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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

MONAGHAN LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:
Monaghan County Council



Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin
Monaghan County Council

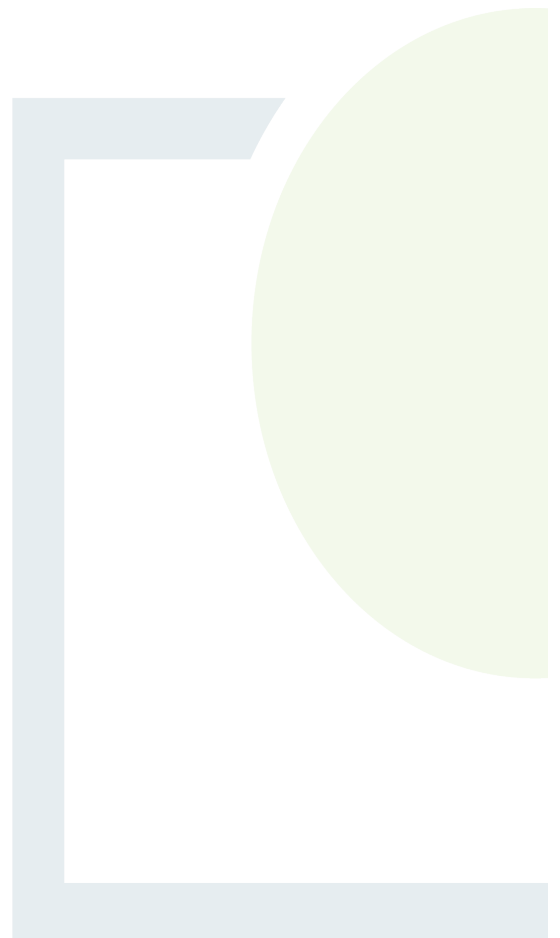
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Natura Impact Report for the Monaghan Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Monaghan Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”).

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

1.2 Post Draft Plan Consultation Modifications

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

The Plan modifications arising from the consultation process, the CE Report, and the post consultation plan-making process were screened for AA. The AA Screening Report for the post consultation Plan modifications are presented in Appendix 3. All amended actions and additional actions added subsequent to the consultation period are documented, considered and evaluated in the AA Screening Report. Where original actions have been modified after consultation, the text of the actions have been appropriately updated in this NIR. The Plan modifications were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental/ecological effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

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

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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



1.4 Approach

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

The MCC LACAP is an action plan which defines local level climate adaptation and mitigation measures to support the reduction of GHG emissions within the local authority as an organisation and throughout the local community in the local authority's functional area.

LACAPs have an inward and outward focus. Climate action in the plan should be defined by local authorities for their own organisation which they have full control over (i.e., the inward focus), and for communities in their functional area, which they exert a strong influence over in partnership with relevant stakeholders (i.e., the outward focus).

The plan period for the LACAP is from 2024 to 2029. The Council must review and update the plan after a period of 5 years.

The LACAP was developed in accordance with the requirements of Section 16 of the Climate Act. It must be consistent with the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23) and the National Adaptation Framework. Local authority Development Plans must also be aligned with their LACAP.

2.2 Context

Climate change refers to the long-term changes in the earth's weather patterns or average temperatures. In Ireland this is demonstrated by rising sea levels, extreme weather events and changes in the eco-system. Extensive research and a significant body of evidence has shown a correlation between the increasing global average temperature and the increasing quantity of GHG released into the atmosphere, particularly from anthropogenic sources.

Changes in weather patterns and climate can have significant adverse impacts on the environment and human beings. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published the *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability in 2022*. Included in this report is an outline of observed impacts of climate change on the environment and human beings. These include impacts from inland flooding, damages to infrastructure, impacts from infectious disease, displacement, animal and livestock health and productivity, mental health and water scarcity derived from climate change.

The seriousness of the potential impacts and risks associated with climate change is reflected in the vast quantity of international, European and national legislation that has been introduced to mitigate those impacts and risks.

The Irish Climate Act provides a statutory underpinning to climate action in Ireland. It specifies the requirement to develop a national Climate Action Plan (and update it every year), a National Adaptation Framework (NAF), a National Long Term Climate Action Strategy and Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs). It also specifies a series of carbon budgets and the associated sectoral emission ceilings.

It sets out actions that must be taken to ensure delivery of commitments and a target to reduce GHG by 51% by 2030 and to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050. The successful delivery of climate action and the achievement of these targets will require significant, unanimous effort across all sectors of society.



A key element of the Climate Act is the requirement under Section 16 for local authorities to prepare individual LACAPs for their functional area. The purpose of LACAPs will be to deliver effective climate action and mitigation at local authority and community levels. The Act acknowledges that local authorities are key drivers in advancing and delivering on climate policy.

2.3 Plan Content

The LACAP focusses on several theme areas which are considered to be key for achieving a climate resilient and climate neutral future at organisational and community level. A number of main objectives have been developed for each theme area. Multiple specific actions have been defined to support the achievement of these main objectives. An overview of the theme areas and main objectives under the LACAP is presented in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: LACAP Theme Area and Main Objectives

Theme Area	Main Objective
Governance and Leadership	Embed climate action into all our decision-making and increase our capacity to respond to the challenges of climate change.
	To work and collaborate with other sectors and agencies to deliver programmes that support climate action.
Built Environment and Transport	Increase our energy efficiency, reduce our reliance on fossil-based fuels, and positively influence the actions of others within our community.
	To enhance the resilience of transport infrastructure, council assets and housing stock.
Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure	To harness Monaghan County's natural assets to contribute to resilience and low carbon.
	Sustain, increase and enhance a green infrastructural network to build resilience of species and habitats.
	To protect and enhance the natural assets of County Monaghan.
Communities: Resilience and Transition	Inform and create awareness about effective climate action measures.
	Motivate and create demand for climate action through capacity building programmes, policy/ financial instruments and local development and wellbeing programmes.
Sustainability and Resource Management	Monaghan County Council will implement and monitor a range of policies and practices to reduce our environmental impact, enhance resource efficiency, and create long term environmental and economic benefits.
	Monaghan County Council will lead by example by reducing the Council's production of waste to a minimum, use of non-essential goods, single use products, energy and water.
	Enable improvement in air quality through inspections of fuel suppliers to address unauthorised sale of unapproved fuels.



2.4 Overall Vision and Strategic Outcomes

The overall vision of the LACAP is to deliver effective climate mitigation and adaptation at local level in support of the broader societal goal of achieving climate resilience and climate neutrality.

Through the development and implementation of specific, action-focused, time-bound and measurable actions, the LACAP will achieve the following strategic outcomes (as defined by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Guidelines for Local Authority Climate Action Plans):

1. Provide a strong emphasis on a place-based approach to climate action, delivering a better understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related risks at a local level, while addressing context-specific conditions and support for locally tailored policy making.
2. Deliver and promote evidence-based and integrated climate action by way of adaptation and mitigation measures, centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of the local authority on climate action.
3. Translate and provide strategic direction at local and community levels on the delivery of the national climate objective which is seeking to curb further global warming and to transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of 2050.

2.5 Relationship of the Plan with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

An examination of how the LACAP interrelates with other national, regional and local plans and programmes has taken place and is documented in Appendix 1.



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁴ or species⁵ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.



Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC [IE0000007] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SAC [IE0000455] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC [IE0001786] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SPA [IE0004026] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Lough Oughter SPA [IE0004049] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Stabannan-Braganstown SPA [IE0004091] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Slieve Beagh SPA [IE0004167] Version 9.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Donegal Bay SPA [IE0004151] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Upper Lough Erne SAC [UK0016614] Version 2.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC [UK0016621] Version 2.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Beagh SAC [UK0016622] Version 2.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Moninea Bog SAC [UK0030212] Version 2.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Gullion SAC [UK0030277] Version 2.1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Upper Lough Erne SPA [UK9020071] Version 2.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA [UK9020302] Version 2.0.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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



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

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

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

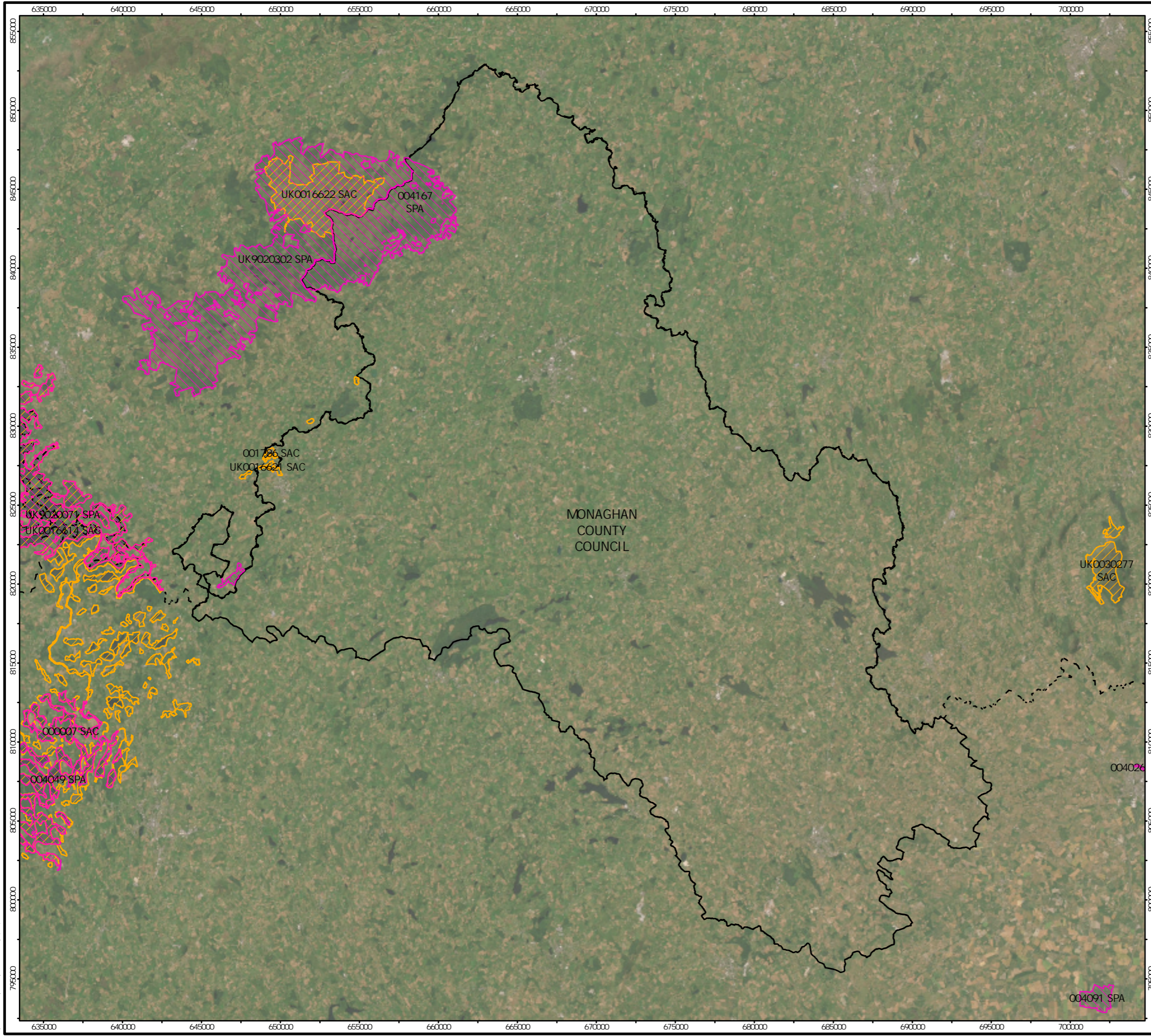
The elements of the LACAP with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the LACAP. The operational phase elements of the LACAP are consistent with the existing condition of the area. All policies and objectives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

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

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

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

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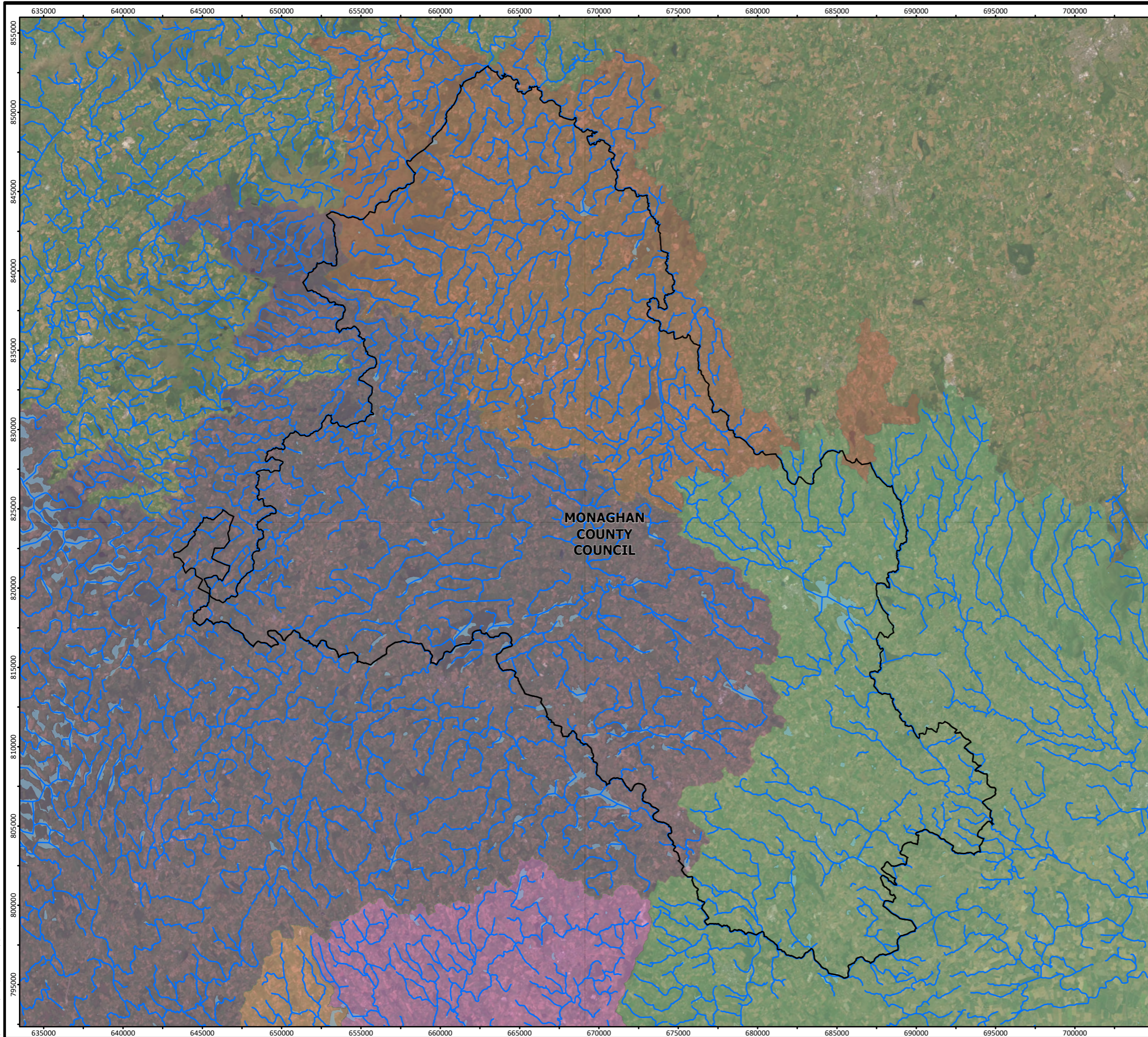


- Legend
- Local Authority Boundaries
 - Northern Ireland
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Special Protected Areas








Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas	
MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Act on Plans	
FIGURE NO:	3.1
CLIENT:	MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	08/01/2024
SCALE:	1:237,500 @ A3

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Legend

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

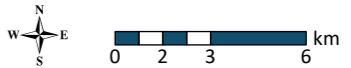
Hydrology	
MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Action Plans	
FIGURE NO:	3.2
CLIENT: MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL	
DATE: 15/08/2023	SCALE: 1:237,500 @ A3
	





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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210]	<p>The European Site is within the Monaghan County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	0	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	<p>The European Site is within the Monaghan County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK0016621	Magheravealy Marl Loughs SAC	0	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210]	<p>The European Site is within the Monaghan County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh SAC	0	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], European dry heaths [4030]	<p>The European Site is within the Monaghan County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	0	Whooper swan (Cygnus cygnus) [A038]	<p>The European Site is within the Monaghan County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK9020302	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	0	Hen harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082]	<p>The European Site is within the Monaghan County LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	0.88	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Bog woodland [91D0]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 880 m between this European Site and the area of Monaghan County LACAP and a hydrological connection of 3.16km (instream distance) is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	2.48	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], 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], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 2.48 km between this European Site and the area of Monaghan County LACAP and a hydrological connection of 3.85 km (instream distance) is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	8.55	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Monaghan LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.</p>	Yes	Yes



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				<p>Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>		
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	9.11	<p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</p>	<p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Monaghan LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	10.35	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Estuaries [1130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia</i></p>	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 10.35 km between this European Site and the area of Monaghan County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.</p>	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			maritimi) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	11.23	Greylag goose (Anser anser) [A043]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Monaghan LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interest of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
UK0030277	Slieve Gullion SAC	11.63	European dry heaths [4030]	There is a separation distance of ca. 11.63 km between this European Site and the area of Monaghan County LACAP. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No



Site Code	Site Name	Distance	Qualifying Feature	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC	14.73	Active raised bogs [7110]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 14.73 km between this European Site and the area of Monaghan County LACAP.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interest as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	No	No
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	70.02	Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	<p>There is a separation distance of ca. 70.02 km between this European Site and the area of Monaghan County LACAP and a hydrological connection of 101.33 km (instream distance) is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Qualifying Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p>	Yes	Yes



3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 12 (no.) European sites.



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

3.5.1 Transboundary Effects

The effects of the LACAP, as considered and identified, may be transmitted to protected sites situated in Northern Ireland which are within the zone of influence of the local authority functional area also, such as: Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA (UK9020302), Slieve Beagh SAC (UK0016622), Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC (UK0016621), Upper Lough Erne SPA (UK9020071), Slieve Gullion SAC (UK0030277) and Moninea Bog SAC (UK0030212).



4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 12 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3-1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 12 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the LACAP. Appendix 1 characterises each of the qualifying features of the ALL European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites’ vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁶.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts⁷:

- 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.

⁶ Last accessed 17th July 2023; <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

⁷ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) “Guidelines for ecological impact assessment”; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) “Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements”; and National Roads Authority (2009) “Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes”.



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

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

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

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

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

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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



4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4-1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.3.1.1 *Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area*

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

As identified above LACAP boundary has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites through urbanisation and direct habitat loss on foot of the implementation of the LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site; namely list of actions to avoid habitat loss NEGI2⁸, NEGI5⁹, NEGI6¹⁰, NEGI8¹¹ and DZ.NGI1¹² etc.

⁸ Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate native species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as “Forest Creation on Public Lands”.

⁹ Expand the sustainable management of ‘taken in-charge’ areas and the public realm, parks & green spaces by: Increasing areas managed as meadow/wildflowers; Planting pollinator friendly trees and shrubs in accordance with the national pollinator plan; Supporting community groups to carryout related projects; Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.

¹⁰ Implement the Conservation Management Plan for Sliabh Beagh, to include management of fires & peat extraction, implementation of water management, control dumping and invasive species, promotion and education initiatives.

¹¹ Implement Monaghan’s Wetland Action Plan 2020. Protect and conserve floodplains and wetlands, with a view to protecting biodiversity and ameliorating flooding.

¹² Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Monaghan Town to coordinate planning for the enhancement of the natural environment and to connect public green space and greenways within the DZ, having due regard for environmental protection considerations and opportunities for climate action co-benefits.



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

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

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

4.3.1.2 *Habitat or species Fragmentation*

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



The LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as NEGI2⁸, NEGI5⁹ and NEGI6¹⁰ (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report).

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

4.3.1.3 *Disturbance to Key Species*

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

The LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Monaghan County Council Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. Actions to ensure the protection of habitat quality with respect to disturbance effects from noise and other sources have been built into the LACAP; namely GL15¹³, T2¹⁴, T6¹⁵, T7¹⁶, T8¹⁷, T9¹⁸, T11¹⁹ and T12²⁰ etc. (further details see Section 5).

¹³ Encourage virtual meetings and effective journey management to reduce business mileage.

Comply with blended working policy.

¹⁴ Develop & implement a fleet decarbonisation roadmap as per guidelines within Local Authority Fleet – Strategy to Decarbonisation, whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.

¹⁵ Provide shared council EV for staff use to use for work related travel; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.

¹⁶ Implement County Walking & Cycling Strategy (2021-2026); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage.

¹⁷ Deliver active travel and greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality.

¹⁸ Promote transport modal shift and increase awareness of Smarter Travel programme to encourage local employers and communities to participate.

¹⁹ Protect and maintain active travel infrastructure in accordance with National Sustainable Mobility Policy; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage

²⁰ Continue Internal and external engagement to promote modal shift to active travel; whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage.



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

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The LACAP introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, visitor movements/access, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary NEGI2⁸, NEGI3²¹, NEGI4²², NEGI5⁹, NEGI6¹⁰, NEGI8¹¹ and NEGI11²³ etc. Similarly, the LACAP the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as NEGI5⁹, NEGI9²⁴ and DZ.NGI3²⁵. These actions apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5).

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

²¹ Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for the county to protect and increase biodiversity on Council land.

²² Develop and implement a pesticide reduction policy for Monaghan County Council, using Monaghan Town Council's pilot programme of significantly reduced use of glyphosate and trials of scuffing machine, to meet or exceed Ireland's target of 50% reduction by 2030; whilst ensuring these substances are only used to a degree and an extent that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.

²³ Promote specific talks or workshops for farmers on High Nature Value farming practices to enable practical skills to be shared.

²⁴ Develop and implement a Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in the County, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive, and conserve protected structures.

²⁵ Support the creation of public and connected green spaces in Monaghan Town to enhance health and wellbeing and biodiversity



4.3.1.5 *Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value*

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The LACAP contains many robust actions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant effect on the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Action that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include T16²⁶, T18²⁷, NEGI4²², NEGI6¹⁰, NEGI7²⁸, NEGI8¹¹ and SRM9²⁹ etc. Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the LACAP contains actions – such as GL15¹³, T2¹⁴, T7¹⁶, T8¹⁷, T9¹⁸, T10³⁰, T12²⁰ and NEGI2⁸ etc. – which account for this.

Additionally, the actions provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; such as NEGI8¹¹.

²⁶ Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of transport funding. (Climate Adaptation & Resilience works, OPW Minor works scheme.); having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.

²⁷ Develop and implement a Sustainable Drainage Strategy for the county; having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.

²⁸ Ensure proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems are included in all development proposals, where practicable.

²⁹ Complete inspections on Domestic Wastewater treatment systems to increase water quality status, through consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency.

³⁰ Deliver Safe Route to School Programme to encourage students and staff, to engage in active travel; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.



4.3.1.6 *Climate change*

The LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; GL1³¹, GL4³², GL5³³, GL7³⁴, GL12³⁵, BE1³⁶, BE2³⁷, BE3³⁸, BE9³⁹ and T2⁴⁰ etc.

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

³¹ Embed Climate Action into all Council plans, policies and strategies including the County Development Plan, Corporate Plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Team Operational plans, individual Personal Development Plans, and section risk registers to ensure the delivery of climate actions across all departments.

³² Join SEAI Public Sector Decarbonisation Partnership Programme.

³³ Prepare a green procurement strategy for MCC to ensure Green Public Procurement is considered in all tenders.

³⁴ Ensure MCC commits the required budget, and human resources for climate action, to implement the Climate Action Plan.

³⁵ Include dedicated Climate Action unit as permanent core function on workforce plan to lead, support and report on Climate action measures, awareness campaigns, and manage funding for local climate change action projects.

³⁶ Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets, maximising the use of renewable energy sources where possible; having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.

³⁷ Continue retrofitting council owned social housing to improve BER ratings; having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.

³⁸ Ensure all new council buildings where possible are built to at least NZEB standards; having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development supported by this action will not have any significant negative environmental effect.

³⁹ Participate in study on Reducing emissions through Compact Urban Growth in Ireland (RE-CUGI) (SEAI funded).

⁴⁰ Develop & implement a fleet decarbonisation roadmap as per guidelines within Local Authority Fleet – Strategy to Decarbonisation, whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.



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

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, forestry, invasive species, climatic conditions, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation, and other direct land uses.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, invasive species, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation, and other direct land uses. Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, invasive species, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing, hydrological interactions, waste management, recreation, and other direct land uses. Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting and fishing, and recreation.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture and other direct land uses.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture and other direct land uses.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, forestry, invasive species, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting and collection of wild animals, hydrological interactions, waste management, pollutants, recreation, and other direct land uses.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
UK0016621	Magheravealy Marl Loughs SAC	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, forestry, invasive species, hydrological interactions, waste management, pollutants, recreation, and other direct land uses.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh SAC	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SAC relate to agriculture, invasive species, burning, hydrological interactions, mining, and pollutants.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, hydrological interactions, waste management, changes to biotic and abiotic conditions, recreation, and other direct land uses.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
UK9020302	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, burning, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting and collection of wild animals, mining, changes to abiotic and biotic conditions, recreation, and other direct land use change.</p> <p>Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p>
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	<p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		The known threats and pressures of this SPA relate to agriculture, aquaculture, recreation, and other direct land uses. Therefore mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.

4.4 Transboundary Effects

In the absence of any mitigation, the identified effects, as presented in the preceding section have the potential to also impact Northern Irish protected sites facing the same threats and pressures within the zone of influence of the local authority functional area.



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below.⁴¹ Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

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

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

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

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

⁴¹ For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.



Table 5-1: Recommendations integrated into the Plan

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
BE 1	Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets, maximising the use of renewable energy sources where possible.	This action will support retrofitting aimed at energy efficiency at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. Due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed.	Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets, maximising the use of renewable energy sources where possible; having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 2	Continue retrofitting council owned social housing to improve BER ratings.	This action will support retrofitting aimed at improving BER ratings. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. Due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed.	Continue retrofitting council owned social housing to improve BER ratings; having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 3	Ensure all new council buildings where possible are built to at least NZEB standards.	This action will support the reduction of Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. This action may support the development of renewable energy infrastructure. Such infrastructure has the potential to have negative environmental effects, including, potentially, glint and glare impacts, construction related environmental effects, noise impacts and impacts on biodiversity.	Ensure all new council buildings where possible are built to at least NZEB standards; having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development supported by this action will not have any significant negative environmental effect.
BE 7	Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures in the county e.g., retrofitting projects and using carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value.	This action will support retrofitting aimed at promoting adaptive reuse. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. Due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed.	Promote adaptive reuse of historic structures in the county e.g., retrofitting projects and using carbon budgets to demonstrate climate value; having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 8	Increase housing stock units and reduce vacancy and	This is a finance related action. The implementation of the action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation.	Increase housing stock units and reduce vacancy and dereliction by administering the vacant property



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	dereliction by administering the vacant property refurbishment grant. (Croi Conaithe)	The adoption of this action may support development of vacant properties. Due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed.	refurbishment grant (Croi Conaithe); having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
BE 11	Migrate IT workload from council premises to council IT cloud.	This action will reduce the on-site GHG emissions within the Local Authority. It may not, however, have any effect on overall GHG emissions.	Migrate IT workload from council premises to council IT cloud. Steps will be taken to ensure the cloud provider chosen has sustainability- and carbon-goals that align with the overall objective of this plan.
BE 14	Complete a Town Centre First Plan for all major towns within the county and implement recommendations.	This action has the broad potential to promote good spatial planning and support sustainable land use and sustainable transportation. The action has the potential to support utilising existing built environment for residential occupancy, which can reduce the requirement for construction of new residential development generally, and the associated embodied GHG emissions associated with such development. Any associated building refurbishment works has the potential to impact on the status of building that constitute protected structures and protected species that may be present in derelict dwelling, such as protected bat species.	Complete a Town Centre First Plan for all major towns within the county and implement recommendations. Having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
T 2	Develop & implement a fleet decarbonisation roadmap as per guidelines within Local Authority Fleet – Strategy to Decarbonisation.	This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. This has the potential to generate some degree of positive effects on climate and local air quality. This action could lead to the LA transitioning its vehicle fleet to a renewable fuel. The scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes.	Develop & implement a fleet decarbonisation roadmap as per guidelines within Local Authority Fleet – Strategy to Decarbonisation, whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.
T 3	Expand pilot study on alternative “low carbon” pavement material for use on road network. Low Energy Bound Materials (LEBM) using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Pilot Project.	This action promotes decreased carbon usage within the local authority organisation. This action is not likely to have any environmental or climate effects when considered in isolation but the creation and use of this material may facilitate the Council in realising their energy goals.	Expand pilot study on alternative “low carbon” pavement material for use on road network; with a focus on implementation of the resulting recommendations. Low Energy Bound Materials (LEBM) using Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) Pilot Project.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T 4	Participate in Rehabilitation of roads over peat working group to determine most environmentally appropriate intervention techniques.	<p>This action is administrative in nature and will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation.</p> <p>The outcome of participating in this working group may lead to works completed in the vicinity of peatlands. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of a road have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p>	Participate in Rehabilitation of roads over peat working group to determine most environmentally appropriate intervention techniques, while ensuring rehabilitation projects have due regard to peat, water levels, flood risk, biodiversity and European sites.
T 5	Develop an EV charging strategy and implementation plan to support the roll out of EV charging.	<p>The implementation of an EV charging network will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of good network of charging infrastructure has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Develop an EV charging strategy and implementation plan to support the roll out of EV charging; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
T 6	Provide shared council EV for staff to use for work related travel.	<p>This action is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. However additional charging point infrastructure may be required to support the use of EVs.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p>	Provide shared council EV for staff use to use for work related travel; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T 7	Implement County Walking & Cycling Strategy (2021-2026)	<p>This action supports the development of additional active travel infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Implement County Walking & Cycling Strategy (2021-2026); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage.
T 8	Deliver active travel and greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car.	<p>This action supports the development of additional active travel infrastructure. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p>	Deliver active travel and greenway projects to achieve transport modal shift by encouraging cycling, walking, and running as an alternative to travel by car; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality.
T 10	Deliver Safe Route to School Programme to encourage students and staff, to engage in active travel.	<p>This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks. This action supports the development of additional cycling infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>This action also has the potential to have generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use.</p>	Deliver Safe Route to School Programme to encourage students and staff, to engage in active travel; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
T 11	Protect and maintain active travel infrastructure in accordance with National Sustainable Mobility Policy.	In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the resurfacing of roads has the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.	Protect and maintain active travel infrastructure in accordance with National Sustainable Mobility Policy; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage
T 12	Continue Internal and external engagement to promote modal shift to active travel.	This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks. This action supports the development of additional active travel infrastructure. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts. This action also has the potential to have generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use.	Continue Internal and external engagement to promote modal shift to active travel; whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage.
T 13	Examine feasibility of a Park and Stride system at different locations in towns across the county.	This is a study related action and will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel modes. It will help fully realise the potential positive environmental effects associated with sustainable/active travel. The delivery of such infrastructure may lead to unintended environmental impacts, including dust, noise, water quality and traffic impacts, in the absence of good design or appropriate mitigation.	Examine feasibility of a Park and Stride system at different locations in towns across the county: ensuring such a study has appropriate regard to all relevant planning and environmental protection considerations.
T 15	Continue to complete National Catchment -based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme within Monaghan to ensure all current and future flood risks are identified.	This is a study based action which will have no real environmental impact when considered in isolation. There is the potential for significant development taking place based on the results of this study. In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment. Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects. The possible development of nature based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood risk management policy has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality.	Continue to complete National Catchment -based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme within Monaghan to ensure all current and future flood risks are identified with a focus on implementation of the resulting recommendations; having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		The implementation of a flood management policy is likely to have slight to significant positive effects on the receiving soils environment - through the prevention of erosion. This may have also a beneficial impact on inter-related environmental components that could potentially be impacted by fluvial erosion.	
T 16	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of transport funding. (Climate Adaptation & Resilience works, OPW Minor works scheme.)	<p>The progression of flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise).</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.</p>	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of transport funding. (Climate Adaptation & Resilience works, OPW Minor works scheme.); having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
T 17	Maintain transport network to take account of risk of surface water floods.	<p>The progression of flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise).</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.</p>	Maintain transport network to take account of risk of surface water floods; having due regard to the need to protect the environment, including European site and Biodiversity during the carrying out of maintenance works.
T 18	Develop and implement a Sustainable Drainage Strategy for the county.	<p>This action has the potential to lead to drainage development taking place.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of slight to significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.</p>	Develop and implement a Sustainable Drainage Strategy for the county; having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
			ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
T 19	Advocate for and support the reconnection of rail services to the county in accordance with The All-Island Strategic Rail Review. (AISRR)	<p>This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks. This action supports the development of additional rail infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional rail infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>This action also has the potential to have generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use.</p>	Advocate for and support the reconnection of rail services to the county in accordance with The All-Island Strategic Rail Review. (AISRR); whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure due regard is had to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage.
NEGI 1	Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan at county and major urban area level, incorporating ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, to increase climate resilience, deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity.	<p>This action has the potential to contribute to the creation of slight positive environmental effects on climate, biodiversity, water quality and hydrology, and local air quality.</p> <p>Development supported by this action, such as renewable energy, active travel or drainage related development could potentially have negative environmental effects.</p>	Develop a Green Infrastructure Plan at county and major urban area level, incorporating ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental protection considerations, to increase climate resilience, deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity.
NEGI 2	Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes	<p>This action will have positive biodiversity effects and is likely to increase tree planting which will have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for negative biodiversity impacts if non-native invasive tree/shrub species are planted.</p>	Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate native species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as "Forest Creation on Public Lands".



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	such as "Forest Creation on Public Lands".		
NEGI 4	Develop and implement a pesticide reduction policy for Monaghan County Council, using Monaghan Municipal Districts pilot programme of significantly reduced use of glyphosate and trials of scuffing machine, to meet or exceed Irelands target of 50% reduction by 2030.	This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate effects on local biodiversity, water quality, soil, flora, fauna, etc. Limiting and regulating the use of herbicides and pesticides would prevent to some degree the occurrence of environmental pollution incidents due to the use of these substances. The negative environmental effect of the continued use of such substances is potentially significant, given the hazardous properties of these substances.	Develop and implement a pesticide reduction policy for Monaghan County Council, using Monaghan Municipal Districts pilot programme of significantly reduced use of glyphosate and trials of scuffing machine, to meet or exceed Irelands target of 50% reduction by 2030; whilst ensuring these substances are only used to a degree and an extent that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.
NEGI 5	Expand the sustainable management of 'taken in-charge' areas and the public realm, parks & green spaces by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing areas managed as meadow/wildflowers. Planting pollinator friendly trees and shrubs in accordance with the national pollinator plan. Supporting community groups to carryout related projects. 	This action will have positive biodiversity effects and is likely to increase tree planting which will have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. There is the potential for negative biodiversity impacts if non-native invasive tree/shrub species are planted.	Expand the sustainable management of 'taken in-charge' areas and the public realm, parks & green spaces by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing areas managed as meadow/wildflowers. Planting pollinator friendly native trees and shrubs in accordance with the national pollinator plan. Supporting community groups to carryout related projects. Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate. 		
NEGI 9	Develop and implement a Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in the County.	This administrative/ promotional action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation.	Develop and implement a Heritage Plan to record, conserve, and raise awareness of all aspects of built, natural and cultural heritage in the County, having due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance important habitats and species and European sites, support the maintenance and improvement of water quality in line with the aims of the Water Framework Directive, and conserve protected structures.
CRT 8	Support the development and ongoing work of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs).	The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. This development has the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on water quality.	Support the development and ongoing work of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs), whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
CRT 10	Use the Green Efficiency Grant to empower businesses to implement green technology solutions.	The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. The development of green technology has the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on water quality.	Use the Green Efficiency Grant to empower businesses to implement green technology solutions, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure supported renewable energy development does not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
SRM 3	Support the development of biomethane potential within the county to	The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	Support the development of biomethane potential within the county to generate sustainable energy and reduce the impact of organic manures on the



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	generate sustainable energy and reduce the impact of organic manures on the environment.	<p>This action has the potential to lead to the development of anaerobic digestion facilities which have the potential to create unintended localized, negative environmental impacts, including impacts on water quality.</p> <p>This action has the potential to lead to renewable energy development at these sites and GHG emissions reductions.</p> <p>Such development may have unintended negative environmental effects, including effects on biodiversity European site, landscape character and visual amenity, or soil, hydrological or water quality related effects.</p>	environment, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure anaerobic digestion related development and activities promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
SRM 6	Expand composting facilities to all Council depots to deal with green waste arising from Council operations.	<p>The action is likely to have a significant positive environmental effect through a reduction in waste being sent to landfill.</p> <p>The development of composting facilities at Council depots has the potential to generate several unintended negative environmental effects in the absence of appropriate facility design or mitigation, including dust, odour and noise related effects, or environmental nuisance.</p>	Expand composting facilities to all Council depots to deal with green waste arising from Council operations; ensuring such facilities continue to operate in accordance with best practice and the provisions of the Waste Management Act, and do not cause negative environmental effects.
SRM 7	Install rainwater harvesting facilities in all Council depots as appropriate, to reduce demand on mains network and reduce use of treated water.	<p>The development of nature-based solutions has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.</p> <p>The development of such green infrastructure, in particular construction related activity has the potential to have a range of unintended, negative environmental impacts if carried out.</p>	Install rainwater harvesting facilities in all Council depots as appropriate, to reduce demand on mains network and reduce use of treated water. Ensure due regard is given to the need to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
SRM 8	Promote upgrading of existing watermain networks by group water schemes to minimize leakage of treated water.	This action has the potential to negatively affect water quality through inappropriate maintenance practices of drains.	Promote upgrading of existing watermain networks by group water schemes to minimize leakage of treated water. Ensure due regard is given to the need to environmental sensitivities, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.
SRM 12	Progress the authorisation and subsequent of remediation of historical landfill sites previously controlled by Monaghan County Council.	<p>The implementation of this action is likely to promote effective waste management . Any measures that improve resource efficiency/circularity will broadly support the reduction of lifecycle GHG emissions associated with the production of materials and goods. This is likely to result in a positive environmental effect generally.</p> <p>Such development may have unintended negative environmental effects, including effects on biodiversity European site, or soil, hydrological or water quality related effects.</p>	Progress the authorisation and subsequent of remediation of historical landfill sites previously controlled by Monaghan County Council. Ensure the works have appropriate regard to planning, waste management and environmental requirements, considerations and constraints.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ BE1	Retrofit all social housing and local authority buildings in the Monaghan Town DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2.	<p>This action will support the reduction of local authority organisational and Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. Retrofitting works may also negatively affect the appropriate conservation of protected structures. Therefore there is also scope for there to be negative effects if unmitigated.</p>	Retrofit all social housing and local authority buildings in the Monaghan Town DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2, having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European site and heritage considerations.
DZ BE2	Assess the feasibility and install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Monaghan Town DZ	<p>This study action will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. This action will support the reduction of local authority organisational and Residential sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. The installation of PV panels has the potential to result in negative glint and glare impacts on sensitive environmental receptors. There is also scope for there to be negative effects on cultural heritage if unmitigated.</p>	Assess the feasibility and install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Monaghan Town DZ, having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
DZ BE3	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Monaghan Town DZ	<p>The action will serve to support and inform retrofit projects.</p> <p>This action will support the reduction of residential and commercial sector GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> <p>There is the potential for light and air pollution during retrofitting works. The installation of PV panels has the potential to disturb bats who may be roosting in older buildings.</p>	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Monaghan Town DZ, having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites, and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
DZ BE6	Promote the use of nature based solutions (NBS) to reduce the impact of flooding where possible	<p>The promotion of nature based solutions has the potential to lead to significant development taking place, including development in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, development (e.g., construction works, land-take) associated with nature based solution could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; and the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust).</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature based solutions as part of a flood resilience scheme has the</p>	Promote the use of nature based solutions (NBS) to reduce the impact of flooding where possible, having due regard to environmental sensitivities including sensitive human receptors, water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.	
DZ BE8	Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating for Monaghan Town.	<p>This is a study-related action and will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. Depending on the outcome of this study, it has the potential to support the delivery of GHG emission reductions and energy efficiency in a local area.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, development that this action could lead to, which will include extensive pipe laying works, could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, flora and fauna; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.</p>	Undertake a feasibility study of the potential for district heating for Monaghan Town, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure that all associated development has due regard to the need to protect sensitive aspects of the receiving environment, such as water bodies, biodiversity, flora and fauna, European sites, and local population.
DZ BE9	Complete a Town Centre First Plan for Monaghan town and implement recommendations.	<p>This action has the broad potential to promote good spatial planning and support sustainable land use and sustainable transportation.</p> <p>The action has the potential to support utilising existing built environment for residential occupancy, which can reduce the requirement for construction of new residential development generally, and the associated embodied GHG emissions associated with such development.</p> <p>Any associated building refurbishment works has the potential to impact on the status of building that constitute protected structures and protected species that may be present in derelict dwelling, such as protected bat species.</p>	Complete a Town Centre First Plan for Monaghan town and implement recommendations. Having due regard to protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
DZ T1	Implement the decarbonisation of the Local Authority vehicular fleet as appropriate	<p>This action will support the local authority in reducing its organisational transport-related GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. This has the potential to generate some degree of positive effects on climate and local air quality.</p> <p>Electric vehicles have the potential to generate a variety of uncertain lifecycle impacts, including production related impacts and end-of-life related.</p>	Implement the decarbonisation of the Local Authority vehicular fleet as appropriate, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.
DZ T6	Identify suitable locations for EV charging points across the Monaghan Town DZ	<p>The action will support the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the DZ.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate slight environmental effects given the scale of the potential development, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p>	Identify suitable locations for EV charging points across the Monaghan Town DZ, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites and local air quality.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
DZ T8	Engage with the relevant authorities to support the electrification of Local Link,.	<p>This action has the potential to reduce GHG emissions in the DZ in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. This has the potential to generate some degree of positive effects on climate and local air quality.</p> <p>Electric vehicles have the potential to generate a variety of uncertain lifecycle impacts, including production related impacts and end-of-life related.</p> <p>Ancillary infrastructure may be required to support electrification in the town, including potentially high power charging point infrastructure and linear cable development. Such development may lead to unintended environmental effects.</p>	Engage with the relevant authorities to support the electrification of Local Link, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure sustainability and environmental protection considerations are embedded into the project.
DZ T10	Increase pedestrianised space in Monaghan Town	<p>This action will promote the development of safe sustainable and active travel networks. This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel modes and networks. It will help fully realise the potential positive environmental effects associated with sustainable/active travel.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the reallocation/pedestrianising of road space have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts and traffic and transport impacts (through the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion).</p>	Increase pedestrianised space in Monaghan Town, having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as traffic and transport constraints and aspects, the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
DZ T17	Promote and support the Safe Routes to School Programme to encourage staff and students in primary and post-primary schools within the DZ to walk and cycle.	<p>This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks and public transport. This action supports the development of additional cycling and walkway infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p>	Promote and support the Safe Routes to School Programme to encourage staff and students in primary and post-primary schools within the DZ to walk and cycle, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.
DZ NGI1	Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Monaghan Town to coordinate planning for the enhancement of the natural environment and to connect public green space	<p>This action will promote the protection and further development of green infrastructure. The protection and development of green infrastructure has the potential to have wide ranging slight to very significant positive effects on biodiversity, and slight to significant positive effects on tourism and recreation amenity and water quality and hydrology.</p> <p>Green infrastructure can also support GHG sequestration leading to a slight positive effect on the climate environment.</p>	Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Monaghan Town to coordinate planning for the enhancement of the natural environment and to connect public green space and greenways within the DZ, having due regard for environmental protection considerations and opportunities for climate action co-benefits.



Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	and greenways within the DZ	In absence of appropriate design and mitigation, the development of green infrastructure could potentially result in negative environmental effects, including negative construction related effects, negative effects on biodiversity or negative effects on cultural heritage assets.	
DZ NGI4	Support green infrastructure and nature based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience	<p>The use of nature based solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise), and the receiving human environment.</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The development of nature based solutions and sustainable urban drainage systems as part of a climate/flood resilience has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.</p> <p>The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.</p>	Support green infrastructure and nature based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience, having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ NGI5	Promote rain-water harvesting, reuse of grey water and green roofs and walls.	<p>The promotion of nature based solutions and SUDS and improved storm water management and practices has the potential to have slight to significant positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.</p> <p>The development of such SUDS infrastructure, in particular construction related works have the potential to have a range of unintended, negative environmental impacts if carried out.</p>	Promote rain-water harvesting, reuse of grey water and green roofs and walls, having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.



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

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



6. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Monaghan Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁴². This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

6.1 Transboundary Effects

All potential effects that may be transmitted to European sites in Northern Ireland will also be appropriately mitigated with the adoption of the defined mitigation. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source. Thus, it can be concluded that the LACAP is not foreseen to have any significant adverse effects on designated European sites situated in Northern Ireland, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

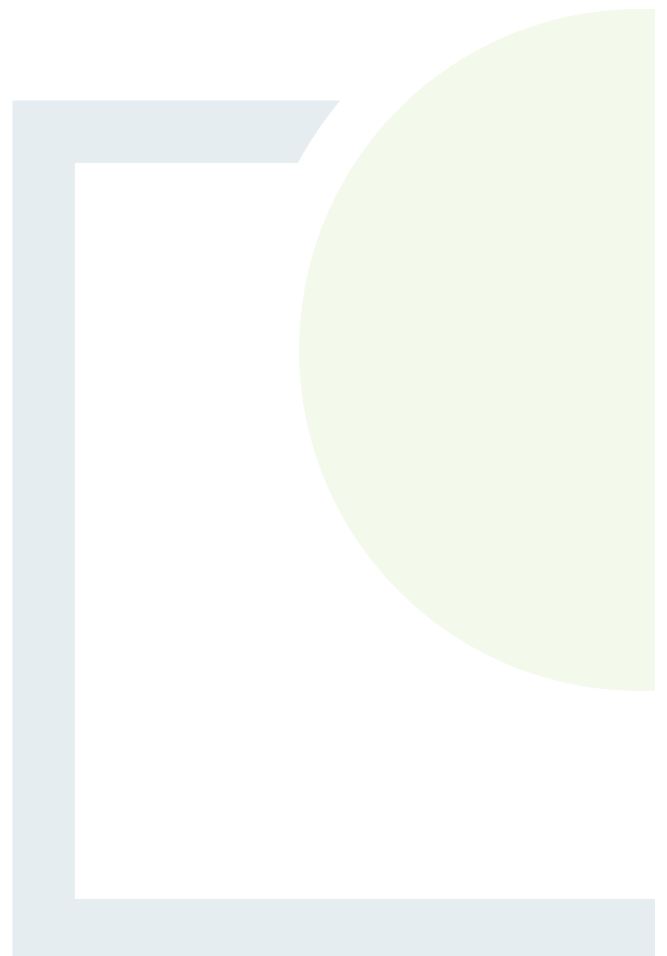
⁴² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



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APPENDIX 1

Background information to
European sites





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

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
00402 6	Dundalk Bay SPA	Estuaries and particularly intertidal sand and mud flats are very well represented at this site and support the largest concentration of wintering waterfowl on the east coast (regularly in excess of 20000 wintering waterfowl). The bay has internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla</i> hrota <i>Calidris canutus</i> <i>Limosa limosa</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . It is the top site in the country for <i>Calidris canutus</i> with over 38% of the national total. A further 13 species have populations of national importance with particular notable numbers for <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (12.4% of national total) <i>Calidris alpina</i> (8.4% of national total) and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (7.4% of national total). Dundalk Bay is an important roost site for <i>Anser anser</i> and small numbers of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> . Shallow bay waters support divers grebes and diving duck with nationally important populations of <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> and <i>Mergus serrator</i> . This bay is a regular site for passage waders such as <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> and <i>Tringa erythropus</i> . It is also an important site for wintering gulls especially <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>Larus canus</i> . The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species and habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. Wintering bird populations have been well monitored in recent years.	The site is a large bay-like estuarine complex extending c.15 km from north to south and on average of 4-5 km in width. It contains the estuaries of a number of moderately sized rivers principally the Castletown the Flurry the Fane and the Glyde/Dee. These rivers drain fairly intensive agricultural catchments and the Castletown flows through Dundalk town and serves the port. The site contains the largest expanse of intertidal flats on the east coast and has a very marked tidal range. The sediments are predominantly sands though fine muds or muddy sands occur in the sheltered areas at Dundalk and Ballymascanlan. Salt marshes are well represented especially in the more sheltered areas such as the estuaries of the Castletown and Flurry rivers. <i>Spartina</i> is frequent in parts. Post-glacial raised beaches are a feature of the shoreline.
00000 7	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	The site contains substantial areas of natural eutrophic lakes and bog woodland. Plant species of limited distribution in Ireland but which achieve local prominence include <i>Stratocites aloides</i> <i>Sagittaria saggitifolia</i> <i>Butomus umbellatus</i> <i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i> and two species of duckweed <i>Lemna gibba</i> and <i>Lemna polyrhiza</i> . The lake system provides optimum habitat for <i>Lutra lutra</i> and supports an important population. Part of the site is designated SPA.	The Lough Oughter complex at over 5000 ha comprises a maze of small to medium sized lakes and river sections and is considered the best inland example of a flooded drumlin landscape. The River Erne is the main inflowing and outflowing river. The lakes are classified as naturally eutrophic. Most are relatively shallow (<10 m) with well developed marginal vegetation including swamp marshes and wet woodland. There are many small islands within the lakes.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		The Annex I <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> and <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> are both very stable in their numbers here. Wildfowl Sanctuaries occupy approximately 5% of the site. The area is also listed as a Ramsar Site. The Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs complex connects with the cross border Upper Lough Erne which is proposed as a SAC in Northern Ireland.	
00178 6	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	Typical marl lakes with good <i>Chara</i> beds and moderate to good quality in a catchment where many wetlands have been drained or damaged. A zone of <i>Cladium mariscus</i> fen occurs at each of the lakes though this is limited in extent. Interesting diversity of species including a population of <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> and a Red Data Book plant <i>Pyrola rotundifolia</i> .	A series of four calcareous oligo-mesotrophic lakes developed in drumlin hollows surrounded by reedswamp and fen vegetation with some wet woodland and poor agricultural wet grassland. Well developed <i>Chara</i> beds occur on the marl covered lake beds.
00404 9	Lough Oughter SPA	Lough Oughter is of importance for a range of wintering waterfowl. Of particular note is an internationally important population of <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> that is based in the area and which use the lakes as a roost. A population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> of regional importance also roost on the lakes. The site supports nationally important wintering populations of four species: <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> <i>Cygnus olor</i> <i>Anas penelope</i> and <i>Bucephala clangula</i> plus a range of other wintering species such as <i>Anas crecca</i> and <i>Aythya fuligula</i> . Lough Oughter is at the centre of the breeding range of <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> in Ireland and the site supports in excess of 10% of the estimated national breeding total. A small colony of <i>Sterna hirundo</i> occurs within the site.	Lough Oughter is a medium-sized lake that extends over a wide area. Its situation in submerged drumlin country accounts for the extremely ramified nature of its basin. The main feeders to the lake are the River Erne and the Annalee River. These flow over relatively insoluble rock (Ordovician and Silurian strata) so that the lake water is only moderately hard despite the fact that most of the immediate surroundings are on Carboniferous limestone. Lough Oughter is a shallow lake (maximum depth 10 m) and is considered to be a naturally eutrophic system. Since the 1970s the lake has however shown clear signs of organic enrichment and has most recently been classified as hypertrophic (though chlorophyll levels have dropped markedly in recent years). The lakes have a well-developed aquatic flora. Around much of the shorelines there are swamp and marsh communities. In places wet woodland is well-developed at the lake margins.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
00416 7	Slieve Beagh SPA	The SPA is one of the strongholds for Hem Harrier in the country representing over 1% of the all-Ireland total. However when the Northern Ireland sector of Slieve Beagh is considered there were a total of 10 breeding pairs in 2005. The mix of forestry and open areas provides optimum habitat conditions for this rare bird. The early stage of new and second-rotation conifer plantation are the most frequently used nesting sites though some pairs may still nest in tall heather of unplanted bog and heath. Merlin have also been recorded within the site.	The Slieve Beagh SPA comprises much of the eastern and south-eastern sectors of the Slieve Beagh upland area that extends from County Monaghan into Northern Ireland. The site consists of mountain blanket bog which is well developed at the higher altitudes and especially at Eshbrack (peak of 365m). In places the bog is cutover and there are also wet and dry heaths present. The mid-slopes are afforested with plantations of various ages. The remainder of the site is rough or marginal grassland. Some of the old fields system support species-rich wet grassland vegetation dominated by soft rush. Several small dystrophic lakes are present within the site.
00045 5	Dundalk Bay SAC	Estuaries and particularly intertidal sand and mud flats are well represented at this site. The site contains the largest expanse of intertidal flats on the east coast. The bay is fringed in places by salt marshes with good examples of Salicornia sand flats Atlantic salt meadows and to a lesser extent Mediterranean salt meadows. The quality of estuarine habitats is generally good. The site has excellent examples of perennial vegetation of stony banks with the Red Data Book plant <i>Crambe maritima</i> . The site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl with internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> <i>Calidris canutus</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . It also supports nationally important populations of a further 16 species including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> . The overall site is also of international importance as it regularly has in excess of 20000 wintering waterfowl.	The site is a large bay-like estuarine complex extending c.15 km from north to south and on average between 2-3 km in width. It contains the estuaries of a number of moderately sized rivers principally the Castletown the Flurry the Fane and the Glyde/Dee. These rivers drain fairly intensive agricultural catchments and the Castletown flows through Dundalk town and serves the port. The site has a marked tidal range. The estuaries of the Castletown and Flurry rivers are well sheltered and have extensive salt marshes. Post-glacial raised beaches are a feature of the shoreline. Some agricultural fields which adjoin the bay are included in the site for ornithological interests.
00409 1	Stabannan- Braganstown SPA	The site supports an internationally important wintering population of <i>Anser anser</i> with approximately 35% of the national total. It also has a regular population of <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> though numbers are relatively low. It formerly supported an internationally important population of <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> though numbers have declined in recent years and the flock is now only of regional importance.	This site situated approximately 4 km from Dundalk Bay is a small very flat alluvial plain adjacent to the River Glyde. It is bounded to the north and south by low rolling hills. Much of the site was formerly marshland or wet grassland but is now drained and agriculturally improved. It is farmed intensively for grass cereals and root crops.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Numbers of <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> have dwindled to only a few each winter reflecting a decline throughout Ireland. The site is utilised for feeding and at night most of the geese and swans roost in Dundalk Bay. Other species typical of agricultural land also occur notably <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> .	
UK001 6614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. <i>Lutra lutra</i> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.	The open waters of the main lough and smaller satellite loughs contain a variety of aquatic communities typical of natural eutrophic lakes. In addition, the shallow sheltered shores support extensive swamp, fen and marsh communities. Behind the open grazed foreshore is species-rich grassland, which occasionally extends back into the old adjacent field systems. Alluvial woodland is found where the shoreline is ungrazed or only very lightly grazed, while occasionally the dryer soils of the drumlins behind support a natural Oak woodland; this is particularly well developed within the Crom Estate to the south and the small island to the north of the Lough. Such diversity of good habitats and communities is reflected in the very large number of rare and notable plants and insects flourishing here: the woods being particularly important for breeding passerines and home for some notable mammals.
UK001 6621	Magheravealy Marl Loughs SAC	Magheravealy Marl Loughs SAC consists of six lakes low-lying in the catchment of the River Finn. They are surrounded by wetlands whose interest is also promoted by high calcium concentration.	The lakes individually designated as ASSIs and selected from a cluster of lakes situated here because the combination of hard water and low nutrient status which results in lakes that approach the classic marl lake condition.
UK001 6622	Slieve Beagh SAC	The blanket bog, which covers most of the area, is the third largest intact bog in Northern Ireland. Peat depth is variable and consequently the peatland structure is highly diverse with hummock, lawn and pool complexes on the deepest peats grading into large expanses of blanketing peats on low gradients to heathland communities on the steepest and more exposed slopes.	Slieve Beagh is an upland area lying approximately four miles south of Clogher in County Tyrone, with the southern most projection extending into County Fermanagh. The upland area also extends across the border into Co. Monaghan. Within Northern Ireland, the upland topography undulates to a maximum height of 380 m at Doocarn, but generally lies between 200 and 350 m.



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Typically, the peatland vegetation supports good Sphagnum-rich blanket bog vegetation with high dwarf-shrub cover. Several lakes, on site have characteristically un-enriched waters.	
UK003 0212	Moninea Bog SAC	Moninea Bog represents a comparatively large area of raised bog in Co. Fermanagh. It lies to the west of Upper Lough Erne directly south-west of Teemore and represents one of the few remaining examples from the complex of small raised bogs which once occupied hollows between the drumlins of South Ulster.	The bog lies at an elevation of about 50m O.D. and is completely surrounded by a series of low drumlin hills which in turn are surrounded by a series of rivers. The peat deposits are deep and permanently waterlogged and the main feature of interest is a large intact dome supporting a good surface microtopography. In addition, a number of notable plant species have been recorded including <i>Sphagnum fuscum</i> , <i>S. imbricatum</i> and <i>S. pulchrum</i> .
UK003 0277	Slieve Gullion SAC	Annex 1 habitat European dry heath is extensive over the area and represents one of the largest expanses of this habitat in Northern Ireland outside the Mourne Mountains. The community is mostly of the <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> / <i>Erica cinerea</i> and <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> / <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> types, but includes <i>Ulex gallii</i> / <i>Erica cinerea</i> dry heath on the lower slopes. The area supports a number of other vegetation communities, including wet heath and blanket bog on the summit and upper slopes, wet and dry grassland communities, and transition mires and quaking bogs.	Slieve Gullion SAC supports a range of upland habitats and associated transitional communities, especially to the north of the site, where the upland heath grades downslope into lowland heaths, acid grasslands and basin fens. Slieve Gullion is a compact upland formed by volcanic activity in Tertiary times, some 60 million years ago. It is situated in south Armagh about 5 miles southwest of Newry, and at a height of 573m, it represents a prominent landscape feature. The area is important geologically, representing the finest example of a Tertiary igneous centre in Ireland and it is also among the best topographic expressions of a ring-dyke system in the British Isles.
UK902 0071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Upper Lough Erne contributes to the maintenance of the geographic range of the Annex 1 Greenland white-fronted goose population of Northern Ireland through supporting regionally important numbers. It also supports an important assemblage of breeding birds including common tern and in the past supported breeding corncrake. Both are Annex 1 species. Over winter the area regularly supports: <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Iceland/UK/Ireland) 3.4% of the all-Ireland population 5 year peak mean, 1991/2-1995/6	The open waters of the main lough and smaller satellite loughs contain a variety of aquatic communities typical of natural eutrophic lakes. In addition, the shallow sheltered shores support extensive swamp, fen and marsh communities. Behind the open grazed foreshore is species-rich grassland, which occasionally extends back into the old adjacent field systems. Alluvial woodland is found where the shoreline is ungrazed or only very lightly grazed, while occasionally the dryer soils of the drumlins behind support a natural Oak woodland; this is particularly well developed within the Crom



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			<p>Estate to the south and the small island to the north of the Lough. Wintering Whooper Swan generally utilise improved or semi-improved grassland close to water bodies used for roosting. Foraging in flooded fields and of emergent vegetation in shallower lakes is common.</p> <p>The site regularly supports large numbers of over-wintering and breeding birds important in an all-Ireland context in addition to internationally important numbers of wintering Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>, which has been recognised by its SPA designation.</p>
UK902-0302	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	<p>The site is delimited principally by physical boundaries closest to merged radii extending 2.5km from nest sites used by hen harriers between 1997 and 2004. The site encompasses all lands within these boundaries, excluding wholly-improved pasture, arable land, buildings and associated lands. It includes coniferous plantations, blanket bog, wet and dry heath, grass moor, scrub and limited semi-improved agricultural grassland.</p> <p>The principal interest is the breeding population of hen harrier. The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting internationally important populations of hen harrier. It should be noted that the site adjoins a proposed SPA for hen harrier in the Republic of Ireland.</p>	<p>The Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad - Lisnaskea SPA comprises a single land unit extending between Slatbeg in the north-east and Coolnasillagh in the south-west and incorporating the Slieve Beagh massif, Mullaghfad Forest and Lisnaskea Forest. Slightly more than half the eastern boundary is formed by the border with the Republic of Ireland.</p>
00415-1	Donegal Bay SPA	<p>This site supports an excellent diversity of waterfowl species associated with shallow bays. It has an internationally important wintering population of <i>Gavia immer</i> and is one of the top sites in the country for this species. Also has one of the few regular populations of <i>Gavia arctica</i> in the country and a regionally important population of <i>Gavia stellata</i>. The site has nationally important populations of <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (up to 4.6% of all-Ireland total) and <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>. A range of other species associated with estuarine and shoreline habitats occur.</p>	<p>The Donegal Bay SPA is a very large marine dominated site. It extends from Doorin Point to the west of Donegal town to Tullaghan Point in Co. Leitrim a distance of approximately 15 km along its north-east/south-west axis. It varies in width from about 3 km to over 8 km. The site includes the estuary of the River Eske which flows through Donegal town and the estuary of the River Erne which flows through Ballyshannon. Much of the shoreline is rocky or stony with well-developed littoral reefs in places.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>The site provides both feeding and roost sites for most of the species. Habitat quality is mostly good. The site has a population of <i>Phoca vitulina</i>.</p>	<p>There are also extensive stretches of sandy beach especially from the Murvagh peninsula southwards to Rossowlagh and at the outer part of the Erne estuary. Shingle or cobble beaches are also represented. There are extensive areas of intertidal flats associated with the Eske Estuary reflecting the very sheltered conditions in this part of the bay. These have been shown to be biotope rich. Elsewhere a narrow fringe of intertidal flats are exposed at low tides. Salt marshes are found in the sheltered conditions of the innermost part of the bay. A number of small grassy islands occur in the innermost part of the bay. The shallow bay waters overlies mostly sandy substrates though reefs occur in places.</p>



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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Bog woodland [91D0]	H01.03, A10.01, B01.02, J02.01.03, I01, H01.05, E01.03, G01, B01.01, H01.04, M01.03	Other point source pollution to surface water, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Invasive non-native species, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Dispersed habitation, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Diffuse pollution to surface waters via storm overflows or urban run-off, Flooding and rising precipitations
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Estuaries [1130]	F02.03.01, H01, H01.06, G02.09, G01.01.01, H05.01, G02, I01, G05.02, F05, J02.01.02, E03.01, J02.01.03, E03.03, J02.04.01, H02.06, H04.02, H05, J02.12.01, J03.01, J03.02, K01.01, K02, K04.01, G01, M02.04, J02.04	Bait digging or collection, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to transport and infrastructure without connection to canalization or sweepers, Wildlife watching, Motorized nautical sports, Garbage and solid waste, Sport and leisure structures, Invasive non-native species, Shallow surface abrasion or mechanical damage to seabed surface, Illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, Disposal of inert materials, Flooding, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, Nitrogen-input, Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges), Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, Anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, Erosion, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Competition (flora), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Migration of species (natural newcomers), Flooding modifications



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140], Alkaline fens [7230], White-clawed crayfish (Austroptamobius pallipes) [1092], Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]	A02.01, G02, E01.03, H01, I01, J02.06, F02.03, E03.03, X	Agricultural intensification, Sport and leisure structures, Dispersed habitation, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Invasive non-native species, Water abstractions from surface waters, Leisure fishing, Disposal of inert materials, No threats or pressures
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) [A053], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]	E03, D03.02, A04, F02.03, E01.03, D01.02, J02.12, J02.11, E01, E02, I01, A08, G01.02, G01.01	Discharges, Shipping lanes, Grazing, Leisure fishing, Dispersed habitation, Roads, motorways, Dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Industrial or commercial areas, Invasive non-native species, Fertilisation, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Nautical sports



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	A05.01, G01.01, F03.01, F02.03, A08, B	Animal breeding, Nautical sports, Hunting, Leisure fishing, Fertilisation, Sylviculture, forestry
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]	A01, A02, A04, A08, D01.02	Cultivation, Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Fertilisation, Roads, motorways
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	D01.01, C01.03, D01.02	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Peat extraction, Roads, motorways
UK0016 614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]	B02, B06, F03, G01, G02, H01, H04, I01, J02	Forest and plantation management & use, grazing in forests/ woodland, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, sport and leisure structures, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
UK0016 621	Magheraveal y Marl Loughs SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210]	A04, B03, G01, H01, H02, H04, I01, J02, K02, XO	Grazing, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources), Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Threats and pressures from outside the Member State
UK0016 622	Slieve Beagh SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130],], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], European dry heaths [4030]	A04, C01, H04, I01, J01, J02	Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, invasive non-native species, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
UK0030 212	Moninea Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110]	A04, H04, J01, J02, K02	Grazing, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, fire and fire suppression, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, biocenotic evolution, succession
UK0030 277	Slieve Gullion SAC	European dry heaths [4030]	G01, J01, A02, H04, A04, I01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Fire and fire suppression, Modification of cultivation practices, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants, Grazing, Invasive non-native species
UK9020 071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	A02, A04, D02, G01, H01, M01, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, utility and service lines, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), changes in abiotic conditions, changes in biotic conditions
UK9020 302	Slieve Beagh- Mullaghfad- Lisnaskea SPA	Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	A04, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, J01, J03, M01, M02	Grazing, Forest and Plantation management & use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, fire and fire suppression, Other ecosystem modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions, Changes in biotic conditions
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]	A08, A04, G01.02, F01, G01.01, E01.01, D01.02	Fertilisation, Grazing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Nautical sports, Continuous urbanisation, Roads, motorways



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

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
White-clawed Crayfish (Austroptamobius pallipes)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Otter (Lutra lutra)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	[3140]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)	[1092]	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Blanket bogs * if active bog	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.



Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass(Chara spp.)	[3140]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	[3150]	Hydrological changes, afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton (Cladium mariscus and Caricion davallianae)	[7210]	Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Bog woodland	[91D0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.



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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A005	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A038	Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	A02, A11, C03, D02, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A043	Greylag Goose	Anser anser	A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other forms of pollution
A046	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	Branta bernicla hrota	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances, Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A048	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
A050	Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A052	Teal	Anas crecca	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A053	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A054	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A065	Common Scoter	Melanitta nigra	A04, C03, F02, G01, H01, H03, I01, K03, M02	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A082	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	A02, B01, B02, C01, C03, F03, G01, I01, J01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Fire and Fire suppression, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A003]	Great Northern Diver (Gavia immer)	Gavia immer	C03, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
[A144]	Sanderling (Calidris alba)	Calidris alba	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A050]	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)	<i>Anas penelope</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
A143	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions



Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A156	Black-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A160	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata arquata</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
A162	Common Redhank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications



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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other plans
and programmes



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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. • Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. • For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. • The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC 	<p>This Directive lays down provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; the management of bathing water quality; and the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution. 	<p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions</p>	<p>The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.</p>	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and • the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest • Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. • Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy communities. • It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. • The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. • EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. • Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)</p>	<p>This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States. Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.</p>	<p>The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass.</p> <p>The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</p>	<p>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</p>	<p>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791</p>	<p>The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an EU legally-binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. • Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating. 	
<p>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</p>	<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community. 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</p>

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<p>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); • the sustainable use of its components; and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>	<p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p>	<p>The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.</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.</p> <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</p>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. • Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks • Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment • Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. • Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. • Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. • Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. • Promote sustainable water usage. • The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive • Sampling Drinking Water Directive • Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive • Shellfish Directive • Freshwater Fish Directive • Groundwater Directive • Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. • Achieve "good status" for all waters. • Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. • Involve the public and streamline legislation. • Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. • Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. • Recover costs for water services. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all. 	<p>Key features of the revised Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</p>	<p>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the • Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	<p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; • (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; • (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p>	<p>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital • to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy • to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment- related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better implementation of legislation. • Better information by improving the knowledge base. • More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. • Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats • to promote cooperation between states • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. • Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. • Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. • Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. • Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co- operation with other organisations. • Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Bali Road Map (2007)	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and • To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building 	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention • Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention’s mission is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.	<p>Under the “three pillars” of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe’s social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU’s GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the “20/20/20” climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	<p>The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people’s quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</p>	<p>Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.</p>	<p>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.</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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation]	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; • Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, • Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates • the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	<p>In preparation.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	<p>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C- 418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</p>	<p>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>	<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"> • Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. • Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values • Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of • waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from • agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other • fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts • on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened • over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures • to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in • water quality. 	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National legislation transport the Industrial Emissions Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provision of the Directive 	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013 			

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. <p>Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.</p>	
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	<p>This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	<p>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</p>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment • entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any • international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas • emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Climate Action Plan 2023	The Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland’s legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the • 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<p>The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals; • To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland’s Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and • Strong reporting mechanisms 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people’s health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid ’s Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EirGrid ’s mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. • “Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way.” 	Grid25, EirGrid ’s roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>All Island Grid Study 2008</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. • The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. 	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. • The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. • Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. • Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; • Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism • to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, • domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; • Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; • The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; • Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; • Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; • Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and • Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: “Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.” 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027</p>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.</p> <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Ports Policy 2013	<p>The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.</p>	<p>National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Aviation Policy 2015	<p>Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance Ireland’s connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to • Ireland’s economic growth and development. 	<p>The National Aviation Policy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland’s leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland’s broader aviation industry 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<p>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, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	<p>The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i></p>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	<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 Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy will be published in 2024. • The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. • Vision is to “Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core.” • This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery. 	<p>The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative • Inclusive • Sustainable • Attractive • Collaborative <p>The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for growth.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIFTI is the Department of Transport’s framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. • The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland. 	<p>The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. • Protection and renewal. • Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. • Decarbonisation. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. • To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation • are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)(as amended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p> <p>Water Services Act 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. • Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. • Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Irish Water’s (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	<p>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.</p>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Customer Expectations. • Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. • Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. • Protect and Enhance the Environment. • Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	<p>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Food Harvest 2020	<p>Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</p>	<p>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri- environment Scheme (GLAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</p>	<p>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>	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. • To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. • To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2018/2001: 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>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017-2030	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative 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"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	<p>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.</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	<p>The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. • This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. <p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build adaptive capacity within the sector • Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change • Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector. 	<p>The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change 2. To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage 3. To conserve Ireland’s heritage for future generations 4. To communicate and transfer knowledge 5. To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Heritage related legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018. 	<p>Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.</p>	<p>Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>All-Island Strategic Rail Review</p>	<p>The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.</p>	<p>The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to decarbonisation; • improve All Island connectivity between major cities; • enhance regional accessibility; • stimulate economic activity; • encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030</p>	<p>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 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>It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Initiatives 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional/ County/Local Level			
<p>Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p> <p>The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.</p> <p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. • This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery. 	<p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)</p>	<p>It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p> <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, • national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040	<p>The Strategy addresses all transport modes, and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades.</p> <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p>	<p>It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland • including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. • This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery. 	<p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports • The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. • This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. • This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery. 	<p>To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development. • To encourage modal shift. 	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Water Quality Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protects and enhances amenities and environment. • Guides planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aims to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. • Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. • Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. • Aims to increase awareness. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage Plans	Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and promote heritage as well as increased awareness. • Aim to conserve and protect heritage. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced by Local Authorities. Outlines areas local flood risk. Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level. 	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area. 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midland's regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Action Plans	<p>The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.</p> <p>This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.</p>	<p>The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems • Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects • Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good 	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Newry Mourne and Down Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p>	<p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p>	<p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Fermanagh Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p>	<p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>Mid Ulster Local Development Plan</p>	<p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p>	<p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)</p>	<p>Prohibits the intentional killing, taking or injuring of certain wild birds and wild animals or the intentional destruction, uprooting or picking of certain wild plants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs, the prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds and the sale of live or dead wild birds or eggs. • Protection of captive birds. • Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals, the use of spring traps, and the sale of live or dead wild animals as well as providing protection for wild plants and prohibiting the sale of invasive, non-native species. • Also covers: the protection of deer, the sales and purchases of venison and the prevention of poaching; the possession of pesticides harmful to wildlife; wildlife refuges; and the possession of articles for purposes of committing certain offences. <p>With regard to enforcement, it includes details regarding the power of wildlife inspector to enter premises and to examine specimens and take samples, false statements made for obtaining registration or licence and penalties and forfeitures.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</p>	<p>This Act requires every public body to promote the conservation of biodiversity and defines functions of public bodies in Northern Ireland with respect to the conservation of biodiversity. It also contains provisions for the conservation of wild fauna and flora and habitats. The Act amends the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make provision about biodiversity. • To amend the wildlife (Northern Ireland) order 1985 and part 4 of the environment (Northern Ireland) order 2002. • To abolish game licences and game dealers' licences. • To prohibit hare coursing events. <p>To amend the game preservation act (Northern Ireland) 1928; and for connected purposes.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)</p>	<p>These regulations transpose the requirements of the EC 'Habitats' Directive and aspects of the 'Wild Birds' Directive in relation to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Provide for the protection of sites in the UK that support habitats and species in need of conservation across Europe and full protection of species of European importance whether occurring within designated sites or not.</p>	<p>Protects certain birds, plants, animals, marine life and their habitats, including Natura 2000 sites, through creating criminal offences and changing planning requirements.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002</p>	<p>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 is the primary piece of environmental legislation in Northern Ireland. The order sets out a range of requirements for the protection and management of the environment, including the prevention and control of pollution, the conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, and the regulation of waste management.</p> <p>The order applies to a wide range of activities, including industrial and commercial activities, waste management, agriculture, and construction. It also establishes the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), which is responsible for enforcing the order and regulating activities that may have an impact on the environment. The NIEA has the power to investigate environmental incidents, issue enforcement notices, and prosecute individuals and organisations that breach environmental regulations.</p>	<p>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 places a range of obligations on individuals and organisations to protect and manage the environment. These obligations include reporting environmental incidents, obtaining permits, and complying with environmental standards. Evidence requirements under the order may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reporting requirements 2. Permit requirements 3. Compliance monitoring <p>Enforcement action</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017</p>	<p>The purpose of these regulations is to promote sustainable development by considering and mitigating the potential environmental effects of projects before they are approved. The regulations require a systematic and transparent assessment process, enabling decision-makers to make informed choices based on the environmental implications of proposed developments.</p>	<p>The regulations apply to a wide range of projects, including infrastructure developments, industrial facilities, energy projects, and certain agricultural and waste management activities.</p> <p>The regulations mandate that developers or project proponents carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of the planning process. The EIA involves the identification, prediction, and evaluation of potential environmental effects, such as impacts on air, water, biodiversity, human health, and cultural heritage. The assessment also considers alternative options and potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>Additionally, the regulations emphasize public participation, ensuring that affected individuals and organizations have the opportunity to provide input and express their concerns during the assessment process.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland</p>	<p>The SPPS is a statement, consolidating some twenty separate policy publications into one document of the Department’s policy on important planning matters that should be addressed across Northern Ireland. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within their new Local Development Plans.</p>	<p>The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.</p> <p>The SPPS has a policy objective to “seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region’s natural heritage”</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2: Natural Heritage (2013)	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2 sets out the Department of the Environment’s planning policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of Northern Ireland’s natural heritage. PPS 2 replaces ‘Planning and Nature Conservation (1997)’ and supersedes Policies SP16 and DES4 in ‘A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (1993)’.	Objectives of PPS2 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region’s natural heritage; and to contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18: Renewable Energy	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the Department’s planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources and that requires the submission of a planning application. In addition, the PPS encourages the integration of renewable energy technology and greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design in the design, siting and layout of new development.	The aim of this Statement is to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment in order to achieve Northern Ireland’s renewable energy targets and to realise the benefits of renewable energy. The objectives of the Statement are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed; • to ensure adequate protection of the Region’s built and natural, and cultural heritage features; and to facilitate the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development and promote greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy.	The objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy are to: i) maintain healthy ecosystems, ii) address adverse pressure, iii) increase prosperity and well-being, and engage society in biodiversity conservation and develop partnerships.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Draft Environment Strategy	The Environment Strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out Northern Ireland’s environmental priorities for the coming decades and will form part of the Green Growth agenda.	This Strategy focuses on several Strategic Context/Drivers: i) Sustainability ii) Global Climate & Biodiversity Action iii) Green Growth Strategy iv) Environmental Governance & Co-operation v) Agriculture & Environment vi) Marine Environment Built & Historic Environment	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040	The strategy identifies the ecosystem services provided by healthy peatlands, including climate regulation and adaptation, specialised biodiversity, good water quality, flood alleviation and a historical archive. The strategy also highlights the role peatlands play as a unique landscape for recreation and education.	The document outlines six strategic objectives: i) Conserve peatlands & prevent degradation ii) Restoration of degraded areas to functioning peatland ecosystems (designated & non-designated sites) iii) Supporting Sustainable Peatland Management iv) Knowledge Sharing & Research v) Communication, Education & Access Governance, Implementation & Funding	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Draft Green Growth Strategy	The Strategy establishes Northern Ireland’s Green Growth vision and principles and sets out commitments to tackling the climate crisis.	One of the key commitments of the Green Growth Strategy is to develop Northern Ireland’s first Climate Action Plan. 10 Executive Commitments have been set out in the Strategy. Green Growth considers climate targets but also the wider environment and green jobs.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 (Northern Ireland Energy Strategy ‘Path to Net Zero Energy’)	The Strategy sets a long-term vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy for Northern Ireland. It is also about growing the economy and supporting the 10X Economic Vision.	The energy strategy sets a target of 70% of local electricity supplies coming from renewable sources by 2030 and includes a plan to fully decarbonise by 2050. The Energy Strategy is centred around delivering on five key principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing you at the heart of our energy future • Grow the green economy • Do more with less • Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy Create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>The Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018</p>	<p>The Plan informs and guides the regulation, management, use and protection of Northern Ireland’s marine area. It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region.</p>	<p>Marine Plan Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the sustainable development of productive activities, which support employment at all skill levels while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests. • To help realise the potential of energy resources and energy storage within the marine area, while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests. • To promote the development of vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities. • To promote the marine resource, its recreational value and its wider economic, environmental and social benefits to all. • To promote the preservation and enjoyment of marine related heritage assets. • To promote a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem and an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas. • To contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. <p>To continue to develop a sound marine evidence base in a co-ordinated manner, to increase understanding and to support the development, monitoring and review of marine plans.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<p>Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 - 2026</p>	<p>Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment.</p> <p>ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.</p>	<p>The Strategy is based on the several key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable development • Precautionary principle <p>Ecosystem approach</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>
<p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans for Northern Irish local authorities bordering Ireland</p>	<p>These Northern Ireland plans make sure there is enough land available for each area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p>	<p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans for Northern Irish local authorities bordering Ireland include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Derry City and Strabane District Council's Local Development Plan 2032 • Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan 2030</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>

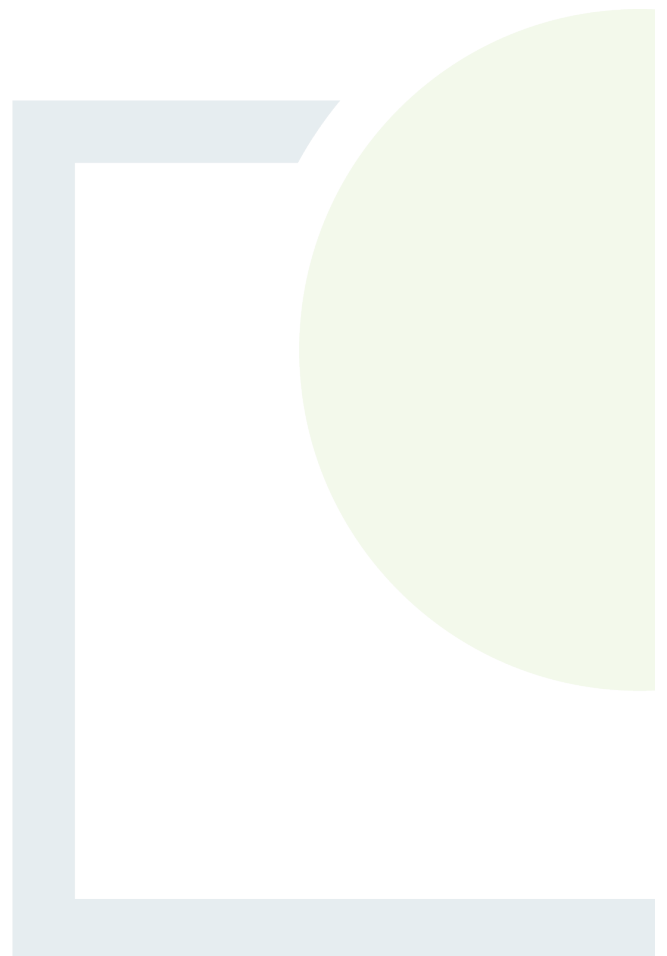
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Northern Ireland River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NI River Basin Management Plans take an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. • They apply to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. • River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) as required by the regulations were published in 2009 and 2015 for each River Basin District within Northern Ireland. 	<p>The Plans identified where Northern Ireland’s water environment is in good or excellent condition and set out objectives for improvement or prevention of deterioration.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p>



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 3

Appropriate Assessment
Screening of Plan
Modifications.





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

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

Prepared for:
Monaghan County Council



Date: January 2024

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

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Client: Monaghan County Council

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

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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

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

1.2 Plan-making Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive¹ and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive² and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

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

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

1.3 Purpose of this Assessment

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

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



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

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

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



2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Requirements

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the “favourable conservation status” of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Habitats Directive as above and Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites.

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

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



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

The AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed:

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

2.3 Assessment Process and Approach

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

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



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

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

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

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a plan or a project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan Action modifications that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor³.

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

The likelihood of significant effects, including in-combination effects, on European Sites is then interrogated having regard to the nature and characteristics of Plan Action modifications, environmental pathways, and the sensitivity of relevant European sites.

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

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



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

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

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



3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Modification
BE 8	Uisce Eireann to be added as a partner within action BE 8.
NEGI 1	LAWPRO and Capital Project section to be added as partners to action NEGI 1.
NEGI 2	NEGI 2 has been amended to read as follows: “Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate native species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as “Forest Creation on Public Lands”
NEGI 2	This action has been amended to include the area metric “M2/Hectare of trees planted” within the KPI of NEGI 2.
NEGI 5	Action NEGI 5 has been amended to read as follows: “Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.”
NEGI 10	NEGI 10 has been amended to read as follows: “Campaigns to promote locally produced and organic food and beverage produce highlighting the carbon intensity and food miles of imported food vs. locally produced food.”
NEGI 13	Community Groups to be added as partners for action NEGI 13.
CRT 1	To Amend Action CTR1 to read as follows: “Include sustainability & climate action sections for event management plans to reduce the environmental impact of Council events, including but not limited to: removing single use plastic where possible, proper segregation of waste along with water stations and compostable cups. Ensure event management plans are required to demonstrate compliance with current best practice policy in terms of Green/Sustainable festivals & events. ”
SRM 1	Uisce Eireann to be added as a partner within action SRM 1.
SRM 15	To add the following action to SG5 (now SRM 15): “Enable improvement in air quality through enforcement of air related legislation, particularly; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Air Pollution Act. • The Solid Fuels Regulations. • The Deco Paints Regulations. • The Solvent Regulations • The Petroleum Vapour Regulations.”
Objective SG5	To amend objective under SG5 to read as follows: “Monaghan County Council will lead by example by reducing the councils production of waste to a minimum, use of non-essential goods, single use products, energy, and water.”



Action	Summary of Modification
CTR 11	Action CTR 11 has been removed due to duplication.
All Actions in SG4	All actions within this Strategic Goal have been renamed to 'CRT' due to typo.
SMR 7, SMR 8, SMR 9	These actions have been changed due to typo and are now referred to as SRM 7, SRM 8 and SRM 9.
CTR 5	KPI Changed to: "Number of engagements with Green clubs."
SRM 4	KPI changed to: "Development and Implementation of policy."
SRM 5	KPI changed to: "Number of stakeholders engaged. Quantity reduction in single use plastics."
SRM 6	KPI changed to: "Number of composting facilities successfully installed."
SRM 7	KPI changed to: "Number of rainwater facilities successfully installed."
SRM 12	KPI changed to: "Progress update/ Remediation work carried out."
GL 1	The words 'Corporate Plan' have been added to this action: "Embed Climate Action into all Council plans, policies and strategies including the County Development Plan, Corporate Plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Team Operational plans, individual Personal Development Plans, and section risk registers to ensure the delivery of climate actions across all departments."
T 16	The words 'and total spend' have been added to the action's KPI: "Number of projects completed, and total spend. Amount of funding secured."
BE 7	KPI changed to: "Implementation of App."



4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

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

4.2 Assessment Criteria

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

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



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

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

SSCOs have been prepared for a number of European Sites. These detailed SSCO's aim to define favourable conservation condition for the qualifying habitats and species at that site by setting targets for appropriate attributes which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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

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

Generic Conservation Objectives for SACs have been provided as follows:

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

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

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

EC guidance⁴ outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

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

⁴ Assessment of plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001.



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

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

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

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

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



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

Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
BE 8	Uisce Eireann to be added as a partner within action BE 8.	The amendment to this finance-related action is administrative in nature. The inclusion of a partner does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
NEGI 1	LAWPRO and Capital Project section to be added as partners to action NEGI 1.	The inclusion of a partner does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
NEGI 2	NEGI 2 has been amended to read as follows: “Develop a Tree and Woodland Plan to increase tree cover on Council-owned land, using appropriate native species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as “Forest Creation on Public Lands”	This amended action supports the maintenance and planting of native tree. The amended action will support biodiversity protection and enhancement and promote GHG emission sequestration. Therefore there are no additional sources for effects which were not already considered by the existing SEA ER. No further considerations are required in that regard.
NEGI 2	This action has been amended to include the area metric “M2/Hectare of trees planted” within the KPI of NEGI 2.	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
NEGI 5	Action NEGI 5 has been amended to include the following: “Decarbonise machinery used to manage areas within the public realm, parks and green spaces when feasible and practical to do so. Subject to cost expand the use of low impact fuel where appropriate.”	The amendment clarifies local authority vehicle fleet decarbonisation proposals already considered and assessed under the SEA/AA. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
NEGI 10	NEGI 10 has been amended to read as follows: “Campaigns to promote locally produced and organic food and beverage produce highlighting the carbon intensity and food miles of imported food vs. locally produced food.”	This amended action continues to promote awareness and will support local food/drink production and consumption which has inherent environmental and climate benefits. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
NEGI 13	Community Groups to be added as partners for action NEGI 13.	Adding Community Groups as partners in this action serves to strengthen the reach of this action in the community. The inclusion of a partner does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
CRT 1	To Amend Action CTR1 to read as follows: “Include sustainability & climate action sections for event management plans to reduce the environmental impact of Council events, including but not limited to: removing single use plastic where possible, proper segregation of waste along with water stations and compostable cups. Ensure event management plans are required to demonstrate compliance with current best practice policy in terms of Green/Sustainable festivals & events”	This amendment promotes better climate action governance at events and will give better effect to the Plan generally. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
SRM 1	Uisce Éireann to be added as a partner within action SRM 1.	Adding Uisce Éireann as partners in this action serves to strengthen the reach of this action in the community. The inclusion of a partner does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
SRM 15	To add the following action to SG5(now SRM 15): “Enable improvement in air quality through enforcement of air related legislation, particularly; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Air Pollution Act. • The Solid Fuels Regulations. 	This has inherent benefits to air quality and the receiving environment. It is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing SEA ER, it also clarifies the regulations which will be enforced. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard.



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Deco Paints Regulations. The Solvent Regulations The Petroleum Vapour Regulations”. 	
Objective SG5	To amend objective under SG5 to read as follows: “Monaghan County Council will lead by example by reducing the councils production of waste to a minimum, use of non-essential goods, single use products, energy, and water.”	The changes to this objective provide clarity on the ambitions of Strategic Goal 5. The amendment does not result in alterations to the actions contained within the Climate Action Plan. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard.
CTR 11	Action CTR 11 has been removed due to duplication.	This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
All Actions in SG4	All actions within this Strategic Goal have been renamed to 'CRT' due to typo.	This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
SMR 7, SMR 8, SMR 9	These actions have been changed due to typo and are now referred to as SRM 7, SRM 8 and SRM 9.	This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
CTR 5	KPI Changed to: “Number of engagements with Green clubs.”	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
SRM 4	KPI changed to: “Development and Implementation of policy.”	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
SRM 5	KPI changed to:	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
	"Number of stakeholders engaged. Quantity reduction in single use plastics."	environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
SRM 6	KPI changed to: "Number of composting facilities successfully installed."	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
SRM 7	KPI changed to: "Number of rainwater facilities successfully installed."	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
SRM 12	KPI changed to: "Progress update/ Remediation work carried out."	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
GL 1	The words 'Corporate Plan' have been added to this action: "Embed Climate Action into all Council plans, policies and strategies including the County Development Plan, Corporate Plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Team Operational plans, individual Personal Development Plans, and section risk registers to ensure the delivery of climate actions across all departments."	This amendment promotes better climate action governance across all the departments and will give better effect to the Plan generally. The amendment does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.
T 16	The words 'and total spend' have been added to the action's KPI: "Number of projects completed, and total spend. Amount of funding secured."	The amendment of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
BE 7	KPI changed to: "Implementation of App."	The inclusion of this measurable KPI for this Plan Action better supports the delivery of the action, which has the potential to support a range of



Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
		environmental factors, resulting in positive effects for climate, biodiversity, water quality, soils, and environmental/ecosystem health.
BE 8	Uisce Eireann to be added as a partner within action BE 8.	The amendment to this finance-related action is administrative in nature. The inclusion of a partner does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.



4.1 Summary of the Evaluation

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

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

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

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

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

Further assessment is therefore not required.

4.2 Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. There are no additional sources for effects identified within the Proposed amendments; therefore, there are no in-combination effects.



5. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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



6. REFERENCES

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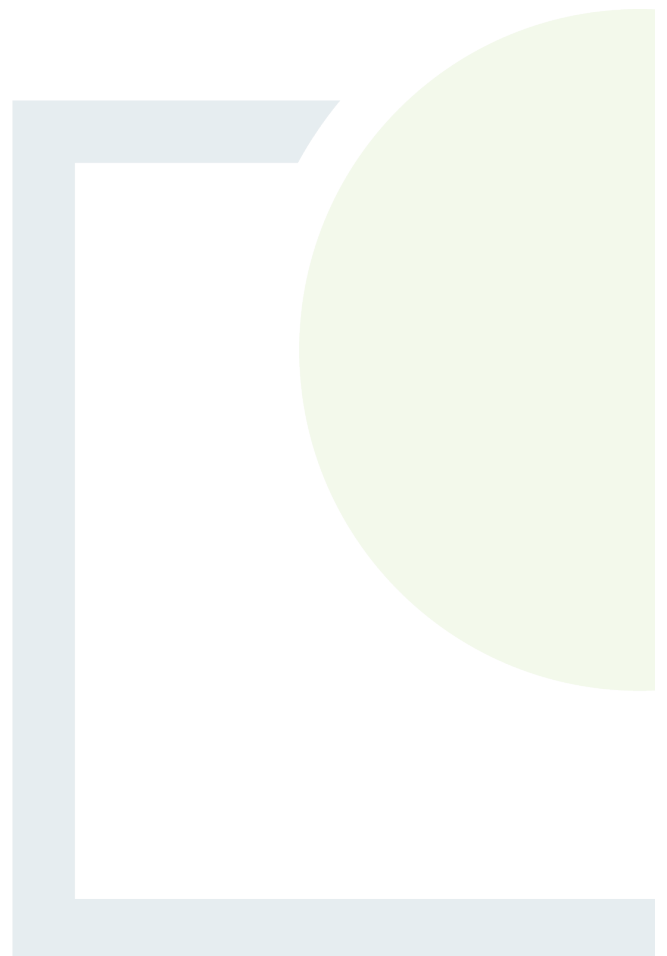
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APPENDIX 1

Author Details



Author Details

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

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



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