
hr@galwaycoco.ie

Mótarcháin  
Motor Taxation  
(091) 509 099  
motortax@galwaycoco.ie

Clár na dToghthóirí  
Register of Electors  
(091) 509 310  
electors@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Uisce  
Water Services  
(091) 509 505  
water@galwaycoco.ie

Pobal & Fiontar  
Community & Enterprise  
(091) 509 521  
community@galwaycoco.ie

Pleanáil  
Planning  
(091) 509 308  
planning@galwaycoco.ie

Leabharlann  
Library  
(091) 562 471  
info@galwaylibrary.ie



## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

### Screening for Appropriate Assessment

#### Determination

under  
Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,  
for the  
**Emerging Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031**

In order to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination is being made by Galway County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 to have likely significant effects on any European Site.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects, if unmitigated, on European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information includes that provided in an earlier preliminary AA scope and baseline information document and will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the Draft Plan).

The screening process has concluded that an AA of the Draft Plan is required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on 5 (no.) European Sites.

The Draft Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Gort Plan area. Draft Plan elements that present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites include:

- The Draft Plan's provisions, including those relating to land use zoning, residential development, residential infill, economic and enterprise development, community facilities, built and natural heritage, tourism, agriculture, transportation and movement, water supply and wastewater treatment, flood risk management and opportunity sites, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

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

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have a likely significant effect on 5 (no.) European sites. Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required.

Signatory:

*Valerie Dougherty* SP.

Date:

18/12/2024.

*Brian Coscram, ASEP*  
18/12/2024.

**Figure 3.4 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination**



## Section 4 Informing Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

This Natura Impact Report is compiled to inform the competent authority on Stage 2 of the AA process, and in assessing whether the Draft Plan, alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, may result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 5 (no.) European sites brought forward from screening (for more information refer to Section 3 above) – i.e., those sites considered in Table 3.1, for which a “Likelihood of Significant Effects” and/or “Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects” has been identified, with respect to site structure, function, Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests, and Conservation Objectives of each European site considered.

### 4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

Screening for AA (for more information refer to Section 3 above) identified 5 (no.) European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Draft Plan. Appendix I characterises the 5 (no.) European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of this site’s Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests, and Conservation Objectives (as listed by the NPWS<sup>13</sup>).

### 4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Adverse Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts<sup>14</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>13</sup> Available at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> .

<sup>14</sup> 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”.

*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'.

#### First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

#### First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

### 4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

The 2021 European Commission AA guidance provides the following examples of potential changes that can occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Loss/reduction of habitat area;
- Habitat type or species fragmentation;
- Disturbance to key species;
- Reduction in species density; and
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.).

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

#### 4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

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

In addition, various measures have been integrated into the Draft Plan, in alignment with the Policy Objectives of the existing Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the ecological integrity of any European site. In addition, the Draft Plan includes various measures contributing towards the protection of European sites, including requiring that all projects and plans arising from the Plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. These provisions will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites, and are provided in Section 5 below.

#### 4.3.1.2 Habitat Type or Species Fragmentation

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

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

Further to the provisions referred to above, there are provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as hedgerows and waterways such as the Cannahowna / Gort River. These provisions will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not

occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites. A full list of these mitigation measures is provided in Section 5.

#### **4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species**

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

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

#### **4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density**

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

The Draft Plan includes provisions related to non-designated sites and specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as hedgerows, treelines, and waterways, such as the Cannahowna / Gort River that will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the species' densities and ecological integrity of European sites. Measures are also included in the existing Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 that will help protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities, including those relating to water services infrastructure, protective buffer zones and water quality standards. Further details on the mitigation measures integrated into the Draft Plan is provided at Section 5.

#### **4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value**

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

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

**Table 4.1 Characterisation of Site Sensitivities against Potential Adverse Effects and Mitigation**

Site Code	Site Name	Site Sensitivities versus Potential Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures to this site are: Flooding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, intensive cattle grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, grazing, fertilisation, stock feeding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to: land take, direct land use management, flood risk management, pollution, waste, waste, agriculture.</p> <p>Considering the sensitivities of this SAC's QI habitat and its Conservation Objectives (Appendix I), the connectivity to the Draft Plan area, and the potential sources for effects identified in the Draft Plan; the Draft Plan does present sources with pathways for potential adverse effects to this SAC from the following threats and pressures summarised above as a result of its implementation: flood risk management, pollution, waste, and agriculture.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Draft Plan, the objectives proposed therein, and the receiving environment of the Draft Plan area, there are no sources for effect posed from the following threats and pressures listed above as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan: land take and direct land use management.</p> <p>To address the potential sources for effect to this SAC that have been identified in this report, and the threats and pressures posed to this European site from the Draft Plan as identified above; the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft Plan provides for the appropriate management of identified flood risk zones and measures to mitigate against flood risk within the Draft Plan area via policies such as: GSST 25, GSST 58, GSST 59 and GSST 60.</li> <li>• Management for the reduction of the release of pollutants and wastewater into surface and ground waters are provided for in policies such as: GSST 62 and GSST 61.</li> <li>• Appropriate and regulated waste management is provided for within the Draft Plan via policies such as: GSST 2 and GSST 68.</li> <li>• The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however Policy Objectives such as: GSST 62 and GSST 23 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural run off into freshwater systems.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures to this site are: Burning down, roads, motorways, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, flooding, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, invasive non-native species, intensive sheep grazing, sand and gravel extraction, disposal of inert materials, wind energy production, intensive cattle grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, forestry clearance.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to: pollution, agriculture, forestry, renewable energy (wind farms), built environment, direct land use management, fire, waste water, land take, invasive species, hydrological changes, flood risk management, extractive industry, waste.</p> <p>Considering the sensitivities of this SAC's QI habitats and their Conservation Objectives (Appendix I), the connectivity to the Draft Plan area, and the potential sources for effects identified in the Draft Plan; the Draft Plan does present sources with pathways for potential adverse effects to this SAC from the following threats and pressures summarised above as a result of its implementation: pollution, agriculture, built environment, waste water, invasive species, hydrological changes, flood risk management, waste.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Draft Plan, the objectives proposed therein, and the receiving environment of the Draft Plan area, there are no sources for effect posed from the following threats and pressures listed above as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan: forestry, renewable energy (wind farms), direct land use management, fire, land take and extractive industry.</p> <p>To address the potential sources for effect to this SPA that have been identified in this report, and the threats and pressures posed to this European site from the Draft Plan as identified above; the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Draft Plan provides for the appropriate management of identified flood risk zones and measures to mitigate against flood risk within the Draft Plan area via policies such as: GSST 25, GSST 58, GSST 59 and GSST 60.</li> <li>• Management for the reduction of the release of pollutants and wastewater into surface and ground waters are provided for in policies such as: GSST 62 and GSST 61.</li> <li>• Appropriate and regulated waste management is provided for within the Draft Plan via policies such as: GSST 2 and GSST 68.</li> <li>• The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however Policy Objectives such as: GSST 62 and GSST 23 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural run off into freshwater systems.</li> <li>• Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Draft Plan area are adequately provided for via policies such as: GSST 57, GSST 62 and GSST 65.</li> <li>• The management of invasive species occurrence and risk is accounted for in the Draft Plan via alignment with the Galway County Development Plan 2022 -2028 via policies such as: GSST 1 and Section 1.2.</li> <li>• The development of the Draft Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Draft Plan via policy objectives such as: GSST 4, GSST 5 and GSST 61.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Site Sensitivities versus Potential Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures
002117	Lough Coy SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures to this site are: Disposal of inert materials, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, no threats or pressures, acid rain, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to: pollution, agriculture, direct land use management, hydrological changes, land take, waste water, waste.</p> <p>Considering the sensitivities of this SAC's QI habitats and their Conservation Objectives (Appendix I), the connectivity to the Draft Plan area, and the potential sources for effects identified in the Draft Plan; the Draft Plan does present sources with pathways for potential adverse effects to this SAC from the following threats and pressures summarised above as a result of its implementation: pollution, agriculture, hydrological changes, waste water and waste.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Draft Plan, the objectives proposed therein, and the receiving environment of the Draft Plan area, there are no sources for effect posed from the following threats and pressures listed above as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan: direct land use management and land take.</p> <p>To address the potential sources for effect to this SPA that have been identified in this report, and the threats and pressures posed to this European site from the Draft Plan as identified above; the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate and regulated waste management is provided for within the Draft Plan via policies such as: GSST 2 and GSST 68.</li> <li>• Management for the reduction of the release of pollutants and wastewater into surface and ground waters are provided for in policies such as: GSST 62 and GSST 61.</li> <li>• The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however Policy Objectives such as: GSST 62 and GSST 23 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural run off into freshwater systems.</li> <li>• Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Draft Plan area are adequately provided for via policies such as: GSST 57, GSST 62 and GSST 65.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	<p>The known threats and pressures to this site are: Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, roads, paths and railroads, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, disposal of inert materials, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, agricultural intensification, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fertilisation, flooding, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, demolition of buildings &amp; human structures.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to: agriculture, direct land use management, waste water, flood risk management, built environment, land take, waste, pollution, forestry, hydrological changes.</p> <p>Considering the sensitivities of this SAC's QI habitats and their Conservation Objectives (Appendix I), the connectivity to the Draft Plan area, and the potential sources for effects identified in the Draft Plan; the Draft Plan does present sources with pathways for potential adverse effects to this SAC from the following threats and pressures summarised above as a result of its implementation: waste water, agriculture, flood risk management, built environment, waste, pollution and hydrological changes.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Draft Plan, the objectives proposed therein, and the receiving environment of the Draft Plan area, there are no sources for effect posed from the following threats and pressures listed above as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan: direct land use management, land take and forestry.</p> <p>To address the potential sources for effect to this SPA that have been identified in this report, and the threats and pressures posed to this European site from the Draft Plan as identified above; the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate and regulated waste management is provided for within the Draft Plan via policies such as: GSST 2 and GSST 68.</li> <li>• Management for the reduction of the release of pollutants and wastewater into surface and ground waters are provided for in policies such as: GSST 62 and GSST 61.</li> <li>• The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however Policy Objectives such as: GSST 62 and GSST 23 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural run off into freshwater systems.</li> <li>• Provision for the protection of surface water bodies and waterways in the Draft Plan area are adequately provided for via policies such as: GSST 57, GSST 62 and GSST 65.</li> <li>• The development of the Draft Plan area's built environment with appropriate regard to ecological sensitivities is provided for in the Draft Plan via policy objectives such as: GSST 4, GSST 5 and GSST 61.</li> <li>• The Draft Plan also provides for the appropriate management of identified flood risk zones and measures to mitigate against flood risk within the Draft Plan area via policies such as: GSST 25, GSST 58, GSST 59 and GSST 60.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Site Sensitivities versus Potential Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures to this site are: Grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, sylviculture, forestry, hunting, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, fertilisation, interspecific faunal relations, interpretative centres, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to: forestry, waste, agriculture, direct land use management, pollution, amenity and leisure activities, land take.</p> <p>Considering the sensitivities of this SAC's QI habitats and their Conservation Objectives (Appendix I), the connectivity to the Draft Plan area, and the potential sources for effects identified in the Draft Plan; the Draft Plan does present sources with pathways for potential adverse effects to this SAC from the following threats and pressures summarised above as a result of its implementation: waste, agriculture, pollution and amenity and leisure activities.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the Draft Plan, the objectives proposed therein, and the receiving environment of the Draft Plan area, there are no sources for effect posed from the following threats and pressures listed above as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan: direct land use management and land take.</p> <p>To address the potential sources for effect to this SPA that have been identified in this report, and the threats and pressures posed to this European site from the Draft Plan as identified above; the following mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that no adverse effects occur to this European site as a result of the implementation of the Draft Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate and regulated waste management is provided for within the Draft Plan via policies such as: GSST 2 and GSST 68.</li> <li>• Management for the reduction of the release of pollutants and wastewater into surface and ground waters are provided for in policies such as: GSST 62 and GSST 61.</li> <li>• The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities, however Policy Objectives such as: GSST 62 and GSST 23 encourage sustainable agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity and provide for the appropriate management of agricultural run off into freshwater systems.</li> <li>• The local amenity use of sites and tourism is encouraged throughout the Draft Plan but with due consideration for sustainability, local biodiversity and European sites through policy objectives such as: GSST 21 and GSST 19.</li> </ul> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures/Policy Objectives incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p>

## **Section 5 Mitigation Measures**

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

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

**Table 5.1 Measures for adherence to policy objectives of the County Development Plans<sup>15</sup>**

	Specific policy or Draft Plan section
Measure(s)	<p><b>Section 1.2 Planning Context</b></p> <p>The development strategy and planning policy objectives outlined in this Local Area Plan must align with the objectives set out in national, regional and local planning policy including, the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES), and the Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) 2022-2028.</p> <p><b>GSST 1 Consistency with Core Strategy</b></p> <p>Galway County Council will ensure that developments permitted within the settlement of Gort are consistent with the zoned land allocations in the Core Strategy and associated provisions of the <i>Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028</i>.</p>

**Table 5.2 Mitigation measures<sup>16</sup> for overarching ecologically sensitive components<sup>17</sup> identified in the Plan area**

Component	Applied Development Plan Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s) <sup>18</sup>
Natural heritage, biodiversity and National / European sites	<p><b>GSST 3 Environmental Assessment</b></p> <p>To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP.</p> <p><b>GSST 55 European Sites</b></p> <p>Protect European Sites including Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) that form part of the Natura 2000 network. In accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010 (and any updated/superseding guidance). A plan or project (e.g., proposed development) within the plan area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and an Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>2.The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions, and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites; or</li> <li>3.The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites.</li> </ol> <p><b>GSST 57 Biodiversity &amp; Ecological Networks</b></p> <p>Support the protection of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, peatlands, wetlands, stonewalls, and other landscape features, where these form part of the ecological network. Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors.</p> <p><b>GSST 56 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect important trees, tree clusters and hedgerows in the plan area and ensure that development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands. Ensure that all planting schemes use suitable native variety of trees.</li> </ol>

<sup>15</sup> Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

<sup>16</sup> Due to the high-level nature of Development Planning, one Plan objectives/mitigation measures can address several sources for effect identified as requiring mitigation measures e.g., a objectives/mitigation measure providing for the protection of water quality could address potential sources for effects resulting from forestry activities and wastewater.

<sup>17</sup> Due to the high-level nature of Development Planning, a 'component' in the context of this report is a high-level ecological receptor that potential effects identified from the Plan could impact, such as 'natural heritage and biodiversity' and "surface water courses".

<sup>18</sup> All of the measures included in this table address the protection of European sites in relation to the QIs/SCIs in view of their respective COs and the potential effects identified in the Plan.



	<p>b) Seek to retain natural boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries, wherever possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable. Discourage the felling of mature trees where possible. All works to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946 (as amended);</p> <p>c) Carry out a tree survey on important tree stands within the plan area by suitably qualified personnel (excluding Ash).</p>
<p>Surface water courses, groundwater, peatlands and other wetlands *WFD</p>	<p><b>GSST 22 The River Walk</b></p> <p>Protect and enhance walkways along the Cannahowna/Gort River including the Kinincha and Pound Road in a sustainable manner where possible. Regard should be had to the protection of Otters and Otter breeding sites and resting places along the river walk.</p> <p><i>Any proposals shall be required to comply with environmental considerations and the relevant DM Standards.</i></p> <p><b>GSST 62 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses</b></p> <p>Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate.</p> <p>To contribute towards protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposed development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments.</p> <p><b>GSST 65 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters</b></p> <p>Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will support the protection and, where appropriate, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.</p>
<p>Monitoring</p>	<p><b>GSST 74 Implementation and Monitoring</b></p> <p>Monitor development for compliance with the policy objectives of the Core Strategy and adjust, where necessary, the approach taken to the consideration of development proposals to ensure effective alignment with the National, Regional and County policy objectives.</p>

**Table 5.3 Mitigation measures<sup>19</sup> for specific sources for potential effect<sup>20</sup> identified in the Draft Plan**

Source for potential effect arising from the Draft Plan	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
<p>Tourism and leisure activities</p>	<p><b>GSST 21 Tourism</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall encourage and foster appropriate tourism opportunities that capitalise on Gort's tourist potential and better promote itself as a traditional Irish market town, with strong links to its natural, cultural and architectural heritage.</p> <p><i>Any proposals shall be required to comply with environmental considerations and the relevant DM Standards.</i></p> <p><b>GSST 19 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity</b></p> <p>Promote the sustainable management, use and/or development, as appropriate, of open space/recreation and amenity lands. This will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community;</li> </ul>

<sup>19</sup> Due to the high-level nature of Development Planning, one Plan objectives/mitigation measures can address several sources for effect identified as requiring mitigation measures e.g., a objectives/mitigation measure providing for the protection of water quality could address potential sources for effects resulting from forestry activities and wastewater.

<sup>20</sup> These potential sources for effects are determined based on the nature of the Plan, the ecological sensitives of the Draft Plan area, and connectivity to European sites.

Source for potential effect arising from the Draft Plan	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision;</li> <li>• Appropriate management and use of any flood risk areas within the OS zone to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding;</li> <li>• Support the protection of habitats and species listed in the annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, and stepping stones or ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Gort in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner.</li> </ul>
Built environment	<p><b>GSST 4 Compact Growth</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall support the delivery of new homes within the existing built-up footprint of Gort, by sites such as infill or opportunity sites in the settlement and prioritising underutilised land in preference to greenfield sites.</p> <p><b>GSST 5 Opportunity Sites</b></p> <p>To encourage and support the appropriate and sustainable development or redevelopment of lands identified as development opportunity sites within the Land Use Zoning Map. See Section 3.0 in respect of individual sites.</p>
Flood Risk Management	<p><b>Section 2.10 Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p>Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource from the GCDP 2022 – 2028 sets out the Strategic Aims and key Policy Objectives pertaining to Flood Risk Management in County Galway.</p> <p>Any forthcoming proposals must comply with <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents), in addition to the flood risk management policies contained in the GCDP and this plan.</p> <p><b>GSST 25 Constrained Land Use</b></p> <p>To facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of land within Flood Zones A and B.</p> <p>New development in these areas will generally be limited (apart from where the Plan-level Justification Test outlined in the accompanying SFRA has been passed or where the uses comprise minor developments in existing developed areas, as outlined in Section 5.28 of the Guidelines as amended by Circular PL 2/2014) to water-compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B, and a detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas.</p> <p>This limitation shall take primacy over any other provision relating to land use zoning objectives.</p> <p>The Plan-level Justification Test has been passed for all lands zoned Town Centre overlapping within Flood Zone A or B.</p> <p><b>GSST 58 Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p> <p>It is the policy objective of Galway County Council to support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009)</i> (and any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance) and Department Circular PL2/2014 or any updated / superseding version.</p> <p><b>GSST 59 Flood Risk Management and Assessment</b></p> <p>It is a Policy Objective of the Council to comply with the requirements of the DoEHLG/OPW <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines;</li> </ul>

Source for potential effect arising from the Draft Plan	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>b) Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a Site- Specific Flood Risk Assessment, and justification test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document); Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts;</p> <p>c) Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted;</p> <p>d) Galway County Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding.</p> <p><b>GSST 60 Principles of Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p> <p>The Council shall implement the key principles of flood risk management set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines as follows:</p> <p>a) Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible;</p> <p>b) Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and,</p> <p>c) Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible.</p> <p>Development should only be permitted in areas at risk of flooding when there are no alternative reasonable sites available in areas at lower risk that also meet the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development. Vulnerable development in areas which have the highest flood risk should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances (through a prescribed Justification Test) if adequate land or sites are not available in areas which have lower flood risk.</p> <p><b>GSST 63 Flood Risk Assessment for Planning Applications and CFRAMS</b></p> <p>Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standards 2 and 3. Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at elevated risk of flooding, even for developments appropriate to the particular flood zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The Council shall have regard to the results of any CFRAM Studies in the assessment of planning applications. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test in addition to the site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required, and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed.</p> <p><b>GSST 64 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change</b></p> <p>Flood Risk Assessment in Gort shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regards to flood risk in relevant locations. The Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p><b>GSST 65 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters</b></p> <p>Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will support the protection and, where appropriate, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.</p> <p><b>GSST 66 Flood Vulnerable Zones</b></p> <p>It is a policy objective of the Council to ensure that applications pertaining to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following – floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events.</p> <p><b>GSST 67 Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p>Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p>

Source for potential effect arising from the Draft Plan	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Invasive species	As a result of alignment with the objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 through <b>policy GSST 1</b> and <b>Section 1.2 Planning Context</b> , objectives relating to the management and prevention of spread of invasive species within the Draft Plan area are provided for in the Draft Plan.
Agriculture	<p><b>GSST 23 Agriculture</b></p> <p>To promote the development of agriculture and agriculture-related uses in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. There will be a general presumption against residential development on Agricultural zoned lands, located within the plan boundary except for single house developments for family members on farm family-owned lands.</p>
Air Pollution	<p><b>GSST 35 Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall promote the benefit of open spaces and implement the integration of green infrastructure/networks (e.g., interconnected network of green spaces (including aquatic ecosystems) and other physical features on land) into new development and regeneration proposals in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p><b>GSST 46 Sustainable Transportation</b></p> <p>Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the plan area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicles rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes, cycle parking as appropriate.</p> <p><b>GSST 53 Climate Change</b></p> <p>Support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrated land use and low carbon transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon emissions</p>
Climate	<p><b>Section 1.3</b></p> <p>Climate change and its associated challenges has been covered throughout the GCDP 2022-2028 as an embedded theme. Chapter 14 <i>Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource</i> details the nature and extent of climate change and how it impacts people's lives, society and the broader economy. In line with the provisions of the GCDP 2022-2028, this LAP seeks to deliver well planned communities, where sustainable modes of transport are utilised in the first instance when travelling to local facilities such as education, work, and commercial activity.</p> <p><b>GSST 35 Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall promote the benefit of open spaces and implement the integration of green infrastructure/networks (e.g., interconnected network of green spaces (including aquatic ecosystems) and other physical features on land) into new development and regeneration proposals in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p><b>GSST 46 Sustainable Transportation</b></p> <p>Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the plan area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicles rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes, cycle parking as appropriate.</p> <p><b>GSST 53 Climate Change</b></p> <p>Support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrated land use and low carbon transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p><b>GSST 54 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources</b></p> <p>Support and facilitate the implementation of European, National and Regional objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p><b>GSST 72 Renewable Energy</b></p> <p>Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy and associated infrastructure within the LAP area and encourage the integration of micro-renewable energy sources into the design and construction of new developments as appropriate.</p>

Source for potential effect arising from the Draft Plan	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
<p>Management of water services, wastewater and implementation of SuDS<sup>21</sup></p>	<p><b>Section 2.9 Water supply and wastewater treatment</b></p> <p>Galway County Council has had regard to Uisce Éireann's (formerly Irish Water) strategic plans in preparing this LAP. The <i>Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050</i> (WSSP 2050) is Uisce Éireann's forthcoming long-term strategic plan setting out the strategic direction and objectives over a 25-year period.</p> <p>Galway County Council recognises that the delivery of infrastructure and utilities in a sustainable manner are critical to the future development of the county. Any development proposals within the settlement of Gort should liaise with Uisce Éireann in respect of water supply and wastewater infrastructure required as set out in Chapter 7 of the GCDP.</p> <p><b>GSST 31 Water Supply and Water Conservation</b></p> <p>Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply, promote water conservation to reduce the overall level of water loss in the public supply and require that new domestic developments provide for water supply metering in accordance with their connection agreement with Uisce Éireann.</p> <p><b>GSST 61 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)</b></p> <p>Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system in Gort. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments. Surface water runoff from development sites will be limited to pre-development levels and planning applications for new developments will be required to provide details of surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems proposals. To maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water, the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers is not permitted. Refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA, "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy".</p>
<p>Waste Management</p>	<p><b>GSST 2 Service - Led Development</b></p> <p>Development under the plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public wastewater infrastructure and potable water infrastructure. Potential developers shall make a Pre-Connection Enquiry to Uisce Éireann in order to establish the feasibility of a connection to the public network.</p> <p><b>GSST 68 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling</b></p> <p>Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in new developments, new development proposals shall be required to submit proposals demonstrating how this is to be achieved and shall seek to ensure on-site provision for waste storage and segregation (bio-waste/dry recyclables/residual waste) pending collection at all new domestic and non-domestic premises.</p>

<sup>21</sup> Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems  
CAAS for Galway County Council

## Section 6 Conclusion

This Natura Impact Report demonstrates that, upon the inclusion of suitable mitigation measures, the Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 will not result in any adverse effects to the ecological integrity of any European site.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures into the Draft Plan (including alignment with the mitigation measures integrated into the existing County Development Plan), it has been demonstrated that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects to any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>22</sup>. This demonstration has been made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

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<sup>22</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

## Appendix I Background information on European sites

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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	A04.03, I02, C01, H01.05, A10, J01.01, A05.02, A04.02, K02.01, A04.01, H02.06, H01.08, H02.07	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, problematic native species, mining and quarrying, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, restructuring agricultural land holding, burning down, stock feeding, non-intensive grazing, species composition change (succession), intensive grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population
000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Limestone pavements [8240], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	B, A10.01, D01, G05, G01.03, G01.02, A08, B01.01, E01.03, J02, G03, A04, A10, E06.02, F03.01, D01.02, A10.02, E03.01, F03.02.04, F02.03, E03.03	Sylviculture, forestry, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, roads, paths and railroads, other human intrusions and disturbances, motorised vehicles, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation, forest planting on open ground (native trees), dispersed habitation, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, interpretative centres, grazing, restructuring agricultural land holding, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, hunting, roads, motorways, removal of stone walls and embankments, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, predator control, leisure fishing, disposal of inert materials
000057	Moyree River System SAC	Caves not open to the public [8310], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230]	J02, E04.01, A08, E06.02, H, J02.01, F03.01, A10, E01, J01, A10.01, A04, A10.02, G01.02, A04.02.01, I02, B01, A05.02, E03.01	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape, fertilisation, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, pollution, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, hunting, restructuring agricultural land holding, urbanised areas, human habitation, fire and fire suppression, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, grazing, removal of stone walls and embankments, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, non-intensive cattle grazing, problematic native species, forest planting on open ground, stock feeding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	J02.04.01, H01.08, A04.01.01, E03.01, A04, A08, A05.02, A10.01, H02.06	Flooding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, intensive cattle grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, grazing, fertilisation, stock feeding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Turloughs [3180], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	H01.08, J02.01, A10.01, X, A04.01.01, H02.06, B01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, no threats or pressures, intensive cattle grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, forest planting on open ground
000252	Cooler-Garryland Complex SAC	Lesser Horseshoe Bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [9110], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation [3270], Limestone pavements [8240], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	J01.01, D01.02, H01.08, E06.02, J02.05, J02.04.01, J02.01.03, A10.01, E03.01, I01, A04.01.02, C01.01, E03.03, C03.03, A04.01.01, H02.06, A08, J02.01, B02.02	Burning down, roads, motorways, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, flooding, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, invasive non-native species, intensive sheep grazing, sand and gravel extraction, disposal of inert materials, wind energy production, intensive cattle grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, forestry clearance
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	Turloughs [3180], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Alkaline fens [7230], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Reefs [1170], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Coastal lagoons [1150]	J02.01.02, D03, E03.03, A04.02.01, F01, G01.01.02, H01.05, F06, A02.01, D03.01.04, D03.01.01, J02.02.02, A04.02.02, F02.03.01, C01.01.02, J02.05.01, J02.12.01, D02.02, I01, C01.01, G02.01, H01.08, D01.01	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, disposal of inert materials, non-intensive cattle grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, non-motorized nautical sports, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, agricultural intensification, industrial ports, slipways, estuarine and coastal dredging, non-intensive sheep grazing, bait digging or collection, removal of beach materials, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, pipe lines, invasive non-native species, sand and gravel extraction, golf course, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, paths, tracks, cycling tracks

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Caves not open to the public [8310]	J02.04.01, E06.02, G01.04.03, D01.02	Flooding, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, recreational cave visits, roads, motorways
000299	Lough Cutra SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	B03, A10, A10.01, B02.02, B02.01.01, H06.02, H06.01, E01.03, E06.02, B01.01	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth, restructuring agricultural land holding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, forestry clearance, forest replanting (native trees), light pollution, noise nuisance, noise pollution, dispersed habitation, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, forest planting on open ground (native trees)
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	J02.05, A08, B01, A04, A05.02, J02.10, X, J02.01.03, H02.06, E03.01, A02.01, J02.01, E03.03, H01.08	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, forest planting on open ground, grazing, stock feeding, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, no threats or pressures, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, agricultural intensification, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, disposal of inert materials, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	J02.01, A10.01, H02.06, J02.05, A08, A04.01.05, J02.10, E03.01, F03.01, A02.01, H01.08, X, E03.03	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, intensive mixed animal grazing, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, hunting, agricultural intensification, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, no threats or pressures, disposal of inert materials
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Turloughs [3180], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	A04.03, J02.01.03, A04.01, A08, J02.05, A04.02.01, C01, A05.02, J02.07.02, H01.08, J02.01, H02.06, E03.01, A04.01.01, A02.01, E03.03	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, intensive grazing, fertilisation, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, non-intensive cattle grazing, mining and quarrying, stock feeding, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, intensive cattle grazing, agricultural intensification, disposal of inert materials
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	H02.06, A02.01, A08, D01.02, H01.08, X, J02.05	Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, agricultural intensification, fertilisation, roads, motorways, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, no threats or pressures, modification of hydrographic functioning, general
001321	Termon Lough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	H01.08, A08, E03.03, X, H02.06, A10.01, J02.05, A04.01.01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, fertilisation, disposal of inert materials, no threats or pressures, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, intensive cattle grazing
001912	Glendree Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	A01, B, B01, J01, D01.01, G01.03.02, C01.03, A04, B07, K01.01	Cultivation, silviculture, forestry, forest planting on open ground, fire and fire suppression, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving, peat extraction, grazing, forestry activities not referred to above, erosion
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	C01.03.02, X, A05.02, J01, B01, A04.02, B05	Mechanical removal of peat, no threats or pressures, stock feeding, fire and fire suppression, forest planting on open ground, non-intensive grazing, use of fertilizers (forestry)
001926	East Burren Complex SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Turloughs [3180], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Caves not open to the public [8310], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	A04.02, G01, H02.07, D01.02, H02.06, D05, A05.02, H01.05, I02, D01.01, A02, H01.08, E03.01, A04.03, A08, A10, A10.01, A04.01, K02.01, A11	Non-intensive grazing, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, roads, motorways, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, improved access to site, stock feeding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, problematic native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, modification of cultivation practices, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, fertilisation, restructuring agricultural land holding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, intensive grazing, species composition change (succession), agriculture activities not referred to above
002117	Lough Coy SAC	Turloughs [3180]	E03.03, J02.05, A08, X, H04.01, H01.08, A10.01, J02.01.03, H02.06	Disposal of inert materials, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, no threats or pressures, acid rain, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities



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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002180	Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B06, B02.05, B02, B01, A04.02, I01, B02.02, B02.06	Grazing in forests or woodland, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), forest and plantation management & use, forest planting on open ground, non-intensive grazing, invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, thinning of tree layer
002181	Drummin Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B01, B02.05, A04.02, B02.06, B02, B06, B02.02, I01	Forest planting on open ground, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), non-intensive grazing, thinning of tree layer, forest and plantation management & use, grazing in forests or woodland, forestry clearance, invasive non-native species
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	A10.01, A05.02, A04.03, A04.01.03, E04, E03.03, A08, A04.02.01, D01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, stock feeding, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, intensive horse grazing, structures, buildings in the landscape, disposal of inert materials, fertilisation, non-intensive cattle grazing, roads, paths and railroads
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	Turloughs [3180]	J02.05, D01, J02.01.03, E03.03, E06.02, J02.10, E03.01, A02.01, A10.01, A08, J02.04.01, H02.06, H01.08, E06.01	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, roads, paths and railroads, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, disposal of inert materials, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, agricultural intensification, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fertilisation, flooding, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, demolition of buildings & human structures
002294	Cahermore Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, J02.05, A10.01, H02.06, J02.01.03, A02.01, J02.04.01, H01.08, E03.03	Fertilisation, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, agricultural intensification, flooding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, disposal of inert materials
002295	Ballinduff Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, X, J02.05, H01.08, E03.03, H02.06, A02.01, A10.01	Fertilisation, no threats or pressures, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, disposal of inert materials, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, agricultural intensification, removal of hedges and copses or scrub
002317	Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	X, E06.02	No threats or pressures, reconstruction, renovation of buildings
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052]	F01, J02.01.02, D01.02, A08, A04, E02, G01.02, G01.01, F03.01, E01, J02.12, E03, F02.03	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, fertilisation, grazing, industrial or commercial areas, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, discharges, leisure fishing
004056	Lough Cutra SPA	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]	A04, F03.01, A08, F02.03, B	Grazing, hunting, fertilisation, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	A08, F03.01, A04	Fertilisation, hunting, grazing
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	A04, G01.02, B, F03.01, E03.01, A08, K03, G03, B03	Grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, silviculture, forestry, hunting, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, fertilisation, interspecific faunal relations, interpretative centres, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	E01.03, A04, D01.01, B, C01.03, D01.02	Dispersed habitation, grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, silviculture, forestry, peat extraction, roads, motorways

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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1065]	Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> )	The pressures facing this species are associated with conversion of land into agricultural land or forestry, under-grazing and abandonment of land.	A01, A07, A10, B01	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1150]	Coastal lagoons	Several high-ranking pressures were identified acting on this habitat: eutrophication, modification of hydrological flow, and drainage. Other pressures noted include erosion and silting up, accumulation of seaweed, and sedimentation from peat related to turf cutting and/or forestry.	C12, J02, K02, K04, L01, L03, N04	Extraction activities generating marine pollution, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), accumulation of organic material, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
[1160]	Large shallow inlets and bays	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species.	A28, B23, F20, G01, G16, I02	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1303]	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> )	The pressures facing Lesser Horseshoe Bats are associated with human disturbance (e.g. noise, light and heat pollution, construction or conversion of urban and recreational areas, including the removal of small landscape features and trees).	A05, B09, F01, F02, F24, H08, L06, M08	Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation, livestock farming (without grazing), clear-cutting, removal of all trees, conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), construction or modification (e.g., of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas, residential or recreational activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes)	Temperature fluctuations in their roosts. Resource availability. Habitat connectivity. Lighting and noise effects. Urbanisation.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
					Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1365]	Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[3140]	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass ( <i>Chara spp.</i> )	The hard-water lake habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, the primary sources of nutrient and organic pollution being agriculture and municipal and industrial wastewaters.	A25, A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12, F13, F33, I02	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3150]	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	Most of the pressures on this habitat are as a result of pollution from agriculture, forestry activities and wastewater.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3180]	Turloughs	The main pressures associated with this habitat are related to drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing.	A09, A26, A31	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3260]	Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation ( <i>Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are caused by damage through hydrological and morphological change, eutrophication and other water pollution.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K01, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
[3270]	Rivers with muddy banks with vegetation	The only significant pressure on this habitat is a result of intensive grazing resulting in poaching.	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	<i>(Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p.)</i>				hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[5130]	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	The pressures associated with this habitat are associated with overgrazing, erosion and scrub removal.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6130]	Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa ( <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> )	Pressures on this habitat are associated with abiotic natural processes (leaching of metals) and succession, as well as impacts from recreational activities (walking/hiking).	F07, L01, L02	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites)	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6430]	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Pressures on the habitat include invasive species; and agricultural intensification and drainage in the lowlands.	A09, A31, I01, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, drainage for use as agricultural land, invasive alien species of union concern, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6510]	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )	The main pressures associated with this habitat are due to agricultural intensification (fertiliser application) and changes in agricultural practices.	A02, A06, A14, A19, A20	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), livestock farming (without grazing), application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7210]	Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davalliana</i> )	Overgrazing, groundwater pollution, abandonment of grassland management and drainage are pressures associated with this habitat.	A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8240]	Limestone pavements	The main pressures facing this habitat are associated with conversion to agricultural land and housing construction, as well as scrub encroachment caused by under-grazing.	A01, A10, C01, F01, I02	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8310]	Caves not open to the public	There are no pressures facing this habitat.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), Indian balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) and currant species ( <i>Ribes nigrum</i> and <i>R. rubrum</i> ) as well as some native species such as brambles ( <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> ) and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
[91J0]	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	Pressures facing this habitat are mainly linked to the presence of alien species such as sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and traveller's joy ( <i>Clematis vitalba</i> ), with overgrazing by deer also posing a pressure to the habitat.	A09, I02, I05	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.



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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A002	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	G01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A003	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	G01, D01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	G12, D01, F07, G10, J02, N06, N07, N01	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change
A028	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x	X
A038	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	D01, D06, F07, F28	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	F07, D06, F01, F08, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A050	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	F07, G07, N01, D01, F08, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A052	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	G07, F07, D01, F28	Hunting, sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A069	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	E02, G01, D01	Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A082	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	B01, B03, A05, D01, A13, A02, B16, A11, A07, I04, A03, A31, A21, A15	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and gmos), removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, reseeded of grasslands and other semi-natural habitats, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), wood transport, burning for agriculture, abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), problematic native species, conversion from mixed farming and agroforestry systems to specialised (e.g. single crop) production, drainage for use as agricultural land, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, tillage practices (e.g. ploughing) in agriculture
A098	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	B03, B09, A01, C05, D01	Replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and gmos), clear-cutting, removal of all trees, conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A137	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A140	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	B01, I04, I02, A02, A11, A09, D01, H04, A31, G07, N01, F07, F28	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), burning for agriculture, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, vandalism or arson, drainage for use as agricultural land, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A142	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A08, A21, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, N01, F07, F28	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	G01, G19, D01, F08, N04, F07	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A156	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	F07, G19, G01, F08, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A160	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A08, B01, I04, I02, A31, A02, C05, D01, A06, A11, F07, G01, G19, F08	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), burning for agriculture, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)
A162	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A08, A09, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, F07, F08, N04	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A169	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	F07, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A179	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	F22, F23, I02, I04, D01, M08	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, flooding (natural processes)
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A09, I02, I04, D01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A191	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	G12, I02, A09, D01, F07, I04, M08, N06, N07	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, problematic native species, flooding (natural processes), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A09, G12, I02, I04, J02, L06, M08, D01, F07, G01, N06, N07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A395	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	F07, G10, A02, B01, D01, D06, E01, F01, J02, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species

## Appendix II Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>European Level</b> <b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</b>	It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.	<p>EU Member States must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred.</li> <li>Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions.</li> <li>Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes.</li> <li>Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding.</li> <li>Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive’s implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes.</li> <li>Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate.</li> <li>Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) (2008/105/EC)</b>	It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)’s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.	<p>The directive sets EQSs for priority substances and eight other pollutants. These substances include: the metals cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, and their compounds; benzene; polyaromatic hydrocarbons; and several pesticides. Several of these priority substances are classed as hazardous.</p> <p>The EQSs in Directive 2008/105/EC are limits on the concentration of the priority substances and eight other pollutants in water (or biota), i.e. thresholds which must not be exceeded if a good chemical status is to be met. There are two types of water standard.</p> <p>A threshold for the average concentration of the substance concerned calculated from measurements over a 1-year period. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against long-term exposure to pollutants in the aquatic environment. A maximum allowable concentration of the substance concerned, i.e. the maximum for any single measurement. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against short-term exposure, i.e. pollution peaks.</p> <p>The EQSs are different for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inland surface waters (rivers and lakes);</li> <li>other surface waters (transitional, coastal and territorial waters).</li> </ul> <p>EU Member States must ensure compliance with the EQSs. They must also take measures to ensure that the concentrations of substances that tend to accumulate in sediment and/or biota do not increase significantly.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU)</b>	<p>It is aimed at achieving significant benefits to the environment and human health by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil);</li> <li>best available techniques;</li> <li>flexibility;</li> <li>inspections;</li> <li>public participation.</li> </ul> <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions:</p> <p>With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry;</li> <li>Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste;</li> <li>Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste;</li> <li>Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive);</li> <li>Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive);</li> </ul> <p>With effect from 1st January 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IED aspires to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate pollution arising from industrial activities. It seeks to achieve this by providing a general framework for the control of the industries with the highest pollution potential in order to prevent the shifting of pollution from one environmental medium (or industry) to another. The overall intention is to provide an integrated approach to the prevention and control of emissions into the various environmental media such as, air, water and soil while striking a commercial balance for businesses.</li> <li>The IED aims to increase the effectiveness of the legislation by supporting Member States in implementing BAT-based permitting. The IED aims to improve and clarify the concept and use of BAT and increases transparency by requiring that the use of flexibility must be justified and documented leading to a more coherent and EU-wide application of BAT.</li> <li>The IED also strengthens existing minimum requirements in certain sectors (such as large combustion plants, waste incineration, etc.) so as to ensure the achievement of objectives of the Commission’s Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.</li> <li>The IED aims to further increase the effectiveness of the legislation by strengthening provisions on environmental improvement and enforcement, while stimulating innovation. The IED introduces minimum requirements as regards the environmental inspections of installations, the review and update of permits, and reporting on compliance. It also provides incentives for the development and promotion of environment-friendly technologies.</li> <li>The IED aims to cut all identified unnecessary administrative burdens and simplify current legislation. The IED tackles the shortcomings of current EU legislation on industrial emissions by overhauling the seven existing pieces of legislation on industrial emissions. This has improved the clarity and coherence of the legislation and should reduce the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<p><b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b></p>	<p>The 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.</p>	<p>This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/2413</b>  - amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652</p>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.</p>	<p>The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p><b>Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) - (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU)</b></p>	<p>The regulation sets mandatory national targets for European Union Member States to deploy publicly accessible alternative fuels infrastructure (in particular for electricity and hydrogen) for road vehicles, vessels moored at the quayside and stationary aircraft, with a specific focus on the trans-European networks. The regulation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• common rules for user information, data provision and payment requirements;</li> <li>• a mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure interoperability of infrastructure by mandating technical specifications on the basis of European standards; and</li> <li>• planning and reporting requirements for Member States.</li> </ul>	<p>Recharging infrastructure for electric cars and vans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure that publicly accessible recharging stations are set up in proportion to the number of registered vehicles, as follows:</li> <li>• for each registered electric vehicle, a total power output of at least 1.3 kilowatts (kW); for each registered plug-in hybrid vehicle, a total power output of at least 0.80 kW.</li> <li>• Member States must also ensure the deployment of publicly accessible recharging stations along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) road network.</li> </ul> <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric heavy-duty vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure a minimum coverage of recharging points for heavy-duty electric vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>Hydrogen infrastructure for road vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2030, Member States must ensure that publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling stations with a total capacity of at least 1 tonne per day are deployed at least every 200 km along the TEN-T core network. At least one refuelling station must be deployed in each urban node.</li> </ul> <p>Liquefied methane for road transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until 31 December 2024, Member States must ensure that an appropriate number of publicly accessible refuelling points for liquefied methane are set up, at least along the TEN-T core network, where there is demand, unless the costs are disproportionate to the benefits, including environmental benefits.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity supply in maritime ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2029, there must be sufficient shoreside electricity for ships moored at the quayside at TEN-T core and TEN-T comprehensive maritime ports to serve at least 90% of all container and passenger vessels above 5,000 gross tonnage.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity for stationary aircraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2024, all airports of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network must provide electricity to stationary aircraft used for commercial air transport operations at aircraft contact stands, and by 31 December 2029 at all remote stands.</li> </ul> <p>Railway infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must assess the development of alternative fuel technologies and propulsion systems (including hydrogen and battery power) for rail infrastructure that cannot be fully electrified for technical or cost-efficiency reasons.</li> </ul> <p>Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users of electric and hydrogen vehicles must be able to pay easily at recharging and hydrogen refuelling points (with payment cards and without subscriptions). Prices, including all of their components and specific to the recharging session, must be communicated clearly to end users before the start of a recharging session.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>• Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>• EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>• The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>• Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>• Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>• National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>• Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>• Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>• The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>• The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>• Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023)</b>	The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement.	The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019)</b>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved.</p> <p>The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021–2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy.</p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries.</li> <li>• A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers.</li> <li>• Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth.</li> <li>• Climate action, decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy.</li> <li>• Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2024/EC</b>  <b>recast: Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC</b>	<p>This new directive simplifies EU rules on ambient air quality by merging the two existing EU directives into one. Its goal is to bring quality standards in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.</p> <p>The new directive introduces stricter limits on key air pollutants, aligning EU standards more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.</p>	<p>Air quality is assessed using common methods and criteria across the EU, and the revised directive brings further improvements to air quality monitoring and modelling.</p> <p>The revised directive will also ensure early action, with air quality roadmaps that need to be prepared ahead of 2030 if there is a risk that the new standards will not be attained by that date. The air quality standards will be reviewed regularly in line with latest scientific evidence to assess whether they continue to be appropriate.</p> <p>The revised directive prioritises the health of EU citizens: it sets new air quality standards for pollutants to be reached by 2030 which are more closely aligned with the WHO air quality guidelines. Those pollutants include, among others, particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all known to cause respiratory problems. Member states may request that the 2030 deadline be postponed if specific conditions are met.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants</b>	It aims to reduce the health risks and environmental impact of air pollution by establishing national emission reduction commitments. The Directive also aligns emission reduction commitments under EU law with international commitments (following the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012). The legislation was proposed as part of the EU's 2013 Clean Air Policy Package, which included a Clean Air Programme for Europe.	<p>The Directive covers 5 air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sulphur dioxide;</li> <li>• nitrogen oxides;</li> <li>• non-methane volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• ammonia; and</li> <li>• fine particulate matter.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b>	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended</b>	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)</b>	Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.	This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)</b>	The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.	<p>The revised Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020;</li> <li>• more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport;</li> <li>• puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty, it aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency;</li> <li>• it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners;</li> <li>• introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres;</li> <li>• expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold;</li> <li>• mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability;</li> <li>• establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional, and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b>	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sewage Sludge Directive (Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture)</b>	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I A and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge.</p> <p>The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits</li> <li>to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>The Directive also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets limits for the concentration of seven heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils (cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury, chromium)</li> <li>bans the use of sewage sludge that results in concentrations of these heavy metals in soil exceeding these limit values</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<p><b>Bathing Waters Directive</b></p> <p><b>(Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC)</b></p>	<p>With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.</p> <p>The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos</li> <li>move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management</li> <li>integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	<p>The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.</p> <p>The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b></p> <p><b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b></p>	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962)</b></p> <p><b>CAP 2023-2027</b></p>	<p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;</li> <li>safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;</li> <li>help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;</li> <li>keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle.</p> <p>The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b>	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership.	Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Commission’s “Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change” (2021)</b>	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Environment Agency’s European Climate Risk Assessment (2024)</b>	This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe.	The risks are evaluated in the contexts of risk severity, policy horizon (lead time and decision horizon), policy readiness and risk ownership. It further identifies priorities for EU policy action, based on a structured risk assessment united with qualitative aspects, such as considering social justice.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	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 and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> </ul> <p>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</p>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Green Deal (2019) and “Fit for 55” legislation (2021)</b>	The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU’s economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The “Fit for 55” legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal.	<p>The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>The ‘Fit for 55’ package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe’s net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the REPowerEU plan to respond to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe’s energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>• Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>• Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>• Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Europe 2020: European 2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment</b>	The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that the economic revival of the European Union following the economic and financial crisis is supported by a series of reforms in order to build solid foundations for growth and job creation by 2020. While addressing the structural weaknesses of the EU's economy and economic and social issues, the strategy also takes account of the longer-term challenges of globalisation, pressure on resources and ageing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Europe 2020 Strategy should enable the EU to achieve growth that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ smart, through the development of knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>◦ sustainable, based on a greener, more resource efficient and more competitive economy;</li> <li>◦ inclusive, aimed at strengthening employment and social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The EU has set itself five major targets for this ambition to be achieved by 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75 %;</li> <li>◦ investing 3 % of gross domestic product in research and development;</li> <li>◦ reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 %, increasing the share of renewable energies to 20 % and increasing energy efficiency by 20 %;</li> <li>◦ reducing the school drop-out rate to less than 10 % and increasing the proportion of tertiary degrees to at least 40 %;</li> <li>◦ reducing the number of people threatened by poverty or social exclusion by 20 million.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Europe 2020 Strategy targets are also supported by 7 flagship initiatives at European level and in EU countries: the Innovation Union; Youth on the move; the Digital Agenda for Europe; a Resource-efficient Europe; an industrial policy for the globalisation era; the agenda for new skills and jobs; and the European Platform against Poverty.</li> <li>• At European level, the single market, the EU budget and the European external policy are additional levers in achieving the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b>	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.  Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>• Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>• Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>• Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>• Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>• Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>• Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</b>	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>• (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>• (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>• (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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995)</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>• The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</b>	The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>• Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>• to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>• to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>• Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>• More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>• Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>• To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979)</b>	The convention has three main aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision.	The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	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.	Among the many decisions taken, governments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020.</li> <li>Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.</li> <li>Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt.</li> <li>Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)</b>	The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>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</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Ramsar Convention (1971)</b>	The Convention's mission is <i>"the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"</i> .	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>• Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>• Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>OSPAR Convention (1992)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan</b>	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000; to amend certain other enactments; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Act 2024</b>	An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 and amend certain other enactments; for purposes unrelated to the foregoing, to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.	Key reforms included in the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes, to give confidence and certainty to applicants;</li> <li>• A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Coimisiún Pleanála;</li> <li>• Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency;</li> <li>• Improvements to the planning judicial review processes;</li> <li>• Clearer, more consistent policies and guidance;</li> <li>• Longer term, more strategic, ten-year plans for Local Authorities;</li> <li>• More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities;</li> <li>• Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage;</li> <li>• Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and;</li> <li>• Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended</b>	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.	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003)</b></p> <p><b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)</b></p> <p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>• Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007)</b> <b>Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013)</b> <b>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013)</b> <b>Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017)</b> <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 39 of 2022)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>• Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>• Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	Key strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Uisce Éireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024</b>	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.  The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.	The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is made up of investment in individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants and upgrading existing networks, and national programmes where activities are being delivered in a consistent and efficient manner across the country. Some examples of these programmes are the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027</b>	The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2050. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 was created in alignment with Ireland's Forest Strategy and is designed to provide lasting benefits for many key areas including climate change, biodiversity, wood production, and employment alongside enhancing societal benefits. The Forestry Programme will provide incentives for farmers and other landowners and will provide farm families with the opportunity to increase and diversify their income streams.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024)</b>	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthening the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for 'targeting the right measures in the right place' and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027</b>	The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.	The programme is comprised of 2,899 surface and groundwater bodies representing 60% of the total number of national water bodies, covering 2,429 river water bodies, 224 lakes, 80 transitional water bodies, 45 coastal waters, 16 canals and 121 groundwater bodies. The programme is operated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Authorities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<p><b>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021)</b></p>	<p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP Framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM)</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030</b></p>	<p>The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States’ operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland’s National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by the European Commission in 2022.</p>	<p>The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b></p>	<p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p>	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to secure a fair financial return from the State’s foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b></p>	<p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p>	<p>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024)</b></p>	<p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland’s marine resources to 2040.</p> <p>The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government’s vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>• clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>• direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027</b>	Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"	The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network</b>	The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.	The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	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.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<p><b>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.</p>	<p>Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure pits, silage pits or silage clamps arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle.</p> <p>Part 3 concerns nutrient management.</p> <p>Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied.</p> <p>Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters.</p> <p>Part 6 is functions of the public authorities: certificates, exemptions, etc.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014)</b></p>	<p>These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b></p>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b></p>	<p>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.</p>	<p>This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <p>Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity          Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs          Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People          Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity          Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b></p>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	<p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any</li> <li>international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Action Plan 2024</b>	The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.  The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.	The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland’s climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland’s legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government’s policy objectives.	The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans</b>	The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments.	To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project . The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines’ publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022)</b>	It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe and green mobility;</li> <li>People focussed mobility; and</li> <li>Better integrated mobility.</li> </ul>	The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022-2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and DART+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated implementation plan</b>	It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery.	The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development of the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025</b>	The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy, 2023 – 2025 sets out a pathway to incentivise the supply of renewable transport fuel through annual increases in the renewable transport fuel obligation rate to 2030.	The policy will underpin the shift to the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) biofuel targets of at least B20 (biodiesel equivalent) in diesel and E10 (Ethanol) in petrol by 2030 (with an interim B12/E10 by 2025 target).	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Security Framework (2022)</b>	National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (published in 2024)</b>	National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years, this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union: - Decarbonisation - Energy Efficiency - Energy Security - Internal Energy Market - Research, Innovation and Competitiveness The NECP brings together the policies, targets, tools and associated material relating to our climate and energy obligations under various EU Regulations and Directives from across government bodies and departments into one document. It reflects our ambitions and provides certainty to investors and policymakers that we are committed to EU-wide targets and ambitions to move towards becoming a carbon-neutral society.	It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024</b>	It is the second National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals reviews the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.	The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes. Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in 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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<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040</b>	The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	The PLUTO seeks to: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) (2021)</b>	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.  In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 ("Energy Security Package")</b>	It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050.	The Energy Security Package includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced and Responsive Demand</li> <li>A Renewables-Led System</li> <li>More Resilient Systems</li> <li>Robust Risk Governance</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	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. It aims at improving synergies and identifying and tackling policy gaps, policy conflicts and trade-offs as part of a coherent, joined-up approach to policy making on sustainable development.  Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.	The objectives of the Framework are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable progress towards the strategy aims.</li> <li>Highlight and promote existing sustainable practices that, with the correct support, can underpin sustainable development more generally.</li> <li>Strengthen policy integration, coherence and co-ordination and bring a long term perspective to decision making.</li> <li>Set out governance mechanisms which ensure effective participation within government and across all stakeholders.</li> <li>Set out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan.</li> <li>Set out how progress is to be measured and reported on through the use of indicators.</li> <li>Incorporate adequate and effective monitoring, learning and improvement into the Framework process.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020</b>	<p>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 – 2020</b>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan vision: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.</p>	<p>Three high-level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA) 2016</b>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DITAS) 2017-2030</b>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<p>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.</p>	<p>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020. Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<p>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</p>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010)</b>	<p>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. National Renewable Energy Action Plan.</p>	<p>The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020)</b>	<p>Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.</p>	<p>It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<p>The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	<p>EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<p>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)</b>	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;</li> <li>Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;</li> <li>Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste.</li> <li>Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;</li> <li>Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.</li> </ol>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024)</b>	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025</b>	The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.	It is based around four key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• to reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b>	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ), and fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.  The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy 2023</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b>	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level "Missions" for the sector to work toward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>• Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being</li> <li>• Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>• An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agricultural Schemes, including: Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP)</b>	Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>• Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>• Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>• Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.	A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.  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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.  The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b>	<p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>• Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>• Participation and Reputation</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	<p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998</b>	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.</p>	<p>This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1998, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DHLGH, 2024)</b>	<p>The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.</p>	<p>The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</b>	<p>The Guidelines have five key policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that retail development is plan-led;</li> <li>• Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development;</li> <li>• Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations;</li> <li>• Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and</li> <li>• Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</b>	<p>Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.</p>	<p>Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027</b>	The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.	This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Derelict Sites Act (1990)</b>	An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable Local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961.	Under the Act, local authorities can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served</li> <li>Make compulsory land purchases</li> <li>Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost</li> </ul> All local authorities must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain derelict sites register</li> <li>Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.	This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland</b>	The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to purchase or rent at an affordable price</li> <li>built to a high standard and in the right place</li> <li>offering a high quality of life</li> </ul>	The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting home ownership and increasing affordability</li> <li>eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion</li> <li>increasing new housing supply</li> <li>addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Town Centre First Policy (2022)</b>	The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and. cultural.	The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.  The strategy includes a high-level Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway. This sets out the strategic direction for the Metropolitan Area to achieve compact growth which is the first national strategic outcome of the National Planning Framework.	The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Roscommon County Council; Donegal County Council; Sligo County Council; Leitrim County Council; Mayo County Council; Monaghan County Council; Cavan County Council; Galway City Council; and Galway County Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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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<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus;</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable</li> <li>• Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Galway Transport Strategy 2016-2036</b>	Galway City Council & Galway County Council, in partnership with the National Transport Authority, have developed the Galway Transport Strategy (GTS), an Integrated Transport Strategy for Galway City and Environs.	The GTS sets out a series of actions and measures, covering infrastructural, operational and policy elements to be implemented in Galway over the next 20 years and sets out a framework to deliver the projects in a phased manner.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including Galway LECP 2024-2030</b>	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.”	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans including those in force in County Galway (including the overarching Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Local Authorities in: Galway City; Mayo; Roscommon; Offaly; Tipperary; and Clare; and local plans for settlements)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Draft Plan
<b>Galway County Landscape (and Seascape) Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining local authorities</b>	Landscape Character Assessments characterise the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>Guide strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024-2030</b>	Vision: <i>"The rich heritage and biodiversity of County Galway will be cherished, valued, conserved and enhanced in a manner that is respectful of our past, mindful of our present needs and sustainable for future generations."</i>	The Plan details a number of actions and initiatives aimed at ensuring that heritage continues to make a significant contribution to quality of life and remains an important part of the social and cultural infrastructure of the County.	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Galway County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b>	The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive ("END") (2002/49/EC) which was transported into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The Regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years.	The actions detailed in the Plan have been drawn up to assess noise exposure in priority areas, as indicated by strategic noise mapping located on the identified routes within the respective functional areas of the Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Galway County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	Vision: <i>"The communities, environment and economy of County of Galway are thriving, climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and carbon neutral."</i> Mission Statement: <i>"Deliver and enable transformative change and measurable climate action across our county and within our own organisation, ensuring a just transition to a carbon neutral and climate resilient future."</i>	The Plan is developed around thematic areas for actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance and Leadership</li> <li>Energy and Built Environment</li> <li>Transport</li> <li>Communities and Enterprise</li> <li>Circular Economy</li> <li>Land Use and Green Infrastructure</li> <li>Adaptation to Climate Risk</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Galway County Council Renewable Energy Strategy</b>	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Town Centre First Plans, including Gort Town Centre First Plan 2023</b>	Town Centre First aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.	Town Centre First (TFC) lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan, which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges. The TCF approach is centred on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboration and communication – a collaborative process involving all relevant local stakeholders, represented by a collaborative Town Team, with good communication in respect of issues raised and the agreed direction.</li> <li>Understanding the place – analysis and appraisal underpinned by a town audit/ data gathering -process.</li> <li>Defining the place – shaping the plan around high-level objectives that are subsequently expressed through a series of actions.</li> <li>Enabling the place– identifying a clear path to delivery of the Plan, cognisant that this will require actions of varying scale to be delivered by different partners.</li> </ul>	Where new land 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 Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Natura Impact Report in support of the AA for the Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031

<b>Legislation, Plan, etc.</b>	<b>Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective</b>	<b>Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.</b>	<b>Relevance to the Draft Plan</b>
<p><b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to "Wild Atlantic Way" including Destination Experience Development Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies</b></p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b></p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Draft Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>