

# **The Border Regional Authority**

## *Údarás Réigiúnach na Teorann*



## **Draft Habitats Directive Assessment of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines (2010-2022)**

**January 2010**



## **The Border Regional Authority**

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## **1 Introduction to Habitats Directive Assessment**

The aim of the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) is to create a network of protected wildlife sites in Europe, maintained at a good conservation status. Each member state must designate their most important natural areas as Special Areas of Conservation. The Directive specifies the scientific criteria on the basis of which SAC sites must be selected and very strictly curtails the grounds that can be used as justification for damaging a site. The network of sites is referred to as NATURA 2000 and includes SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) and SPAs (Special Protection Areas) for birds.

The European Habitats Directive (EHD) (Council of the European Communities 1992) was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997.

The SAC Regulations also amends the Planning Act and requires planning authorities when considering an application for a development that is likely to have a significant effect on the SAC, to ensure that an appropriate assessment of the implications of the development for the conservation status of the site is undertaken.

Sites may contain priority or non-priority habitats and species. Priority habitats include raised and blanket bogs, some types of fens, bog woodlands and turloughs.

The only justifications for damaging a qualifying "priority" site are "considerations relating to human health and public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance of the environment, or further to an opinion from the European Commission, to other Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest" (IROPI), but this can only be allowed after an assessment is made in line with the article 6 procedure, and there are no other alternatives and an agreement is reached with the European Commission.

The European Parliament, in a communication to the European Council in September 2000, states: The implementation of the European Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, both with respect to species conservation and with respect to the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, is one of the most important tools for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the European Union and member states (European Parliament 2000).

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive provides a strict assessment procedure for any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but which has the potential to have implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the Border Regional Authority, therefore, fall under the remit of article 6. For the purposes of this report, this assessment will be referred to as a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA).

### **1.1 Relationship to Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Habitats Directive Assessment specifically aims to ensure that the plan, in this case the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites, whereas Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has a broader objective to ensure land-use plans contribute to sustainable development by integrating social,

environmental and economic considerations into plan preparation and incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

## 2 Guidance on the Implementation of Article 6

### 2.1 European Guidance

The European Commissions methodological guidance on the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the four stages for the assessment. This guidance has been designed with practitioners in mind; it sets out flow charts of the various stages and provides worked and blank examples of matrices for each stage. However, because the work involved can be very large in many cases, emphasis is placed on reporting only when necessary and to ensure transparency of decision making. Evidence of assessment matrices are required to be completed when no further assessment is required. For example, if it is concluded at stage one screening that significant effects are likely then there is no need to complete the evidence of assessment form at that stage, as it will be necessary to proceed to the next stage of assessment.

### 2.2 National Guidance

Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 of the 15 February, 2008 ***Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans*** states that:

*Any draft land use plan (development plans, local area plans, regional planning guidelines, schemes for strategic development zones) or amendment/variation to it proposed under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) must be screened for any potential impact on areas designated as Natura 2000 sites (normally called Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)).*

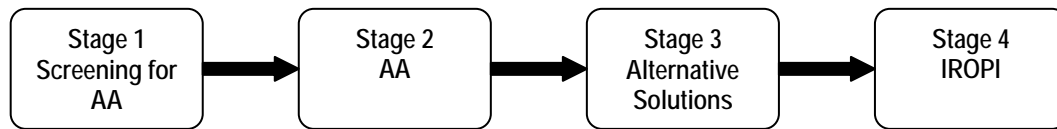
This HDA will be based on any ecological information available to the authority and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental impacts. This should take into account any Policies that will set the terms for future development. Up to date maps of Natura 2000 sites, or areas proposed for designation, are available on [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie). The results of the HDA process will be recorded and made available to the public.

### 2.3 DEHLG Guidance

A Guidance note issued by the DEHLG (July 2009) on Regional Planning Guidelines and Habitats Directive Assessment, outlines the following:-

*'Regional authorities are not consent authorities. Plans and projects are informed as a result of policies and objectives contained in the Regional Planning Guidelines. RPG's contain high level policies and objectives which do not contain the level of detail which are likely to trigger an extended Habitats Directive Assessment provided they do not have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.' The following guidance is also provided:*

The stages of HDA are summarised by the flowchart and text below



**Stage One: Screening** — the process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 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 Natura 2000 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;

**Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions** — the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;

**Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain** — an assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The DEHLG in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) published Guidance for Planning Authorities in December 2009 entitled 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities'. This HDA will have regard to this guidance and supersedes the guidance of the DEHLG in July 2009.

**Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive introduce new concepts and terminology and are important to outline at the beginning of the HDA process. The full text of these articles is as follows:**

6(3) – Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a 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.

6(4) – If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for the imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall



coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority nature habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion for the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Introduction

The four stages of the Habitats Directive Assessment process are set out in Section 2.4. The aim of the screening process (Stage 1) is to determine whether or not an AA is required. The aim of the AA (Stage 2) is to: identify potential impacts of the plan on its own or in combination with other plans or projects; identify policy and objectives that will avoid and mitigate any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites; and avoid the need to progress to Stages 3 and 4.

Plan adoption may only proceed if the plan will not affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site. Progression to the third stage would result in changes to the plan in its current form, and would require the implementation of compensatory measures for impacts on Natura 2000 sites. If the recommendations of Stage 2 are incorporated into the Development Plan, then Stages 3 and 4, relating to alternative solutions and compensatory measures, will not be required.

**It must also be noted at this early stage in the process, that where a negative assessment results, even after going through stages 3 and 4, the plan or project cannot be implemented or proceed.**

#### 3.2 Completion of Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment

The approach to decision making in this screening stage is to apply the precautionary principle proportional to the project or plan and the site in question. Objectives and policies from the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines and their impact on the N2000 will be screened to ascertain if the policies / objectives are likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites, using the following framework.

- RPG objective
  - N2000 site
  - Qualifying interests
  - Threats to site integrity
  - Potential impacts from RPG
  - Risk of significant impact (Y/N)
  - Potential 'in combination' impacts
  - Risk of significant impacts (Y/N)
  - Avoidance and (then) mitigation measures
  - Action required: Policy change needed / rewording / additional RPG objective
- ❖ If no significant effects are found, then policies or objectives can be accepted. If all the policies / objectives in the draft plan are found not to have a significant effect on any Natura

2000 site then the Border Regional Authority will prepare a 'Finding of no Significant Effects' report at this stage and no further HDA assessment is required.

- ❖ If a policy / objective as worded does have a significant effect, then the policy /objective needs to be amended, mitigated or rejected. The Regional Authority understands that if it still wishes to proceed with the policy /objective even though it may have a significant effect, then a Stage 2 extended HDA assessment is required

Following agreement from the NPWS on how to proceed, it is proposed that this screening for impacts will be undertaken when the Draft RPGs are at such a stage that policies and objectives are formulated and an overall strategy has been developed.

### 3.3 Precautionary Principle

Due to the large scale and strategic nature of the Guidelines, some impacts on Natura 2000 sites are uncertain and in line with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations the precautionary principle is applied. Thus the onus is on the Relevant Authority, Regional or Local, as the proponents of the plan, to show that there is not likely to be an impact, rather than there is a likely impact, and that avoidance/mitigation measures are likely to work.

## 4. Stage 1 - Screening

This stage examines the likely effects of the Regional Planning guidelines on Natura 2000 sites in the Border Regional Authority area and within a 15km buffer of the area and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these sites will not be significantly impacted. This assessment comprises four steps:

**4.1 Step 1:** determining whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site:

The Regional Planning Guidelines are a spatial planning framework for the border Region and are not directly connected to the management of any Natura 2000 sites.

**4.2 Step 2:** describing the project or plan and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site:

### 4.2.1 Background to RPGs

The Regional Planning Guidelines in the Border Region were adopted in May 2004 as a key implementation element of the Government's overall framework for achieving more balanced regional development and better strategic planning – the 2002 National Spatial Strategy (NSS).

The process of preparing and adopting RPG's has been a valuable one in the context of creating an up to date hierarchy of plans from the NSS at national level, to the regional and city, county and local area plan levels. Such a system of plans has been very useful in creating coherent sets of complementary planning and investment objectives at national, regional and local levels and that are achievable in line with the prevailing budgetary and fiscal context.

### Planning Hierarchy in Ireland



RPG's are now an established feature of the legislative and policy framework for spatial planning in Ireland, for example, acting as an important policy context for the making of decisions by An Bord Pleanála in relation to its functions, including under the 2006 Strategic Infrastructure Act. In that context it is important that decisions of An Bord Pleanála are based on up-to-date RPG's reflective of the latest policy and data.

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, RPGs must set an overall strategic planning framework in each regional authority area for the next 12 years. The period of the revised RPGs will therefore be 2010 – 2022.

Given the key role played by Regional Planning Guidelines in supporting the implementation of the NSS, their overall approach needs to be subject to a review and update by mid 2010 so that they continue to have statutory effect.

#### 4.2.2 Regional Profile

The Border Region derives its name from its location in relation to Northern Ireland. It comprises the six counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth, which form the border with Northern Ireland, providing the key interface between the two jurisdictions.

With a total population in excess of 468,375 (Census 2006) persons (approximately 11.04% of the state), it is a unique Region with Counties in each of the three provinces of Connacht, Ulster and Leinster. Under the 2007-13 round of EU Structural Funds, the Border, Region is no longer eligible as an objective 1 region and qualifies for assistance as a Regional Competitiveness and Employment region (objective 2).

It encompasses an area of 12,156 sq. km. from the Atlantic Ocean on the West Coast to the Irish Sea on the East Coast. One of the key strengths of the Region is its areas of outstanding natural beauty. These, along with its strong cultural and heritage assets, make it an area very suitable for a strong tourism base. The Region is the source of Ireland's two longest rivers - the

Shannon and the Erne, which is one of the world's greatest waterways. It has a considerable coastal area and unique mountain ranges. The Donegal Gaeltacht is also a unique asset.

The Region also boasts a highly educated and skilled, innovative population, the region has a number of key urban settlements, including the towns of Letterkenny, Sligo, Dundalk, Cavan and Monaghan. The Region has developed and changed significantly in recent years with improved pockets of economic growth, improved infrastructure, and massive in-migration from the accession states of the EU and significant development in its Gateways of Dundalk and Letterkenny. The ever improving political situation in Northern Ireland also offers huge potential for increased co-ordination and co-operation in both states, with mutually beneficial gains to be made. The Border Region will continue to work with the other Regions in Ireland on inter-regional issues.

The Border Region is rich in natural resources and comprises of a vast range of designated sites especially on the western seaboard. In total there are 130 Natura 2000 sites within the Border Region with a further 82 within 15km buffer of its border with both Northern Ireland and the other regions in Ireland (See Map 1).

#### **4.3 Step 3: Identification of Natura 2000 sites within and adjoining the Border Region**

The DEHLG Planning Guidance, December 2009 states that all Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent the region must be mapped and tabulated, and site integrity and site conditions necessary to support the site integrity must be indicated.

Within each table the following information is included for each Natura 2000 site:

- Site code
- Site name
- Qualifying interests
- Conservation objectives
- Threats to site integrity

A Heritage Officer from each Local Authority within the Region drew up a list of all Natura 2000 sites within and adjoining their county.

**Tables 4.1 – 4.12** include all Natura 2000 sites within the Border Region.

**Tables 4.13 & 4.14** includes all Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Border Region within Northern Ireland

**Tables 4.15 & 4.16** includes all Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Border Region within the Greater Dublin Area

**Tables 4.17 & 4.18** includes all Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Border Region within the Midlands Region

**Tables 4.19 & 4.20** includes all Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Border Region within the West Region

**Table 4.21** outlines Fresh Water Pearl Mussel locations within the Region

#### 4.4 Step 4: assessing the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 site.

As outlined in the methodology, the approach to decision making in this screening stage is to apply the precautionary principle proportional to the project or plan and the site in question.

The RPGs for the Border Region define policy for a number of sectoral areas as follows:

- Settlement Strategy
- Economic Strategy
- Infrastructure Strategy
- Environment and Amenities
- Social Infrastructure and Community Development
- Flood Risk Assessment

The policies and objectives set out the long-term sustainable development of the Region up to 2022 and have far reaching consequences on the physical environment. The implementation of the policies and objectives at the County and Local levels will determine the precise nature of the impacts. Through the screening assessment it was found that the impacts can be divided into three main types as described below:

**Direct impacts** refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements. This impact is likely to arise from many policy areas including economic and settlement strategies, rural development and infrastructural development.

- *Habitat loss and fragmentation* - Habitat loss is caused by the complete removal of a habitat type. Fragmentation results in the incremental loss of small patches of habitat from within a larger site. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movements of species. This is relevant to any plan or project that is within or adjacent to a Natura 2000 site or where important corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted. All sites are vulnerable.

**Indirect and secondary impacts** do not have a straight-line route between cause and effect and are potentially more challenging to ensure that all the possible indirect impacts of the Guidelines – in combination with other plans and projects - have been established.

- *Habitat degradation*- The diminishment of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions, such as its ability to support associated species or regulate water quality or flow. It can arise from a number of ways such as the introduction of invasive species to a habitat, toxic contamination with chemicals or the loss of mature trees from woodland. All sites are vulnerable
- *Alteration to water quality or quantity* - *Deterioration* in water quality can occur as an indirect consequence of development through point source or diffuse pollution, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals. Alteration to water quantity can arise when, for example, a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, through increased hard standing or alteration to flow patterns, which in turn affects the movement of surface or groundwater to a site. This leads to potential negative consequences for the qualifying

interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels within the Natura 2000 site. These impacts are relevant to any plan or project that has a hydrological connection to a Natura 2000 site or could impact on it and should be considered on case-by-case bases for each development. All coastal sites, surface water sites and groundwater dependant sites are vulnerable.

- *Disturbance - Development* can cause disturbance to the species supported within the Natura 2000 site through activity, noise, lights and vibration. This is relevant to any plan or project that is likely to increase activity levels or other forms of disturbance within or adjacent to designated areas. All sites supporting fauna are potentially affected by disturbance. SPA sites supporting wild birds are particularly vulnerable and it is important that known sensitive areas, such as roosts, are protected.

**Cumulative Impacts** refer to a series of individually modest impacts that may in combination produce a significant impact. The underlying intention of this in combination provision is to take account of cumulative impacts from existing or proposed plans and projects and these will often only occur over time. It may be appropriate to consider the effects of already completed plans and projects if they have continuing effects on the site and point to a pattern of progressive loss of site integrity. Where there is a series of small, but potentially adverse impacts occurring within or adjacent to a Natura 2000 site, consideration of their cumulative impacts should be considered.

Each Natura 2000 site has been reviewed to establish whether or not the Guidelines are likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the site as defined by its structure and function and its conservation objectives.

Map 1, below, illustrates the Natura 2000 network within the border region and within the 15km buffer of its border. These sites are also listed in tables 4.1 – 4.21 of this report and detail their qualifying interests, conservation objectives and the threats to their site integrity.

#### 4.5 Conclusion of Stage 1 – Screening

The Border Region comprises of a significant number of Natura 2000 sites in-situ and ex situ. The complexity of the sheer numbers of sites coupled with the range of habitats and species mean that it is almost impossible, to accurately state at this stage in the process, where specific impacts may occur and how sites may be significantly affected. **All sites must therefore be carried forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, to assess whether there will be a significant negative effect on the structure and function of the Natura 2000 site and consequently, on its conservation objectives.** Following stage 2, a determination must then be made as to whether, one should include appropriate mitigation measures or proceed to stage 3 of the process.

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## 4.6 Natura 2000 sites within the Border Regional Authority Area

Table 4.1 County Sligo: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

| County Sligo                    |  | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Site code<br>Site name          | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity* <sup>1</sup>  |
| IE 000622<br>Ballysadare<br>Bay | 1130 Estuaries<br>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>2110 Embryonic shifting dunes<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)<br>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>2190 Humid dune slacks<br>1365 <i>Phoca Vitulina</i> Common Seal<br>1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> , <i>Phoca vitulina</i> . | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Development of marinas and ports<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/amenity use<br>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/under grazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |

\* This may not be an exhaustive list



# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity*  |
|---|--|--|---|
| IE 000623<br>Ben Bulbin,<br>Gleniff and<br>Glenade<br>Complex | 4030 European dry heaths<br>4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths<br>8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation<br>8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)<br>5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands<br>7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)<br>3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation<br>1355 Lutra Lutra European Otter<br>1013 Vertigo geyeri Geyer's Whorl Snail | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion); Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii); Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Vertigo geyeri; Lutra lutra. | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning |
| IE 001656<br>Bricklieve<br>Mountains and<br>Keshcorran        | 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)<br>6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)<br>6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia) (important orchid sites)<br>1065 Euphydryas aurinia Marsh Fritillary  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia); Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis); Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii).<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Euphydryas aurinia.  | Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Quarrying<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Peat Extraction<br>Forestry<br>Burning                                    |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity*  |
|--|---|---|---|
| IE 000625<br>Bunduff Lough<br>and Machair/<br>Trawalua/<br>Mullaghmore | 7230 Alkaline fens<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)<br>21A0 Machairs (*in Ireland)<br>6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> ) (*important orchid sites)<br>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays<br>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>1170 Reefs<br>5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands<br>1395 <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> Petalwort | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Machairs; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> ); Alkaline fens<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> . | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Development of marinas and ports<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/amenity use<br>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| IE 000627<br>Cumeen Strand/<br>Drumcliff Bay<br>(Sligo Bay)            | 1130 Estuaries<br>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>2110 Embryonic shifting dunes<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)<br>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )<br>5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands<br>1365 <i>Phoca vitulina</i> Common Seal<br>1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ; <i>Phoca vitulina</i>   | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Development of marinas and ports<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/amenity use<br>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity*2   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| IE 000497<br>Flughany Bog             | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs; Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion.  | Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality  |
| IE 000458<br>Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary | 1130 Estuaries<br>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>1210 Annual vegetation of draft lines<br>2110 Embryonic shifting dunes<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)<br>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>2190 Humid dune slacks<br>1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )<br>1365 <i>Phoca vitulina</i> Common Seal<br>1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Annual vegetation of drift lines; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ; <i>Phoca vitulina</i> . | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Development of marinas and ports<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/amenity use<br>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |

This may not be an exhaustive list

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                                   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity*   |
|--|---|--|--|
| IE 001669<br>Knockalongy<br>and<br>Knockachree<br>Cliffs | 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation<br>8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>7130 Blanket bog (*active only)<br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy<br>plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )<br>1421 <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> Killarney Fern | To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at<br>favourable conservation status: <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> .   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional<br>water table<br>Agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Quarrying/removal of sand   |
| IE 001673<br>Lough Arrow                                 | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of<br><i>Chara</i> spp.  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected<br>at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic<br>vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Changes in water flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional<br>water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents(WWTP)<br>Recreation/amenity use<br>Developments – marinas<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity*3   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| IE 001976<br>Lough Gill             | 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br>91e0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br>91a0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles<br>1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey<br>1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Brook Lamprey<br>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter<br>1092 <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles, Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , <i>Lampetra planeri</i> , <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> , <i>Salmo salar</i> , <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Changes in water flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents(WWTP)<br>Recreation/amenity use<br>Developments – marinas<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Crayfish Fishing |
| IE 000633<br>Lough Hoe Bog          | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)<br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )<br>1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Geyer's Whorl Snail<br>1092 <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Blanket bog.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ; <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> .   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing<br>Forestry, Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality  |
| IE 000634<br>Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog.<br><br>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.<br><br>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

\* This may not be an exhaustive list

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| Site code<br>Site name            | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity*4   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| IE 002006<br>Ox Mountains<br>Bogs | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i><br>1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Geyer's Whorl Snail   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog; Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo geyeri</i>   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality  |
| IE 002298<br>River Moy            | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i><br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles<br>91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey<br>1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Brook Lamprey<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter<br>1092 <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs; Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ; <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ; <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ; <i>Salmo salar</i> ; <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Changes in water flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents(WWTP)<br>Recreation/amenity use<br>Developments – marinas<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees<br>Crayfish Fishing |

\* This may not be an exhaustive list

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                                     | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity*5   |
|--|---|--|---|
| IE 001680<br>Streedagh Point<br>Dunes                      | 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )<br>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )<br>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks<br>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ); Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ); Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> . | Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Decrease in water quality/increased pollution<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| IE 000636<br>Templehouse<br>and<br>Cloonacleigha<br>Loughs | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.<br>3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> )<br>91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation.  | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Changes in water flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents(WWTP)<br>Recreation/amenity use<br>Developments – marinas<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |

\* This may not be an exhaustive list

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name               | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity* 6   |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| IE 000637<br>Turloughmore<br>(Sligo) | 3180 Turloughs   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Turloughs.   | Agricultural improvements /Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology<br>water quality/pollution (including groundwater)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/Undergrazing<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Impacts to local geology/geomorphology eg quarrying/rock<br>blasting<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| IE 000638<br>Union Wood              | 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British<br>Isles  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and<br>Blechnum in British Isles.  | Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Amenity/recreational use<br>Invasive species<br>Lack of/inappropriate woodland management<br>Overgrazing (deer)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |
| IE 001898<br>Unshin River            | 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the<br>Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation<br>91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus<br>excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)<br>1106 Salmo salar Atlantic Salmon<br>1355 Lutra lutra European Otter | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Water courses of plain to montane levels<br>with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation; Alluvial<br>forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion<br>incanae, Salicion albae).<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Salmo salar; Lutra lutra. | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Changes in water flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional<br>water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents(WWTP)<br>Recreation/amenity use<br>Developments – marinas<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

\* This may not be an exhaustive list



Table 4.2 County Sligo: Special Protection Areas (SPA's)

| County Sligo                         |  | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Site code<br>Site name               | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
| IE 004013<br>Drumcliff Bay           | Site is selected for: Barnacle Goose Sanderling<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Wetland & Waterbirds   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Sanderling, Wetland & Waterbirds.   | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management                            |
| IE 004035<br>Cummeen Strand          | Site is selected for: Light-bellied Brent Goose<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Oystercatcher Redshank Wetland & Waterbirds  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds.   | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| IE 004036<br>Killala Bay/Moy Estuary | Site is selected for: Ringed Plover Bar-tailed Godwit<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Golden Plover Grey Plover Sanderling Dunlin Curlew Redshank Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Ringed Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Dunlin, Curlew, Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management                            |

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| Site code<br>Site name                     | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>IE 004048</b><br><b>Lough Gara</b>      | Site is selected for: Whooper Swan Greenland White-fronted Goose<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Wetland & Waterbirds                              | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Wetland & Waterbirds.                                 | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>IE 004050</b><br><b>Lough Arrow</b>     | Site is selected for: Little Grebe<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Goldeneye Wetlands & Waterbirds   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Little Grebe, Goldeneye, Wetlands & Waterbirds.  | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>IE 004068</b><br><b>Inishmurray</b>     | Site is selected for: Barnacle Goose Arctic Tern<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Storm Petrel Shag Herring Gull                                    | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Arctic Tern, Storm Petrel, Shag, Herring Gull.                                     | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>IE 004129</b><br><b>Ballysadare Bay</b> | Site is selected for: Light-bellied Brent Goose Bar-tailed Godwit<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Grey Plover Dunlin Redshank Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name                         | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|--|--|--|--|
| IE 004133<br>Aughris Head                      | Site is selected for: Kittiwake  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Kittiwake.                            | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| IE 004135<br>Ardboline Island and Horse Island | Site is selected for:<br>Cormorant, Barnacle Goose<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Corncrake | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Cormorant, Barnacle Goose, Corncrake. | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| IE 004187<br>Sligo/Leitrim Uplands             | Site is selected for: Peregrine Chough   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Chough.                    | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

Table 4.3 County Leitrim: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

| County Leitrim  |  | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)   |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Site code<br>Site name  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
| 000623<br>Benbulbin,<br>Glenriff and<br>Glenade<br>Complex          | 4030 European dry heaths<br>4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths<br>8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation<br>8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels<br>5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands<br>7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation<br>3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter<br>1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Whorl Snail       | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. | Forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| 000625<br>Bunduff Lough<br>and Machair/<br>Trawalua/<br>Mullaghmore | 7230 Alkaline fens<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) 21A0 Machairs (*in Ireland)<br>6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates<br>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays<br>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide<br>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>1170 Reefs<br>5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands<br>1395 <i>Petalophyllum ralfaii</i> Petalwort | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. | Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), agricultural improvements/ reclamation, drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction, water quality/pollution, agricultural abandonment, over grazing/ undergrazing, direct loss of habitat to development, bracken & scrub encroachment, amenity/ recreational use, tourism related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |

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| County Leitrim              |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Site code<br>Site name      | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
| 001919<br>Glenade<br>Lough  | 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br>1092 <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Freshwater Crayfish<br>1833 <i>Najas flexilis</i> Slender Naiad  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status  | Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, direct loss of habitat to development, loading from effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use, developments- marinas.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| 001403<br>Arroo<br>Mountain | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation<br>7220 Petrifying spring with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)<br>8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| 000428<br>Lough Melvin      | 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea unifloraw and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status  | Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, loss of fringe vegetation, changes in seasonal water levels/ fluctuations, direct loss of habitat to development, loading from effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality   |
| 001976<br>Lough Gill        | 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br>91e0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i><br>91a0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles<br>1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey<br>1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Brook Lamprey<br>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter<br>1092 <i>Austropotamobius palipes</i> Freshwater Crayfish | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. | Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, siltation, loss of fringe vegetation, changes in seasonal water levels/ fluctuations, direct loss of habitat to development, loading of effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use, direct loss to developments, lack of inappropriate woodland management, overgrazing.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |

Table 4.4 County Leitrim: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| County Leitrim                      |  | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Site code<br>Site name              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]               | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
| 004187<br>Sligo/ Leitrim<br>Uplands | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> Peregrine<br><i>pyrrhocorax</i> Chough<br><i>Pyrrhocorax</i> | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Chough. | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

Table 4.5 County Cavan: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| County Cavan  |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)   |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Site code<br>Site name  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
| 000006<br>Killyconny Bog  | 7110 Active Raised Bog<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration   | To maintain the annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation   | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| 000007<br>Lough Oughter & Associated Loughs                     | 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br>91D0 Bog woodland<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation | Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, siltation, loss of fringe habitat, changes in seasonal water levels, loading from effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use, developments, lack of/ inappropriate woodland management.<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |
| 000584<br>Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands*<br>(Also in County Leitrim) | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)<br>3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea<br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas<br>8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasemophytic vegetation<br>4030 European dry heaths | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.   | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality  |
| 000979<br>Corratirrim   | 8240 Limestone pavements  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.  | Agricultural improvements/ reclamation, agricultural abandonment, overgrazing/ undergrazing, direct loss of habitat to development, quarrying on limestone pavements, bracken & scrub encroachment.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                     | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|--|---|--|--|
| 002032<br>Boleybrack Mountain*<br>(Also in County Leitrim) | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>4030 European dry heaths<br>6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status   | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality |
| 002299 River Boyne & River Blackwater                      | 7230 Alkaline fens<br>91e0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i><br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter                                      | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation | Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct loss of habitat to development, invasive species, lack of woodland management.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| 002299 River Boyne & River Blackwater                      | 7230 Alkaline fens<br>91e0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i><br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter                                      | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br><br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation | Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct loss of habitat to development, invasive species, lack of woodland management.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |



Table 4.6 County Cavan: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| County Cavan                             |   | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Site code<br>Site name                   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
| 004049<br>Lough<br>Oughter               | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> Whooper Swan<br><i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Great Crested Grebe<br><i>Anas penelope</i> Wigeon<br><i>Bucephala clangula</i> Goldeneye<br>Wetlands & Waterbirds   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan, Wetlands & Waterbirds. Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Goldeneye and Wetlands & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 004061<br>Lough Kinale/<br>Derragh Lough | <i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard<br><i>Aythya fuligula</i> Tufted Duck<br>Wetlands & Waterbirds   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Pochard, Tufted Duck and Wetlands & Waterbirds.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 004065<br>Lough Sheelin                  | <i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard<br><i>Bucephala clangula</i> Goldeneye<br><i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Great Crested Grebe<br><i>Aythya fuligula</i> Tufted Duck<br>Wetlands & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Pochard, Goldeneye, Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck and Wetlands & Waterbirds.                        | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

Table 4.7 County Donegal: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| County Donegal                   |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)  |  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Site code<br>Site name           | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
| <b>111 Aran Island (Donegal)</b> | 10014 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts;<br>10084 European dry heaths;<br>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br>10165 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation;<br>10166 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture  |
| <b>115 Ballintra</b>             | 10084 European dry heaths;<br>10168 Limestone pavements.  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: European dry heaths; Limestone pavements. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation; agricultural improvements; agricultural abandonment; undergrazing; quarrying on ester ridges and limestone pavement; bracken & scrub encroachment.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>116 Ballyarr Wood</b>         | 10194 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles.  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles  | Direct loss of habitat to development; amenity/recreation use; invasive species; lack of/inappropriate woodland development; overgrazing (deer).<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |
| <b>129 Croaghonagh Bog</b>       | 10144 Blanket bog.  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog.  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

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| Site code<br>Site name              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>133 Donegal Bay (Murvagh)</b>    | 10006 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10046 Humid dune slacks; <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Common Seal).        | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Phoca vitulina</i> .                               | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology (e.g. quarrying/rock blasting) for turloughs & groundwater fed fens.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture   |
| <b>138 Durnesh Lough</b>            | 10007 Coastal lagoons;<br>10131 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ).   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected, at favourable conservation status: Coastal lagoons; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ). To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Aquaculture |
| <b>140 Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung</b> | 10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; 10144 Blanket bog;<br>10146 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater pearl mussel). | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bog; Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>                                   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

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| Site code<br>Site name          | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 142 Gannivegil Bog              | 10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> );<br>10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; 10144 Blanket bog.   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bog  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality  |
| 147 Horn Head & Rinclevan       | 10047 Machairs;<br>10038 Embryonic shifting dunes;<br>10039 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes);<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10044 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salix arenariae</i> );<br>10046 Humid dune slacks; <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ; <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) ; <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort); <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad). | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Machairs; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shiftingdunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salix arenariae</i> ); Humid dune slacks. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ; <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ; <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ; <i>Najas flexilis</i> . To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. . | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| 154 Inishtrahull                | 10014 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture  |
| 163 Lough Eske & Ardnamona Wood | 10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> );<br>10150 Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> );<br>10194 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles;<br><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel); <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon);<br><i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern).   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ); Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; <i>Salmo salar</i> ; <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> .   | Direct loss of habitat to development; amenity/recreation use; invasive species; lack of/inappropriate woodland development; overgrazing (deer).<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel  |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code]<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|--|--|---|---|
| 165 Lough Nillan Bog<br>(Carrickatlieve) | 10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> );<br>10144 Blanket bog.     | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); Blanket bog   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality   |
| 168 Magheradrumman Bog                   | 10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ;<br>10144 Blanket bog.  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bog.   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| 172 Meenaguse/<br>Ardbane Bog            | 10144 Blanket bog.   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog.  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| 173 Meentygrannagh Bog                   | 10144 Blanket bog: Transition mires and quaking bogs;<br>10151 Alkaline fens;<br><i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> (Shining Sicklemoss). | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog: Transition mires and quaking bogs; Alkaline fens.<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation; agricultural improvements; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; undergrazing; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology (e.g. quarrying/rock blasting) for turloughs & groundwater fed fens.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name      | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code]<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 181 Raithlin O'Birne Island | 10009 Reefs.   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Reefs   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Aquaculture                                    |
| 185 Sessiagh Lough          | 10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> );<br><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad).   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ). To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Najas flexilis</i> .                                     | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality |
| 189 Slieve League           | 10009 Reefs;<br>10014 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts;<br>10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ;<br>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br>10144 Blanket bog;<br>10165 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation;<br>10166 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Reefs; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Blanket bog; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Aquaculture                                    |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                                   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>190 Slieve Tooley/Tromore Island/Loughros Beg Bay</b> | 10014 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts;<br>10038 Embryonic shifting dunes;<br>10039 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes);<br>10041 Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; 10042 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> );<br>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br>10144 Blanket bog;<br><i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail);<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter);<br><i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal). | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ); Alpine and Boreal heaths; Blanket bog. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ; <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;<br>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture   |
| <b>191 St. John's Point</b>                              | 10008 Large shallow inlets and bays;<br>10009 Reefs;<br>10120 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> ); 10131 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> );<br>10151 Alkaline fens;<br>10168 Limestone pavements;<br>10172 Submerged or partly submerged sea caves.  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> ); <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> ); Alkaline fens; Limestone pavements; Submerged or partly submerged sea caves   | Water quality/pollution (including groundwater); development of marinas and ports; disturbance of marine mammals; dumping at sea; direct loss of habitat to development; recreational/amenity use; agricultural improvements/reclamation; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; quarrying on esker ridges and limestone pavement; bracken & scrub development; drainage/changes in local hydrology; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts of local geology/geomorphology (e.g. quarrying/rock blasting) for turloughs & groundwater fed fens.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                                       | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>194</b><br><b>Tranarossan &amp;<br/>Melmore<br/>Lough</b> | 10006 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;<br>Annual vegetation of drift lines;<br>10013 Perennial vegetation of stony banks;<br>10014 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts;<br>10047 Machairs;<br>10038 Embryonic shifting dunes;<br>10039 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes);<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10041 Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; 10044 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salixarenariae</i> );<br>10066 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.;<br>10084 European dry heaths;<br>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort).  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Annual vegetation of drift lines; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Machairs; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salixarenariae</i> ); Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> . | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development. Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand   |
| <b>197</b> <b>West of<br/>Ardara/Maas<br/>Road</b>           | 10144 Blanket bog.<br>10047 Machairs;<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>10041 Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> );<br>Orchid-rich calcareous grassland<br>lowland dunes with creeping willow,<br>10046 Humid dune slacks; <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ; <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort); <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad)<br>dune slack<br>2120 Marram dunes<br>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays<br>1140 tidal mudflats<br>10005 Estuaries;<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows,<br>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows,<br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )<br>4030 European dry heaths<br>10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .<br>10131 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ). | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog; Machairs; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) decalcified dune heath, decalcified <i>Empetrum</i> dunes, and Orchid-rich calcareous grassland, Greenland White-fronted Goose<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Slender Naiad, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Marsh Fritillary, Petalwort, Atlantic Salmon, Common Seal, whorl snail and Otter   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage /changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture<br>Potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel |



# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

|                     |  |   |   |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
|                     | <p>6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)</p> <p>7230 alkaline fens</p> <p>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater pearl mussel).</p> <p>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;</p> <p>10095 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Juniper scrub</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter);</p> <p><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort);</p> <p><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad).</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon);</p> <p>1065 <i>Euphydrys aurinia</i> Marsh Fritillary</p> <p>1365 <i>Phoca Vitulina</i> Common Seal</p> <p>1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Whorl Snail</p> <p><i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin)</p> <p><i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine)</p> <p>Hen Harrier</p> <p><i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic Tern)</p> <p><i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Sandwich Tern)</p> <p><i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern)</p> <p><i>Branta leucopsis</i> (Barnacle Goose)</p> <p><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)</p> <p><i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)</p> <p><i>Gavia stellata</i> (Red-throated Diver)</p> <p>Corncrake</p> <p><i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> (Chough)</p> <p>Eider</p> |   |   |
| 428 Lough<br>Melvin | <p>10065 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea;</p> <p><i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon);</p> <p><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter).</p>   | <p>To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Salmo salar</i>; <i>Lutra lutra</i>.</p> | <p>Agricultural improvements/reclamation;</p> <p>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;</p> <p>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken &amp; scrub encroachment;</p> <p>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;</p> <p>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality</p> |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1090 Ballyness Bay                  | 10005 Estuaries;<br>10006 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;<br>10038 Embryonic shifting dunes;<br>10039 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes);<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10046 Humid dune slacks;<br><i>Vertigo geyeri</i> . | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> . | Water quality/pollution; development of marinas and ports; disturbance of marine mammals; dumping at sea; direct loss of habitat to development; recreational/amenity use; agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| 1107 Coolvoy Bog                    | 10144 Blanket bog.  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog.  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| 1125 Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau | 10144 Blanket bog;<br>10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name         | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1141 Gweedore<br>Bay & Islands | 10007 Coastal lagoons;<br>10009 Reefs;<br>10013 Perennial vegetation of stony banks;<br>10023 Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> );<br>10038 Embryonic shifting dunes;<br>10039 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes);<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10041 Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ); 10044 Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp.argentea</i> ( <i>Salix arenariae</i> );<br>10046 Humid dune slacks;<br>10047 Machairs;<br>10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> );<br>10084 European dry heaths;<br>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br>10095 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands;<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter);<br><i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort);<br><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad). | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Coastal lagoons; Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes ( <i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i> ); Dunes with <i>Salix repens ssp.argentea</i> ( <i>Salix arenariae</i> ); Humid dune slacks; Machairs; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ); European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> ; <i>Najas flexilis</i> | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;<br>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| 1151 Kindrum<br>Lough          | 10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> );<br><i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad).   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ). To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Najas flexilis</i> .   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;<br>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality   |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1179 Muckish<br>Mountain | 10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br>10166 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Alpine and Boreal heaths; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees   |
| 1190<br>Sheephaven       | 10006 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;<br>10020 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae);<br>10023 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi);<br>10047 Machairs;<br>10039 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes);<br>10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10194 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles. | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae); Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi); Machairs; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles. | Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; invasive species; lack of/inappropriate woodland development; overgrazing (deer).<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping, Burning<br>Felling/Removal of Trees<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture                               |
| 1195 Termon<br>Strand    | 10007 Coastal lagoons.   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Coastal lagoons   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation; aquaculture, drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |

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|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>1880 Meenaguse Scragh</b>                  | 10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .<br><i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine)<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter);<br><i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon);  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: northern Atlantic wet heath<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Atlantic Salmon  | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| <b>1975 Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head</b> | 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; perennial<br>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks<br>3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i><br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> )<br>1833 <i>Najas flexilis</i> Slender Naiad | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; vegetated sea cliffs, oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains, hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> formations and perennial vegetation of stony banks<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Slender Naiad including seabirds, Chough, Peregrine Falcon, Fulmar, Otter, Grey Seal and Irish Hare | Shingle removal Dumping Aquaculture, Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Quarrying/removal of sand |
| <b>1992 Tamur Bog</b>                         | 10144 Blanket bog<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)<br>Hen Harrier<br><i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin)<br><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Red Grouse<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter).   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Blanket bog, wet heaths, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Greenland White-fronted Geese<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Otter,  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)  |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                    | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 2012 North<br>Inishowen Coast                             | 10041 Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ; 10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); 10047 Machairs;<br>1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; shingle banks<br>4030 European dry heaths<br>1140 tidal mudflats<br><i>Branta leucopsis</i> (Barnacle Goose)<br><i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine)<br><i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax</i> (Chough)<br><i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter).  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Barnacle Goose, Peregrine Chough Decalcified fixed dunes, Fixed coastal dunes, Machairs, Vegetated sea cliffs, shingle banks, dry heaths, tidal mudflats<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Otter  | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| 2047<br>Cloghernagore<br>Bog & Glenveagh<br>National Park | 10144 Blanket bog.<br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )<br>floating river vegetation<br>10084 European dry heaths;<br>10087 Alpine and Boreal heaths;<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> )<br>91a0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i><br><i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern).<br><i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater pearl mussel).<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br><i>Gavia stellata</i> (Red-throated Diver)<br><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)<br><i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin)<br><i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine)<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Blanket bog, wet heaths, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red-throated Diver, Peregrine, Greenland White-fronted Goose<br>Greenland White-fronted Geese<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Killarney Fern, Freshwater pearl mussel, Otter, Atlantic Salmon, | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel                 |

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| Site code<br>Site name                | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]          | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 2135 Lough<br>Nageage                 | 1092 Autopotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed<br>Crayfish<br>1355 Lutra lutra European Otter | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; White-clawed Crayfish<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; Otter | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water<br>abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water<br>quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to<br>development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing |
| 2159 Mulroy Bay                       | 1170 Reefs<br>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays<br>1355 Lutra lutra European Otter                 | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; White-clawed Crayfish<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; Otter | Agricultural improvements/reclamation; aquaculture,<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water<br>abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water<br>quality/pollution; direct loss of habitat to development;<br>bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation<br>use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Crayfish Fishing<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture   |
| 2164 Lough<br>Golagh & Breesy<br>Hill | 10144 Blanket bog.<br>Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; active blanket bog, Common Tern  | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water<br>abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water<br>quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to<br>development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |

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| Site code<br>Site name      | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 2176 Leannan River          | 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> )<br>Freshwater Pearl Mussel<br>Atlantic Salmon<br>Slender Naiad.   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; lowland oligotrophic lakes,<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, Slender Naiad. | Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation, siltation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Potential Threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel   |
| 2259 Tory Island Coast      | 11007 Coastal lagoons;<br>10013 Perennial vegetation of stony banks;<br>1170 Reefs and sea cliffs<br>Chough<br><i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine)<br>Little Tern<br>Storm Petrel  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; lagoon, perennial vegetation of stony banks, reefs, sea cliffs, Chough, Peregrine, Little Tern, Storm Petrel   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture            |
| 2283 Rutland Island & Sound | 10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes);<br>10007 Coastal lagoons;<br>2120 Marram dunes<br>embryonic shifting dunes, dune slacks, drift lines,<br>1170 Reefs<br>1160 Large shallow inlets and bays | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; fixed dunes and lagoon, Marram dunes, embryonic shifting dunes, dune slacks, drift lines, reefs and large shallow inlets and bays.   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |



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| Site code<br>Site name          | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [code] [scientific<br>species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 2287 Lough<br>Swilly            | 1130 estuaries<br>10007 Coastal lagoons<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows<br>91a0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British<br>Isles<br>1355 Lutra lutra European Otter   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; estuaries, lagoons, Atlantic<br>salt meadows, old oak woods<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; Otter,   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water<br>abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water<br>quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to<br>development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Felling/Removal of Trees<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| 2301 River Finn                 | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only),<br>3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy<br>plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix<br>10144 Blanket bog: Transition mires<br>Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover)<br>Falco peregrinus (Peregrine)<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin) ,<br>Salmo salar Atlantic Salmon,<br>Lutra lutra European Otter . | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; active blanket bog, lowland oligotrophic lakes, wet heath and<br>transition mires, Golden Plover, Peregrine and Merlin,<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; Atlantic Salmon and Otter. | Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct<br>loss of habitat to development, invasive species, lack of<br>woodland management.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Persecution (Poisoning)   |
| 2303<br>Dunmuckrum<br>Turloughs | 3180 Turloughs  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable<br>conservation status; turlough  | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water<br>abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water<br>quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to<br>development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

Table 4.8 County Donegal: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| County Donegal  |   | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site code<br>Site name  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
| 4034 Trawbreaga Bay   | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br>Light-bellied Brent Goose<br>Wetland & Waterbirds  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management                            |
| 4039 Glenveagh National Park (Derryveagh & Glendowan Mountains) | Gavia stellata (Red-throated Diver)<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin)<br>Falco peregrinus (Peregrine)<br>Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover)<br>Calidris alpina schinzii (Dunlin)<br>Golden Eagle | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Red-throated Diver, Merlin, Peregrine, Golden Plover, Dunlin.    | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4057 or 4076 Lough Derg (Donegal)                               | Lesser Black-backed Gull<br>Herring Gull  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull.                          | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management                            |

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| Site code<br>Site name | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| 4060 Lough Fern        | Pochard<br>Wetland & Waterbirds  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Pochard, Wetland & Waterbirds.   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4073 Tory Island       | Crex crex (Corncrake)<br>Razorbill<br>Fulmar<br>Black-headed Gull<br>Common Gull<br>Puffin   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Corncrake, Razorbill, Fulmar, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Puffin.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4075 Lough Swilly      | Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Greylag Goose<br>Shelduck<br>Teal<br>Oystercatcher<br>Calidris alpina schinzii (Dunlin)<br>Curlew<br>Redshank<br>20,000 wintering waterbirds<br>Great Crested Grebe<br>Wigeon<br>Mallard<br>Shoveler<br>Scaup<br>Red-breasted Merganser<br>Common Gull<br>Knot<br>Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Greylag Goose, Shelduck, Teal, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Curlew, Redshank, 20,000 wintering waterbirds, Wigeon, Mallard, Shoveler, Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Knot, Common Gull, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Inappropriate land management<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use |

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| Site code<br>Site name                  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 4082 Greers Isle                        | Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern)<br>Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)<br>Sterna sandvicensis (Sandwich Tern)  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Arctic Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4083 Inishbofin, Inishdooney & Inishbeg | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br>Crex crex (Corncrake)<br>Common Gull<br>Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern)  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Corncrake, Common Gull, Arctic Tern.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4087 Lough Foyle                        | Cygnus columbianus (Bewick's Swan)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Light-bellied Brent Goose<br>Wigeon<br>Mallard<br>Oystercatcher<br>Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover)<br>Dunlin<br>Bar-tailed Godwit<br>Curlew<br>Redshank<br>Common Gull<br>Herring Gull<br>20,000 wintering waterbirds<br>Great Crested Grebe<br>Shelduck<br>Teal<br>Pintail<br>Red-breasted Merganser<br>Vanellus vanellus (Lapwing)<br>Knot<br>Black-headed Gull<br>Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Bewick's Swan; Whooper Swan; Light-bellied Brent Goose; Wigeon; Mallard; Oystercatcher; Golden Plover; Dunlin; Bar-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Redshank; Common Gull; Herring Gull; 20,000 wintering waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]                           | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 4090 Sheskinmore Lough              | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Wetland & Waterbirds                | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Greenland White-fronted Goose, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4099 Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Greenland White-fronted Goose.                       | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4100 Inishtrahull                   | Shag<br>Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose) Common Gull   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Shag, Barnacle Goose, Common Gull.                   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4106 Lough Barra Bog                | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover) | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Greenland White-fronted Goose, Golden Plover         | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name      | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| 4110 Lough Nillan Bog       | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover)<br>Dunlin<br>Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Greenland White-fronted Goose, Golden Plover, Dunlin, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4115 Inishduff              | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br>Hydrobates pelagicus (Storm Petrel)  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Storm Petrel  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4116 Inishkeel              | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose.   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4120 Rathlin O'Birne Island | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose.   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name        | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 4121 Roaninish                | Hydrobates pelagicus (Storm Petrel)<br>Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br>Herring Gull  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Storm Petrel, Barnacle Goose, Herring Gull.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4130 Inch Lough & Levels      | Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Greylag Goose<br>Tufted Duck<br>Black-headed Gull<br>Sterna sandvicensis (Sandwich Tern)<br>Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)<br>Coot<br>Common Gull<br>Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan; Greenland White-fronted Goose; Greylag Goose; Tufted Duck; Black-headed Gull; Sandwich Tern; Common Tern; Coot; Common Gull; Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4131 Inishsirr & Inishmeane   | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br><br>Crex crex (Corncrake)<br>Common Gull   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Corncrake, Common Gull   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 132 Illancrone & Inishkeeragh | Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br>Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)<br>Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern)<br>Sterna albifrons (Little Tern)  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Little Tern.   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name       | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [scientific species name]<br>[common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 4150 West Donegal Coast      | Falco peregrinus (Peregrine)<br>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax (Chough)<br>Fulmar<br>Cormorant<br>Shag<br>Herring Gull<br>Razorbill<br>Kittiwake  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Chough, Fulmar, Cormorant, Shag, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Razorbill.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4151 Donegal Bay             | Gavia immer (Great Northern Diver)<br>Light-bellied Brent Goose<br>Melanitta nigra (Common Scoter)<br>Wetland & Waterbirds   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Great Northern Diver, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Common Scoter, Wetland & Waterbirds.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| 4194 Horn Head to Fanad Head | Fulmar<br>Shag<br>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Branta leucopsis (Barnacle Goose)<br>Falco peregrinus (Peregrine)<br>Kittiwake<br>Guillemot<br>Razorbill<br>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax (Chough)<br>20,000 wintering waterbirds<br>Cormorant<br>Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Fulmar, Shag, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Peregrine, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill, Chough, 20,000 wintering waterbirds, Cormorant, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |



Table 4.9 County Louth: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| County Louth                        |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Site code<br>Site name              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity  |
| <b>Boyne Coast and Estuary 1957</b> | 1130 estuaries,<br>1140 tidal mudflats,<br>1310 <i>Salicornia</i> mud,<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows,<br>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows,<br>2110 embryonic shifting dunes,<br>2120 Marram dunes<br>2130 fixed dunes (priority)   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ); Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Marram dunes, Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn),<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture       |
| <b>Carlingford Mountain 453</b>     | 4060 Alpine and Boreal heath,<br>8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels<br>( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ), 8210<br>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation,<br>8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation).<br><br>Red Data Book species Parsley Fern ( <i>Cryptogramma crispa</i> ) | Objective 1: To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ); Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Alpine and Boreal heaths  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

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| Site code<br>Site name                  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Carlingford Shore</b><br><b>2306</b> | 1210 Drift lines,<br>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks<br><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)<br><i>Limosa lapponica</i> Bar-tailed Godwit | Objective 1: To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Drift lines, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit<br>Objective 2: To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Grey Seal | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| <b>Clogher Head</b><br><b>1459</b>      | 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts;<br>4030 European dry heaths   | Objective 1: To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths. Objective 2:   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Quarrying/removal of sand |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Dundalk Bay<br/>455</b>                               | <p>1130 Estuaries;<br/>1140 tidal mudflats (mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide);<br/>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks,<br/>1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand;<br/>1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>);<br/>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>).</p> <p>Red Data Book species Sea-kale (<i>Crambe maritima</i>) has recently been recorded</p> | <p>Objective 1: To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> | <p>Water quality/pollution/quantity<br/>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br/>Dredging<br/>Disturbance to marine mammals<br/>Dumping at sea<br/>Direct loss of habitat to development<br/>Recreational/Amenity Use<br/>Sea level rise<br/>Coastal defences<br/>Introduction of alien invasive species<br/>Illegal Dumping<br/>Burning<br/>Quarrying/removal of sand<br/>Aquaculture</p>   |
| <b>River Boyne<br/>and River<br/>Blackwater<br/>2299</b> | <p>7230 Alkaline fens<br/>91E0 alluvial woodlands (priority)<br/>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br/>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br/>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter</p>   | <p>To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. alkaline fens, alluvial woodlands,<br/>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status Atlantic Salmon, River Lamprey, European Otter</p>  | <p>Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct loss of habitat to development, , invasive species, lack of woodland management.<br/>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br/>Changes in flow rates, Siltation<br/>Loss of fringe vegetation<br/>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br/>Direct loss of habitat to development<br/>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br/>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br/>Introduction of alien invasive species<br/>Illegal Dumping<br/>Felling/Removal of Trees</p> |

Table 4.10 County Louth: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| County Louth           |   | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)   |  |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Site code<br>Site name | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
| Boyne Estuary<br>4080  | Golden Plover, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Sanderling, Redshank, Little Tern, Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Golden Plover, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Sanderling, Redshank, Little Tern, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn)<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise/erosion<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| Carlingford Lough 4078 | Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Scaup, Goldeneye, Redshank, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Scaup, Goldeneye, Redshank, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn)<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise/erosion<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name        | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Dundalk Bay<br>4026           | Great Crested Grebe, Greylag Goose, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, 20,000 wintering waterbirds, Shelduck, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Common Gull, Herring Gull, Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status Great Crested Grebe, Greylag Goose, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, 20,000 wintering waterbirds, Shelduck, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Common Gull, Herring Gull, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn),<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise/erosion<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| Stabannan-Braganstown<br>4091 | Greylag Goose   | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Greylag Goose.  | None, there is a management agreement in place.<br>Potentially: land take, disturbance, intensification, pollution<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management   |

Table 4.11 County Monaghan: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

| County Monaghan                                 |  | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)  |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Site code<br>Site name                          | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
| <b>Kilroosky Lough Cluster</b><br><b>001786</b> | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.<br>7230 Alkaline fens<br>Calcareous fens with cladium mariscus and Caricion davalliance.<br>1092 Autopotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish<br>Extensive calcicole plant communities.<br>Calcium rich habitats.<br>Inter drumlin marl lakes fed by lime rich water. | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. 7230 Alkaline fens<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: White-clawed Crayfish | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;<br>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing |

Table 4.12 County Monaghan: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| County Monaghan                      |  | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)   |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Site code<br>Site name               | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
| <b>Slieve Beagh</b><br><b>004167</b> | Hen Harrier<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin)<br>Red Grouse<br>10144 Blanket bog.<br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>4030 European dry heaths | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status :Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red Grouse<br><br>To maintain the Annex I habitats for at favourable conservation status: Hen Harrier, , anket bog, dystrophic lakes, European dry heaths | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

## 4.7 Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Border Regional Authority Area

Table 4.13 Northern Ireland: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| Northern Ireland                        |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)  |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site code<br>Site name                  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
| <b>Bann Estuary</b><br><b>UK0030084</b> | 2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )<br>2110 Embryonic shifting dunes<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red Grouse, blanket bog, dystrophic lakes | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn),<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise/erosion<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| <b>Binevenagh</b><br><b>UK0030089</b>   | 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation<br>6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)<br>8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolia</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red Grouse, blanket bog, dystrophic lakes | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)   |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                   | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Magilligan</b><br><b>UK0016613</b>                    | 2130 Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')<br>2170 Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> ( <i>Salicion arenariae</i> )<br>2190 Humid dune slacks<br>2110 Embryonic shifting dunes<br>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')<br>1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> ( <i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i> ) <i>aurinia</i><br>1395 Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; grey dunes, Humid dune slacks, Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes,<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Marsh fritillary butterfly, Petalwort | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;<br>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping, Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand, Aquaculture |
| <b>River Roe and Tributaries</b><br><b>UK0030360</b>     | 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i><br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Water courses of plain to montane levels, Old sessile oak woods<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Atlantic salmon, Otter                         | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| <b>River Faughan and Tributaries</b><br><b>UK0030361</b> | 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i><br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old sessile oak woods<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Atlantic salmon, Otter   | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees   |



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| Site code<br>Site name                          | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>River Foyle and Tributaries</b><br>UK0030320 | 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation<br>1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i><br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Water courses of plain to montane levels<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Atlantic salmon, Otter   | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>Fairy Water Bogs</b><br>UK0016611            | 7110 Active raised bogs  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Active raised bogs  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| <b>Owenkilwe River</b><br>UK0030233             | 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>91D0 Bog woodland<br>1029 Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i><br>1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i><br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Water courses of plain to montane levels, Old sessile oak woods, Bog woodland<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Atlantic salmon, Otter, Freshwater pearl mussel | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

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| Site code<br>Site name       | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Moneygal Bog<br>UK0030211    | 7110 Active raised bogs   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Active raised bogs  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| Tonnagh Beg Bog<br>UK0030325 | 7110 Active raised bogs   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Active raised bogs  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| Cranny Bogs<br>UK0030321     | 7110 Active raised bogs   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Active raised bogs  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |
| Lough Melvin<br>UK0030047    | 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i><br>6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> )<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; turlough<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, Slender Naiad. | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                                | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Pettigoe Plateau</b><br><b>UK0016607</b>           | 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>7130 Blanket bogs<br>3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i><br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>4030 European dry heaths | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, Blanket bogs, Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters, Northern Atlantic wet heaths, European dry heaths                             | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality |
| <b>Monawilkin</b><br><b>UK0016619</b>                 | 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies, Old sessile oak woods  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |
| <b>Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River</b><br><b>UK0030116</b> | 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation<br>1029 Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Water courses of plain to montane levels<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Freshwater pearl mussel | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                  | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Cuilcagh Mountain</b><br><b>UK0016603</b>            | 7130 Blanket bogs<br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>4030 European dry heaths<br>4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths<br>8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels<br>( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i> )<br>8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog, , Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, , European dry heaths Alpine and Boreal heaths, Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels, Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality |
| <b>Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs</b><br><b>UK0030068</b> | 3180 Turloughs   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; turlough   | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic);<br>water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| <b>Largalanny</b><br><b>UK0030045</b>                   | 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old sessile oak woods  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees   |

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| Site code<br>Site name                              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Moninea Bog</b><br><b>UK0030212</b>              | 7130 Blanket bog (*active only)   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog           | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |
| <b>Magheraveely Marl Loughs</b><br><b>UK0016621</b> | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.<br>7230 Alkaline fens<br>7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i><br>1092 Autopotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: White-clawed Crayfish | Agricultural improvements/reclamation;<br>drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment;<br>overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment;<br>amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development;<br>peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing |

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| Site code<br>Site name                 | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Upper Lough Erne<br>UK0016614          | 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )<br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Natural eutrophic lakes, Alluvial forests, Old sessile oak woods<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Otter   | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |
| West Fermanagh Scarplands<br>UK0030300 | 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> )<br>6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )<br>8240 Limestone pavements<br>9180 <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines<br>3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation<br>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i><br>7130 Blanket bogs<br>7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )<br>7230 Alkaline fens | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies, <i>Molinia</i> meadows, Limestone pavements, <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines, Natural eutrophic lakes, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , blanket bog, | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality                             |
| Slieve Beagh<br>UK0016622              | 10144 Blanket bog.<br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>4030 European dry heaths<br>Hen Harrier<br><i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin)<br>Red Grouse   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red Grouse, blanket bog, dystrophic lakes, European dry heaths Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red Grouse<br>.   | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Persecution (Poisoning)   |

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| Site code<br>Site name      | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]                                     | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Slieve Gullion<br>UK0016622 | 4030 European dry heaths   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: European dry heaths.  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| Derryleckagh<br>UK0016620   | 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Natural eutrophic lakes, Alluvial forests, Old sessile oak woods | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees   |
| Rostrevor Wood<br>UK0030268 | 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old sessile oak woods  | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |

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| Site code<br>Site name      | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat] [species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Eastern Mourne<br>UK0016615 | <p>7130 Blanket bogs</p> <p>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</p> <p>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>4030 European dry heaths</p> <p>4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths</p> <p>8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels<br/>(<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>)</p> <p>8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</p> <p>6150 Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands</p> | <p>To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog, , Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, , European dry heaths Alpine and Boreal heaths, Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels, Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</p> | <p>Changes in local hydrology including drainage</p> <p>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)</p> <p>Erosion, landslips</p> <p>Peat Extraction</p> <p>Overgrazing/undergrazing</p> <p>Forestry</p> <p>Burning</p> <p>Direct loss of habitat to development</p> <p>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table</p> <p>Agricultural reclamation/improvement</p> <p>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality</p> |



Table 4.14 Northern Ireland: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| Northern Ireland              |  | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Site code<br>Site name        | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
| Lough Foyle<br>UK9020031      | <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> Light-bellied Brent Goose<br><i>Cygnus cygnus</i> Whooper Swan<br><i>Limosa lapponica</i> Bar-tailed Godwit<br>1130 Estuaries<br>1140 tidal mudflats<br>Sand flats<br>10007 Coastal lagoons | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan  | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use                             |
| Pettigoe Plateau<br>UK9020051 | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)<br>Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Golden Plover | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| Upper Lough Erne<br>UK9020071 | Inland water bodies<br>Humid grassland<br>Mesophile grassland<br><i>Cygnus cygnus</i> Whooper Swan   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use   |

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| Site code<br>Site name  | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Slieve Beagh/<br/>Mullaghfad/Lis<br/>naskea</b><br>UK9020302 | Hen Harrier<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin)<br>Red Grouse<br>10144 Blanket bog.<br>3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds<br>4030 European dry heaths                                   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hen Harrier, Merlin, Red Grouse, blanket bog, dystrophic lakes, European dry heaths | Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>Carlingford<br/>Lough</b><br>UK9020161                       | Sterna paradisaea (Arctic Tern)<br>Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)<br>Sterna sandvicensis (Sandwich Tern)<br>1130 Estuaries<br>1140 tidal mudflats<br>Sand flats<br>10007 Coastal lagoons | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Arctic Tern, Common Tern, Sandwich Tern   | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use   |

Table 4.15 Greater Dublin / Mid East: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| Greater Dublin / Mid East                        |  | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)   |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Site code<br>Site name                           | Qualifying interests [code] [habitat]<br>[species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity   |
| <b>Boyne Coast and Estuary 001957</b>            | Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover) , Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone , Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Sanderling, Redshank, Little Tern, Wetland & Waterbirds  | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Golden Plover, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone , Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Sanderling, Redshank, Little Tern, Wetland & Waterbirds. | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas & ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn),<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise/erosion<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>River Boyne &amp; River Blackwater 002299</b> | 7230 Alkaline fens<br>91e0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status  | Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct loss of habitat to development, invasive species, lack of woodland management.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

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| Site code<br>Site name                | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Lough Bane and Lough Glass<br>002120  | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.<br>1092 Autopotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing        |
| Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally)<br>000006 | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion                        | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|---|---|---|---|
| White Lough,<br>Ben Loughs<br>and Lough Doo<br>001810 | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.<br>1092 Autropotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing     |
| Moneybeg and<br>Clareisland<br>Bogs<br>002340         | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion                         | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

Table 4.16 Greater Dublin / Mid East: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| Greater Dublin / Mid East               |  | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Site code<br>Site name                  | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
| Boyne Estuary<br>004080                 | 1130 estuaries,<br>1140 tidal mudflats,<br>1310 Salicornia mud,<br>1330 Atlantic salt meadows,<br>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows,<br>2110 embryonic shifting dunes,<br>2120 Marram dunes<br>2130 fixed dunes (priority) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ); Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Marram dunes, Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn),<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Aquaculture        |
| River Nanny Estuary and Shore<br>004158 | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)<br><i>Limosa lapponica</i> Bar-tailed Godwit  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit  | Water quality/pollution/quantity<br>Development/expansion of marinas and ports<br>Dredging<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn),<br>Winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging<br>Recreational/Amenity Use<br>Sea level rise<br>Coastal defences<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name  | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Lough Sheelin<br>004065 | <i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard<br><i>Bucephala clangula</i> Goldeneye<br><i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Great Crested Grebe<br><i>Aythya fuligula</i> Tufted Duck<br>Wetlands & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Pochard, Goldeneye, Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck and Wetlands & Waterbirds. | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

Table 4.17 Midlands: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| Midlands                                     |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)  |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Site code<br>Site name                       | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
| <b>Lough Forbes Complex</b><br><b>001818</b> | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |
| <b>Lough Ree</b><br><b>000440</b>            | 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco Brometalia</i> ) ('important orchid sites)<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>8240 Limestone pavements<br>91D0 Bog woodland<br>7230 Alkaline fens<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br><i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)<br><i>Apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)<br><i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern)<br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Semi-natural dry grasslands, Degraded raised bogs, Limestone pavements, Bog woodland, Alkaline fens, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Common Tern<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Otter | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |



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| Site code<br>Site name            | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Ardaguillion Bog</b><br>002341 | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>Brown Bog</b><br>002346        | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |

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| Site code<br>Site name                | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>Clooneen Bog</b><br><b>002348</b>  | 91D0 Bog woodland<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Bog woodland, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping                            |
| <b>Garriskil Bog</b><br><b>000679</b> | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion<br>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin) | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Merlin | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning) |

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| Site code<br>Site name                                 | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[species' scientific name] [species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo</b><br>001810 | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.<br>1092 Autropotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Crayfish Fishing   |
| <b>Lough Bane and Lough Glass</b><br>002120            | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.<br>1092 Autropotamobius pallipes Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing |
| <b>Lough Lene</b><br>002121                            | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Crayfish Fishing |

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| Site code<br>Site name                              | Qualifying interests<br>[code] [habitat]<br>[species' scientific name] [species' common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>River Boyne &amp; River Blackwater</b><br>002299 | 7230 Alkaline fens<br>91e0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i><br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status   | Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct loss of habitat to development, invasive species, lack of woodland management.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |
| <b>Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs</b><br>002340      | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>Annaghmore Lough</b> 001626                      | 7230 alkaline fens<br>1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Whorl Snail<br><i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)<br><i>Apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: alkaline fens, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: whorl snail | Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage /changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

Table 4.18 Midlands: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| Midlands  |   | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Site code<br>Site name                          | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
| <b>Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough</b><br>004061 | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Semi-natural dry grasslands, Degraded raised bogs, Limestone pavements, Bog woodland, Alkaline fens, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management   |
| <b>Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog</b><br>004101     | Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin)  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Whooper Swan, Merlin   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name                               | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Lough Ree</b><br><b>000440</b>                    | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)<br>Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)<br>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Common Tern<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Otter | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>Lough</b><br><b>Derravarragh</b><br><b>004043</b> | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover  | Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name                | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Lough Sheelin</b><br><b>004065</b> | <i>Aythya ferina</i> Pochard<br><i>Bucephala clangula</i> Goldeneye<br><i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Great Crested Grebe<br><i>Aythya fuligula</i> Tufted Duck<br>Wetlands & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Pochard, Goldeneye, Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck and Wetlands & Waterbirds.  | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management   |
| <b>Garriskil Bog</b><br><b>000679</b> | <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br><i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin)  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Merlin | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
|------------------------|--|---|--|
| Lough Gara<br>004048   | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |



Table 4.19 Western Region: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

| Western Region                        |   | Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Site code<br>Site name                | Qualifying interests [code]<br>[habitat] [species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name] | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity  |
| <b>Bellanagare Bog</b><br>000592      | 7110 Active raised bogs   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>Mullygollan Turlough</b><br>000612 | 3180 Turloughs<br>Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan and Golden Plover.                              | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Turloughs.         | Agricultural improvements /Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology<br>water quality/pollution (including groundwater)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/Undergrazing<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Impacts to local geology/geomorphology eg quarrying/rock blasting<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping  |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                                 | Qualifying interests<br>[habitat] [code]<br>[species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Lackan Saltmarsh &amp; Kilcummin Head</b><br>000516 | 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br>Golden Plover  | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes), Golden Plover<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> , <i>Phoca vitulina</i> .  | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Development of marinas and ports<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/amenity use<br>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| <b>River Moy</b><br>002298                             | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>91E0 alluvial woodlands (priority)<br>91a0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion<br>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>1092 Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish<br>( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )<br>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon<br>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter<br>1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey<br>1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Brook Lamprey | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Old sessile oak woods, Greenland White-fronted Goose<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish, Atlantic Salmon, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Otter | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Crayfish Fishing  |

Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                    | Qualifying interests<br>[habitat] [code]<br>[species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name]                                  | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Killala Bay/ Moy Estuary</b><br>000458 | 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)<br><i>Vertigo angustior</i><br>Golden Plover<br>Bartailed Godwit | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes), Golden Plover, Bartailed Godwit<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Development of marinas and ports<br>Disturbance to marine mammals<br>Dumping at sea<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Recreational/amenity use<br>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation<br>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction<br>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)<br>Agricultural abandonment<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Bracken and scrub encroachment<br>Tourism related development<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Burning<br>Quarrying/removal of sand<br>Aquaculture |
| <b>Cloonshanville Bog</b><br>000614       | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>91D0 Bog woodland  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Bog woodland   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees  |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                    | Qualifying interests [code]<br>[habitat] [species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Tullaghanrock Bog</b><br><b>002354</b> | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion   | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates  | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>Callow Bog</b><br><b>000595</b>        | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion<br>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose) | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose                                   | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping |
| <b>Annaghmore Lough</b><br><b>001626</b>  | 7230 alkaline fens<br>1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Whorl Snail<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)   | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: alkaline fens, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover<br>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: whorl snail | Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage /changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping   |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name                       | Qualifying interests [code]<br>[habitat] [species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name]   | Conservation objectives   | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Lough Forbes Complex</b><br><b>001818</b> | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion<br>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles<br>3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation<br><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose) | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |
| <b>Lough Arrow</b><br><b>001673</b>          | 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.   | Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution<br>Changes in water flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents(WWTP)<br>Recreation/amenity use<br>Developments – marinas<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality  |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name               | Qualifying interests [code]<br>[habitat] [species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name]   | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Brown Bog</b><br><b>002346</b>    | 7110 Active raised bogs<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping                             |
| <b>Clooneen Bog</b><br><b>002348</b> | 91D0 Bog woodland<br>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration<br>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion       | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Bog woodland, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates       | Changes in local hydrology including drainage<br>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)<br>Erosion, landslips<br>Peat Extraction<br>Overgrazing/undergrazing<br>Forestry<br>Burning<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Agricultural reclamation/improvement<br>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Felling/Removal of Trees |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| Site code<br>Site name | Qualifying interests<br>[habitat] [species' scientific name]<br>[species' common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Potential threats to site integrity  |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| Lough Ree<br>000440    | <p>6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) ('important orchid sites')</p> <p>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</p> <p>8240 Limestone pavements</p> <p>91D0 Bog woodland</p> <p>7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p> <p>3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation</p> <p><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)</p> <p><i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan)</p> <p><i>Apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)</p> <p><i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern)</p> <p>1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> | <p>To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Semi-natural dry grasslands, Degraded raised bogs, Limestone pavements, Bog woodland, Alkaline fens, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Common Tern</p> <p>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Otter</p> | <p>Water quality/pollution</p> <p>Changes in flow rates</p> <p>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table</p> <p>Siltation</p> <p>Loss of fringe vegetation</p> <p>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations</p> <p>Direct loss of habitat to development</p> <p>Loading from effluents (WWTP)</p> <p>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality</p> <p>Felling/Removal of Trees</p> |

Table 4.20 Western Region: Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

| Western Region                       |  | Special Protection Areas (SPAs)   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Site code<br>Site name               | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]                              | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity  |
| <b>Lough Conn</b><br><b>004053</b>   | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan) | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>Lough Cullin</b><br><b>004054</b> | Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)                                    | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Whooper Swan, Golden Plover<br>.             | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |



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| Site code<br>Site name                      | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]                                 | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity   |
|---|---|--|---|
| Killalla Bay/<br>Moy Estuary<br>004036      | Gavia stellata (Red-throated Diver)<br>Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover)<br>Bar-tailed Godwit | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Red-throated Diver, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit                              | Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat);<br>direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use.<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management  |
| Ballykenny-<br>Fisherstown<br>Bog<br>004101 | Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Falco columbarius (Merlin) ,                                    | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Whooper Swan, Merlin | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Persecution (Poisoning)<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name          | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Bellangare Bog</b><br>004105 | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)  | To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Depressions on peat substrates, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Golden Plover | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |
| <b>Lough Gara</b><br>004048     | Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)<br>Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan)<br>Apricaria (Golden Plover)<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Wetland & Waterbirds | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover                  | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Changes in flow rates<br>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table<br>Siltation<br>Loss of fringe vegetation<br>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Loading from effluents (WWTP)<br>Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

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| Site code<br>Site name | Qualifying interests<br>[scientific species name] [common name]  | Conservation objectives  | Threats to site integrity  |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Lough Arrow<br>004050  | Site is selected for: Little Grebe<br><br>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Goldeneye Wetlands & Waterbirds | To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Little Grebe, Goldeneye, Wetlands & Waterbirds. | Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat)<br>Direct loss of habitat to development<br>Water quality/pollution<br>Disturbance including recreation/amenity use<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use<br>Inappropriate land management |

4.8 Table of sites listed on Schedule 1 of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 within the Border Regional Authority Region.

Table 4.21 Sites listed on Schedule 1 (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) within the Border Region Area

| SAC site code<br>site name                                      | Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>margaritifera margaritifera</i> )<br>Population name | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 000140<br>Fawnboy Bog /<br>Lough Nacung<br>SAC                  | Clady   | Maintain Clady population at a favourable conservation status, as prescribed by third schedule of the regulations.<br><br>Achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives for the freshwater mussel habitat as prescribed by fourth schedule of the regulations.      | Siltation<br>Peat extraction<br>Afforestation<br>Direct loss of habitat<br>Discharges to water bodies in catchment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Water Pollution<br>Pearl Fishing (illegal) |
| 000163 Lough<br>Eske and<br>Ardnamona<br>Wood                   | Eske  | Maintain Eske population at a favourable conservation status, as prescribed by third schedule of the regulations.<br><br>Achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives for the freshwater mussel habitat as prescribed by fourth schedule of the regulations.       | Siltation<br>Peat extraction<br>Afforestation<br>Direct loss of habitat<br>Discharges to water bodies in catchment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Water Pollution<br>Pearl Fishing (illegal) |
| 002047<br>Cloghernagor<br>Bog and<br>Glenveagh<br>National Park | Gliskeelan  | Maintain Gliskeelan population at a favourable conservation status, as prescribed by third schedule of the regulations.<br><br>Achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives for the freshwater mussel habitat as prescribed by fourth schedule of the regulations. | Siltation<br>Peat extraction<br>Afforestation<br>Direct loss of habitat<br>Discharges to water bodies in catchment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Water Pollution<br>Pearl Fishing (illegal) |

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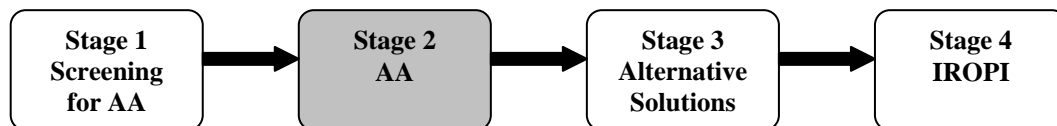
| SAC<br>site code<br>site name                          | Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>margaritifera</i><br><i>margaritifera</i> )<br>Population name | Conservation objectives   | Threats to site integrity   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 002176<br>Leannan River                                | Leannan   | Maintain Leannan population at a favourable conservation status, as prescribed by third schedule of the regulations.<br><br>Achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives for the freshwater mussel habitat as prescribed by fourth schedule of the regulations.    | Siltation<br>Peat extraction<br>Afforestation<br>Direct loss of habitat<br>Discharges to water bodies in catchment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Water Pollution<br>Pearl Fishing (illegal) |
| 002047<br>Cloghernagor Bog and Glenveagh National Park | Owencarrow  | Maintain Owencarrow population at a favourable conservation status, as prescribed by third schedule of the regulations.<br><br>Achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives for the freshwater mussel habitat as prescribed by fourth schedule of the regulations. | Siltation<br>Peat extraction<br>Afforestation<br>Direct loss of habitat<br>Discharges to water bodies in catchment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Water Pollution<br>Pearl Fishing (illegal) |
| 000197 West of Ardara / Maas Road                      | Owenea  | Maintain Owenea population at a favourable conservation status, as prescribed by third schedule of the regulations.<br><br>Achieve the Ecological Quality Objectives for the freshwater mussel habitat as prescribed by fourth schedule of the regulations.     | Siltation<br>Peat extraction<br>Afforestation<br>Direct loss of habitat<br>Discharges to water bodies in catchment<br>Introduction of alien invasive species<br>Illegal Dumping<br>Water Pollution<br>Pearl Fishing (illegal) |

## 5 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

### 5.1 Introduction

All Natura 2000 sites in-situ and ex-situ (within 15km of the Border Region) were identified as the first step in the Screening process. All relevant sites were outlined Section 4 of this report. As it was not possible to eliminate potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network in-situ and ex-situ, at stage 1 of the process it was considered that a full appropriate assessment should be carried out on the Guidelines.

#### Current Stage of the HDA Process



In order to assess any potential impact of the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines on the above Natura 2000 sites, it was considered necessary to develop a screening matrix and assess each individual policy and objective to determine the impact, if it considered significant and how it may affect Natura 2000 sites, in-situ and ex-situ. This screening matrix is outlined in Section 6.

The scope of this assessment is to consider the implications at a strategic level of the Regional Planning Guidelines policies and objectives, the main goal of which is to implement the provisions of the National Spatial Strategy. It aims to build critical mass in the designated Gateways and Hubs thus achieving critical population targets which can attract required employment opportunities, physical, environmental and social infrastructure benefits that accrue from such economies of scale.

### 5.2 Assessment Methodology

The following is a summary of how the HDA was carried out on the Border Region Draft RPGs:

- NPWS and Departments Applications Units were consulted with the initial Screening Report. All comments and amendments have been incorporated into this document (see appendix 1 for NPWS comments);
- Policies and objectives of the draft RPGs were inserted into the screening matrix and a report was drawn up detailing the above;
- All Heritage Officers (who have ecological expertise and experience) from Local Authorities within the Border Region, the SEA Team and the NPWS Divisional Ecologist were invited to attend a HDA workshop to assess draft RPG policies and objectives;
- Three workshops were held on 17 & 23 November and 02 December 2009 to carry out full appropriate assessment of the Draft Guidelines.

Section 6 outlines the assessment matrix and includes the following key headings:

- RPG Policy/Objective
- Natura 2000 site that may be affected
- Potential Impact of policy/objective
- Risk of Significant Impact

- Potential of 'Combination Impacts'
- Risk of Significant Combination Impacts

Where further action is required, a row is added to the bottom of the matrix outlining the 'Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion or Amendment'. It is in this row where the direct input stage 2 of the HDA process feeds directly into the drafting and amending of the Draft Guidelines.

### 5.3 Findings of Stage 2

The RPGs are the key delivery vehicle for the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy and are therefore considered to be a high level spatial planning document. As the HDA progressed on the RPGs, it became more obvious that, in the main, the policies and objectives are at a high level and generally, do not include specific detail on planned projects. Those policies that are more prescriptive were either amended, mitigated against any potential impacts or directed that they will be subject to a more detailed assessment in subsidiary plans or at project level. As outlined in the screening matrix in Section 6, and indeed in the SEA Screening Workshop, additional policies were added to the RPGs to ensure that Natura 2000 sites both in-situ and ex-situ will be protected from any negative impacts upon them.

The key aim of the RPGs is to direct population growth towards those settlements which have robust environments and have the capacity to absorb additional development. The Guidelines direct population growth to the seven key urban settlements of Letterkenny, Sligo, Dundalk, Cavan, Monaghan, Drogheda and Carrick-on-Shannon, with the remaining share of population growth to be redistributed through respective County Development Plans within the Region. The Guidelines set the policy framework for the redistribution of this population growth.

Population growth is considered one of the main threats to Natura 2000 sites within and outside the region through waste water discharge and water abstraction. The Environmental Report outlines in detail the existing water supply and waste water treatment capacities, as well as proposed additional capacity due to be installed during the life of the Guidelines for the key urban settlements. The waste water treatment capacity table for the key urban settlement may be viewed in Appendix 3. It concludes that there is additional capacity, or likely to be additional capacity, once completion of treatment plants within respective settlements within the life of the Guidelines. As a result, there is no significant threat to the receiving waters within, and around the key settlements from increased discharges associated with the additional loadings from population growth. Local Authorities will have to adopt a similar methodology in terms of directing future growth to other settlements within the remaining share of population. Policies INFP20 – INFP22 have been added to the Draft RPGs to ensure that population growth is contingent on there being waste water treatment capacity within existing and proposed additions to plants in key settlements to treat waste water discharge. Policies INFP1 and ENVP 4 and ENVP5 will provide further protection to the Natura 2000 network.

In terms of water supply, some of the key urban settlements are operating at capacity as outlined in the table in Appendix 4. The main issue, and indeed the top priority of the Water Services Section is 'water conservation'. It is detailed in the water services section, that serious inefficiencies exist within water services of local authorities within the Region therefore; this issue must be tackled as a matter of priority. The additional capacity that water conservation measures will generate, shall accommodate any short to medium term population growth that may occur over the next few years. Given the recent population trends as articulated in section

3.5 of the Draft RPGs, it is not likely that there will be any significant population growth over the coming years.

Water conservation will therefore meet Local Authorities short to medium term water demand, of which remedial works will be a key part. This will then allow authorities to develop and prioritise their investment in additional water services infrastructure in the long term which will ensure that sensitive sites are protected from water abstraction and related activities. Like waste water services, a policy has also been added (INFP 20) to the water supply infrastructure section to ensure that population growth is contingent on there being sufficient water supply with abstraction issues being carefully assessed under relevant legislation and Directives.

All Local Authorities within the Region have recently completed an Assessment of Needs for Water Services which was submitted to the DEHLG at the end of 2009 under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme. These needs are prioritised under four themes;

- Water Conservation Proposals which meet environmental and economic goals
- Works required to respond to ECJ judgements
- Environment/Public Health Objectives
- Works to support sustainable development of hubs and gateways under the NSS

Thus, while projected population growth promoted in the RPGs could potentially impact on water quality standards, it is considered the provisions of the 2007 Waste Water Discharge Regulations and priority scheme for the Water Services Investment Programme laid out in Circular L6/09 will address any existing future deficiencies in the infrastructure required to service this growth. Water services investment in infrastructure will also be subject to the Department Circular L8/08 which sets out screening and assessment processes relevant to HDA.

#### **5.4 Potential in Combination Impacts**

There are many directives, plans and programmes that have the potential to produce 'in combination' impacts. Some of the more significant ones include:

- National Development Plan,
- National Spatial Strategy,
- Adjoining Regional Planning Guidelines,
- Smarter Travel and Transport 21
- Grid 25
- National Climate Change Strategy
- River Basin Management Plans,
- Floods, Groundwater and Urban Waste Water Directive

All documents outlined above are generally strategic in nature with far-reaching influence and overlapping objectives. For example, the National Development Plan sets out the strategy for development throughout Ireland in the areas of economic and social infrastructure, transport, energy, housing, water, education and health, which is inclusive of environmental considerations. Transport 21 provides for capital funding to implement the transport strategy including heavy investment in public transport, particularly in the major urban areas. The strategy aims to encourage less energy intensive forms of transport such as public transport, with positive consequences for the environment, particularly in the area of climate change



targets and air quality. Many of these plans make positive statements and set a policy framework which will ensure the co-ordinated development of the state. The Guidelines set out many of these priority projects for the Border Region, some of which may already be within the planning system and have undergone, or will undergo individual Habitats Directive Assessments. In light of the scale and nature of these plans and projects, the possible extent and character of in combination effects is uncertain at this high level spatial scale. However, it is clear from a review of the policies and objectives of the RPGs, in combination with these plans and projects, there are sufficient safeguards (additional policies and mitigation) in place to ensure that there will not be any significant effects on the Natura 2000 network. See also mitigation.

## 5.5 Mitigation Measures

Development, by its nature, necessitates land use change generally from a vegetated area dominated by agricultural or semi-natural land cover to a built environment fulfilling the residential, commercial and physical infrastructural requirements of society. The RPGs set out policies and strategic objectives that direct this development to robust receiving environments which have the capacity to absorb such development, and also outline Development Plan Implications for Local Authorities within its jurisdiction.

Initial reviews of the policies and objectives in the Guidelines indicated that there may be a risk of adverse effects on the integrity of many Natura sites. Any adverse effects or potential significant impact could be overcome through appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures in the form of amendments and additions to the policies and objectives are provided to ensure compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive by integrating measures for the protection of Natura 2000 sites into all policy areas covered by the proposed plan. Mitigating policies clearly indicate that where any physical development, such as housing, commercial development, roads, ports, service infrastructure or any other form of development, has the potential to significantly impact on a Natura 2000 site, it will be subject to an individual HDA process, as defined by Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive. Where it is found that the plan or project has the potential to directly or indirectly impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, the appropriate mitigation will be through avoidance. If avoidance is not possible, mitigation in the form of alternatives to the proposed plan or project must be sought. In considering alternative solutions the conservation objectives and status of the Natura 2000 site will outweigh any considerations of cost, delays or other aspects of an alternative solution. The competent authority should not, therefore, limit its consideration of alternative solutions to those suggested by the project or plan proponents. It is the member state's responsibility to consider alternative solutions, which could be located within different regions or counties.

Recommendations have also been made in relation to cross-compliance with other relevant plans, such as all the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans within the Region, where such plans clearly facilitate the protection of Natura 2000 sites.

The mitigation arising from Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is incorporated into the following policies and objectives which have been incorporated into the Draft RPGs, to ensure there are no significant effects on the Natura 2000 network, both in situ and ex situ, as a result of the implementation of the Guidelines:

**INFP 1, ENVP 4, and ENVP 5:** Ensure that plans and projects are assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, by consideration of the conservation objectives, qualifying interest and threats to the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. These are:

**INFP 1, INFP 2, INFP 4, ENVP 4, and ENVP 5:** Ensure that all plans and projects associated with the development/improvement of the strategic radial corridors and strategic links identified within the region are assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

**INFP 1, INFP 14, and INFP 16:** Ensure that all development, expansion, or improvement of ports or airports are assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

**INFP 1, INFP 19, ENVP 4, and ENVP 5:** Ensure that all plans and projects associated with the provision of water and sewerage facilities comply with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

**INFP 1, INFP 23, ENVO 4, and ENVP 5:** Ensure that all plans and projects for the development of energy networks are assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

**INFP 1, INFP 28, EVNP 4, and ENVP 5:** Ensure that all plans and projects associated with the development of waste management infrastructure area assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

**INFP 1, FRP3, ENVP 4, ENVP 5:** Ensure the protection of the Natura 2000 sites' supporting rivers and streams by avoiding development in areas at risk from flooding, whilst facilitating the continued growth and expansion of the key urban settlements that are at risk from coastal or fluvial flooding.

**INFP 1, FRP 1, ENVP 4, and ENVP 5:** Ensure that development and local area plans adopt a strategic approach to flood risk management to avoid any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

## **5.6 Conclusion of Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment**

This Habitats Directive Assessment has been carried out on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010-2022. The assessment involved stages 1 and 2 of the HDA process.

Preparation of the assessment involved preliminary discussions with the NPWS Regional Ecologists to identify general issues of concern for conservation in the Region. A review of conservation objectives and threats to site integrity for the range of Natura 2000 in the Region was undertaken to identify sites that may be impacted by policies/objectives in the Draft RPGs. Some of our key urban settlements such as our Gateways of Sligo, Dundalk and Letterkenny are located adjacent to river SACs and were considered to be the key areas for assessment, given that the RPGs direct additional population to the key settlements. In general, it was found that there were no direct, indirect or cumulative threats to Natura 2000 sites as a result of directing additional population growth to the 7 key urban settlements.

Screening for impacts on Annex II species occurring within the region was also carried out. All these species are water dependant and thus, protecting the habitat in which they occur will, by association, enable protection of their conservation status. Species such as the Freshwater

Pearl Mussel are already the subject of Sub-Basin Management Plans and a range of environmental targets laid out in River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and Program of Measures (POMs) under the Water Framework Directive. These targets involve participation by local authorities and thus it is not considered that there are additional impacts arising from the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines that have not already been raised in the Sub-Basin Plans for the species.

## **5.7 Habitats Directive Assessment Conclusion**

This Draft Habitats Directive Assessment Report concludes a Finding of No Significant Effects following the completion of stage 2 of the process. Any potential impact on the Natura 2000 network has been mitigated against through amendments of existing policies and objectives, and the addition of a number of additional policies as identified above. As a result, there is no requirement to proceed to stage 3 of the HDA Process.

This assessment should be read in conjunction with the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010-2022 and the accompanying SEA Environmental Report prepared in compliance with the requirements of the SEA Directive. Comments on the environmental assessments and the Guidelines are invited during a period of public consultation from 26 February – 14 May 2010

## 6 Screening Matrix

## Chapter 2

| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)                               | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Vision</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| By 2022, the Border Region will be a competitive area recognised as, and prospering from, its unique interface between two economies, where economic success will benefit all, through the implementation of the balanced development model, which will provide an outstanding natural environment, innovative people, which in themselves, will be our most valuable asset. | No likely significant effect with an overall positive impact on the region | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Strategic Goals</b>   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SG 1. To foster the development of the Region's most important asset, its people by providing an improved quality of life for all people and communities living, working and visiting the Region.  | No likely significant effect with an overall positive impact on the region | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)  | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)        | Potential of 'combination impacts'      | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SG 2. To ensure the development of the key urban settlements and to facilitate integrated sustainable development between urban and rural areas.  | No likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites as growth will only be directed towards settlements that have the capacity to accommodate it. | Any potential significant impact is assessed in assessment of policies in Chapter 3, 4, and 5 | No                                      | No                                      | N   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |   |   |   |   |   |
| SG 3. To improve intra and inter regional connectivity and mobility throughout the region through the development of strategic radial corridors and strategic links.                          | See Chapter 5 infrastructure assessment   | See Chapter 5 infrastructure assessment   | See Chapter 5 infrastructure assessment | See Chapter 5 infrastructure assessment | See Chapter 5 infrastructure assessment   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |   |   |   |   |   |
| SG 4. To promote economic growth, competitiveness and development potential of the region and to facilitate emerging sectors in the Region that will provide sustainable jobs for the future. | See Chapter 4 assessment  | See Chapter 4 assessment  | See Chapter 4 assessment                | See Chapter 4 assessment                | See Chapter 4 assessment                  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |   |   |   |   |   |

Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)                               | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| SG 5. To protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment and built heritage of the region.  | No likely significant effect with an overall positive impact on the region | None  | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| SG 6. To co-ordinate a regional approach to the key environmental challenges facing the region.  | No likely significant effect with an overall positive impact on the region | None  | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| SG 7. To co-ordinate and integrate key issues in National and Regional Spatial Planning Strategies and in particular, the National Spatial Strategy and the National Development Plan, and associated inter-regional development initiatives that support and promote strategic links. | No likely significant effect with an overall positive impact on the region | Any potential significant impact is assessed in assessment of policies in Chapter 3, 4, and 5 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)  | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| SG 8 To co-ordinate and integrate key issues in cross border spatial planning strategies, and in particular, the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland and associated inter-regional development initiatives that support and promote strategic links between the two economies. | No likely significant effect with an overall positive impact on the region  | Any potential significant impact is assessed in assessment of policies in Chapter 3, 4, and 5 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |   |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| SG.9 To exploit the regions unique location at the interface between two economies by putting in place the drivers for economic growth through the development of the Eastern Corridor, Atlantic Arc and the Central Border Area  | No likely significant effect on Natura 2000 sites as growth will only be directed towards settlements that have the capacity to accommodate it. | Any potential significant impact is assessed in assessment of policies in Chapter 3, 4, and 5 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |   |   |                                  |                                    |   |

## Chapter 3: Settlement Strategy

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Settlement Hierarchy</b>   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Settlement Hierarchy (outlined in Table 3.1)  | Potential                                    | Various                              | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br><b>Policy recommendation</b><br>The requirements of the Habitats Directive will apply to all proposed development in settlements as outlined in table 3.1 where there is a likely significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.<br><br>Additional explanatory text should be outlined in the draft RPGs as follows:<br>'The future provision of infrastructure and services are essential to the future development of the border region. Although this infrastructure is essential for the growth of the region, it is important that it is delivered in an efficient, and more importantly, environmentally sensitive way. The delivery of all new infrastructure should be assessed under all relevant EU Directives and the following policy will apply'.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Strategic Development Options</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Chosen Development Model  | Potential                                    | Various                              | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| Balanced Development Model  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><b>Comment</b><br><br>By focusing development within the key settlements as identified will provide a controlled growth model which will provide greater environmental protection for the region as a whole. This growth model will then be further developed through county and town development plans and local area plans following the adoption of the RPGs. Population growth will be directed towards urban settlements which have the infrastructural capacity to accommodate it, while rural generated housing demand will be accommodated within the rural areas in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Rivers Basin Management Plans. Proposals for any development that may impact on Natura 2000 sites in key settlements will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1, INFP 18-22 and ENVP 4 & 5. |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |



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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Core Settlement Strategy Aims</b>   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the critical mass of the regions key urban settlements by prioritising regional population growth and housing requirements;</li> <li>Outline a policy framework for the development of the remaining share of population in the region; and</li> <li>Sustain and revitalise rural areas within the above development framework.</li> </ul> | Potential                                    | Various                              | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Proposals for any development that may impact on Natura 2000 sites in key settlements will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1, INFP 18-22 and ENVP 4 & 5.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)   | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective                                  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Settlement Strategy Model</b>   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of critical mass in the 7 key urban centres which will be the focal points for growth;</li> <li>The linking of the key urban centres through the development of Strategic Radial Corridors and Strategic Links;</li> <li>Promote and facilitate the emerging north/south corridors on the western (Atlantic Arc) and eastern (Eastern Corridor) seaboard which will be linked through the Strategic Radial Corridors and Strategic Links;</li> <li>Development of the Northern Cross within the Region and into Northern Ireland;</li> <li>Improved and enhanced connectivity through the Central Border Region</li> </ul> <p>In addition to addressing the matters regarding population targets and housing land requirements in the previous sections, planning authorities should also address the following matters in assessing and deciding on land use zoning objectives in their development plans.</p> | Potentially some sites within key settlements and along the Strategic Radial Corridors and Strategic Links | As per Infrastructure Section where individual proposals are assessed | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><b>Comment</b><br><br>Proposals for any development that may impact on Natura 2000 sites in key settlements, and/or along road corridors will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1, INFP 18-22, ENVP 4 & 5 and ENVO 12.   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Rural Housing Policy  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| CSP 1. Local Authorities Rural Housing Planning Policy should be evidence based and accommodate rural generated housing; consistent with this settlement framework and the DEHLG Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines, 2005.  | Potentially all Natura 2000 sites            | Various<br>Refer to the threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| CSP 2. Rural housing and ancillary development shall be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>Comment<br><br>Rural housing policy should only permit housing on sites which are not environmentally sensitive and must ensure the protection of all in-situ and ex-situ Natura 2000 sites.<br>Additional policy recommendation for Rural Housing Section:<br><br>Suggested Policy: Rural housing and ancillary development shall be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (see above) and specifically the following policies: INFP 1, INFP 19, INFP 22 and CSP 2. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)                         | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Settlement Strategy Framework</b>   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <p>CSP 3. Land-use zoning for residential purposes by planning authorities has to take account of the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sequential development of land;</li> <li>• The development of land to make efficient use of existing and proposed infrastructure such as roads and water services;</li> <li>• The making available of sufficient land for development to ensure that the market for development land performs effectively; and</li> <li>• Avoiding an oversupply of land in that it becomes difficult to accurately identify and co-ordinate investment priorities in the provision of physical and social infrastructure such as water services, transport, schools and amenities, essential to achieving sustainable communities.</li> </ul> | Potentially Natura 2000 sites in-situ and ex situ of all settlements | Various<br>Refer to the threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b></p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>All zoning in Development Plans that could potentially impact on Natura 2000 sites will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1. As part of a development plan review, planning authorities must screen zoning objectives to assess the impact of a zoning objective on in-situ and ex-situ Natura 2000 sites.</p>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)                         | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Settlement Strategy Policy</b>   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| CSP 4. Land should be zoned on the basis of the population targets that are set for the settlement in question.   | Potentially Natura 2000 sites in-situ and ex situ of all settlements | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| CSP 5. A degree of headroom should be built in to calculation of housing land requirements arising from the assessment of population targets.   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| CSP 6. The excess in zoned land over the amount needed should have regard to the extent of approved development, vacancies and the need to ensure a properly functioning market for housing land. The excess should normally lie between an additional 50% and 100% of the land requirement based solely on population targets. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| CSP 7. Land that is zoned should either be serviced or about to be serviced with essential infrastructure such as water services, local transport, schools and amenities.   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| CSP 8. Zoned land should be assigned to different phases of development with a proviso that, generally a later phase should not commence until a given percentage of an earlier phase has been granted permission and another given percentage has been developed or is currently being development.                            |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| CSP 9. Zoned lands that are identified for first phase development should follow the sequential approach as follows:  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>In order to maximise the utility of existing and future infrastructure provision and promote the achievement of sustainability, a logical sequential approach should be taken to the zoning of land for development:</p> <p>(i) Zoning should extend outwards from the centre of an urban area, with undeveloped lands closest to the core and public transport routes being given preference (i.e. 'leapfrogging' to more remote areas should be avoided);</p> <p>(ii) A strong emphasis should be placed on encouraging infill opportunities and better use of under-utilised lands; and</p> <p>(iii) Areas to be zoned should be contiguous to existing zoned development lands.</p> <p>Only in exceptional circumstances should the above principles be contravened. Any exceptions must be clearly justified by local circumstances and such justification must be set out in the written statement of the development plan.</p> <p>CSP 10. Development plans shall be consistent with the approach to population distribution outlined in this core settlement strategy. In addition, the amount of land zoned for development within each settlement should reflect the population assigned and should be in accordance with the phasing approach outlined above.</p> |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b></p> <p>All zoning in Development Plans that could potentially impact on Natura 2000 sites will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1. As part of a development plan review, planning authorities must screen zoning objectives to assess the impact of a zoning objective on in-situ and ex-situ Natura 2000 sites.</p>   |  |  |  |  |  |

## Chapter 4: Regional Economic Strategy

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)              | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective                      | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)                          | Potential of 'combination impacts'                        | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'                 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>ESP 1. Build on existing collaborative cross-regional (and cross-border where relevant) approaches to Gateway and Hub development and continue to prioritise investment in key settlements of the region.</p> <p>ESP 2. Promote and support elected representatives and council officials to actively participate in short workshops and seminars (and where relevant, training programmes) on regional and local development, the role of planning in facilitating growth, translating EU Directives into local policy, and the urban-rural inter-relationship to name but four areas.</p> <p>ESP 3. Develop small sectorally focused teams within the region to further explore specific opportunities in identified relevant sectors. Existing initiatives should be considered by the sector teams to explore potential synergies and opportunities for knowledge sharing (for example the NW Business &amp; Technology Zone and the Dundalk-Newry Twin City International Traded Services Zone). Emphasis should be placed on the development of indigenous industry and, in this regard, agencies such as Enterprise Ireland and Invest NI should be involved in any such teams.</p> <p>ESP 4. Develop a strategy to facilitate and promote the nurturing of micro-enterprise clustering throughout the region. This should be carried out in association with the third level education institutes within the region.</p> | See assessment of policies/objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)               | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)                           | Potential of 'combination impacts'                         | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'                  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| ESP 5. Develop the potential of Eco-Tourism in the region so that the relatively unspoilt landscape remains intact and is developed in an environmentally sustainable manner.   | Potential  | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential  | Potential  | Potential  |
| ESP 6. Promote and support the development of flagship projects. These projects are significant regional tourist resources and have potential as economic drivers within the local economy. Such projects might include the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, the Shannon/Erne Waterway, the Cooley/Mourne and Gullion Geological sites and the re-opening of the Ulster Canal.             | Potential  | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential  | Potential  | Potential  |
| ESP 7. Develop a Renewable Energy Strategy based on both large and small scale projects, with specific targets and support for farmers in the development of small-scale community-based and cooperatively owned projects in order to maximise the potential for rural diversification which make best use of the various forms of renewable energy such as wind, solar, bio-mass, biofuel. | See assessment of policies/ objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/objectives in Chapters 3 and 5                                 | See assessment of policies/ objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/ objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 | See assessment of policies/ objectives in Chapters 3 and 5 |
| ESP 8. Develop all transport infrastructure and water and waste water services in line with those priorities identified in Chapter 5 so that key urban centres develop critical mass and improved connectivity that facilitates them in becoming the key engines for growth in the region.  |  |   |  |  |  |



# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>ESP 9. Upgrade electricity transmission network in accordance with priorities identified in Chapter 5 to secure energy supply to existing users; provide sufficient supply to additional users and facilitate connection of renewable energy sources to the grid.</p> <p>ESP 10. Planning authorities shall facilitate the provision, improvement and development of telecommunication networks, to ensure the competitiveness and economic development of the region.</p> <p>ESP 11. Promote co-operation between the Higher Education Institute and local industry in the development of courses relevant to regional enterprise.</p> <p>ESP 12. Develop the template of North West Cross Border Workforce Development Forum for replication in other areas of the region for the purposes of the identification of local skills needs and workforce development solutions.</p> <p>ESP 13. Identify and implement innovative skills retention measures.</p> <p>ESP 14. Direct new retail floor space into Gateways and Hubs and those centres selected for additional population growth. Future provision of significant retail developments within the Border region should be consistent with the policies and recommendations of the DEHLG Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p> |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b></p> <p><b>Comment</b></p> <p>Many of the above policies do not actually make any recommendations which would impact on the environment in any way. Those policies that do however raise the potential for impact on a Natura 2000 site must be assessed in conjunction with all policies contained within Chapters 3 and 5 of these Guidelines. One should therefore refer to the assessment of policies in chapters 3 and 5. All developments arising from the above shall comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and specifically to the following policies: INFP 1 and ENVP 4 &amp; 5.</p>   |  |  |  |  |  |

## Chapter 5: Infrastructure

| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Introduction</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Additional Policy suggested to be outlined in the Introduction of the Infrastructure Strategy.<br><br>INFP 1. In assessing all plans and projects, Local Authorities must comply with Article 6 of Habitats Directive and have regard to the relevant conservation objectives, qualifying interest and threats to the site integrity of a Natura 2000 site.  | Positive                                     | Positive                             | No<br>Positive Impact only       | No<br>Positive Impact only         | No<br>Positive Impact only                |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br/> Additional text should be included in the Introduction to Chapter 5 to outline and justify this additional policy. The suggested paragraph should introduce the following policy as follows:</p> <p>The future provision of infrastructure and services are essential to the future development of the Border region. Although this infrastructure is essential for the growth of the region, it is important that it is delivered in an efficient, and more importantly, environmentally sensitive way. The delivery of all new infrastructure should be assessed under all relevant EU Directives and the following policy will apply.</p> <p><b>Additional Policy INFP 1.</b><br/> In assessing all plans and projects, Local Authorities must comply with Article 6 of Habitats Directive and have regard to the relevant conservation objectives, qualifying interest and threats to the site integrity of a Natura 2000 site.</p> |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)   | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Roads Policy</b>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 2. Facilitate the development, at the appropriate classification, of those sections of the Strategic Radial Corridors and Strategic Links identified above as being of priority importance for the Region;  | River Foyle & River Finn<br>Lough Swilly<br>Cummeen Strand<br>Sligo Harbour<br>Lough Gill<br>Lough Oughter<br>River Boyne & River Blackwater<br>Upper Lough Erne<br>Killyconny Bog | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Any future proposed road works/improvements will be subject to requirements of policy INFP 1, ENVP 4, 5, 7 & 8, and objectives ENVO 6 & 7 and will be assessed in the local development management or plan process or with An Bord Pleanála through Strategic Infrastructure Developments. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| INFP 3. Facilitate and support the improvements identified to address particular infrastructural bottlenecks/ weaknesses within the Gateways.  | Sligo Lough Gill                             | Potential                            | No                               | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
|  | Letterkenny Swilly Estuary                   | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Sligo - Mitigation has already been provided through the development management process for developments in Sligo<br><br>Letterkenny, Bunagee Link Road – This proposed road will be assessed through appropriate environmental assessment as outlined in policy INFP 1 above which will ensure that the integrity of the Swilly Estuary is protected<br><br>Dundalk - There are no significant impacts likely on Natura 2000 sites as a result of identified works. |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 4. Protect the carrying capacity of strategic links through the restriction of new accesses and intensification of existing accesses.   | None   | None                                 | None                             | None                               | None                                      |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Sustainable Transport Policy</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 5. Support the expansion of rural transport services under the rural transport programme.   | None   | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| INFP 6. Promote the use of ILUTS for key settlements within the Region with particular emphasis on refocusing transport strategies to favour public transport modes.  | Potential                                    | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Any future proposed transportation works/improvements will be subject to requirements of policy INFP 1.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 7. Promote the integration of road, rail, bus and other sustainable modes at key locations within the Region with the development of Park and Ride facilities being a primary objective.   | None   | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Any future proposed park and ride developments will be subject to the requirements of INFP 1  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 8. Explore with other relevant public, private and community organisations, a range of innovative rural transport proposals including, rural park and ride schemes, rural carpooling and car-sharing schemes, and rural bus schemes. | None   | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Rail policy</b>   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 9. Support the provision of a rail link between the Letterkenny/Derry linked Gateway and examine the potential of a rail link from Letterkenny to Sligo.  | Potential                                    | Land take and loss of habitat   | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>The existing old railway line runs through the Inch Lough and Levels Natura 2000 site, therefore, any proposed rail links/improvements must be carefully assessed under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and specifically to policies. INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 10. Promote the re-opening of the Western Rail Corridor from Athenry to Sligo.  | Potential                                    | Various   | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Any future proposed rail links/improvements will be subject to requirements of policy INFP 1.  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 11. Identify disused transport corridors worthy of protection for future sustainable uses.  | Potential                                    | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 12. New development should not compromise the expansion of rail and waterway corridors within the region.   | None   | No  | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Cycling and Walking Policy</b>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 13. Promote and support cycling and walking within the Region, particularly within urban centres.   | Potential                                    | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Any proposed cycling/walking infrastructure will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1.    |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Ports Policy</b>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 14. Support the provision of adequate port facilities for commercial, fishing and amenity purposes within the region subject to compliance with Habitats Directive.                       | Potential                                    | Possible  | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Any port expansion, improvement or development will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)  | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| INFP 15. Support the development of the Drogheda Port Access Route.   | Co Louth and Meath<br><br>River Boyne & River Blackwater<br><br>Boyne Coast and Estuary<br><br>Boyne Estuary<br><br>River Nanny Estuary & Shore | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Any port expansion, improvement and development, including access roads will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1. |   |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Airports Policy</b>  |   |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 16. Promote and support the ongoing operation and development of all regional airports.  | Sligo<br><br>Sligo Harbour<br><br>Cummeen Strand<br><br>Donegal<br><br>Gweedore Bay & Islands   | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Any airport, expansion, improvement, development will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.             |   |   |                                  |                                    |   |



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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| INFP 17. Support the improvement of existing access routes to the regional airports  | None   | No                                   | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b></p> <p>Mitigation / Policy amendment</p> <p>Policy amendment is that there are no new routes established as a result of this policy.</p> |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Water Services Policy</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 18. Local Authorities in the Border Region will provide Water Services in the most environmentally friendly, efficient, safe, and economical way possible, in accordance with Circular PD 7/09 and any subsequent DEHLG and EPA Guidelines and relevant EU Directives.   | None   | Positive impacts only                | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b></p> <p>Recommendation for an amendment to Water Services Section of the Draft RPGs</p> <p>It is considered that there should be clarification within the draft Guidelines that in the provision of water services within local authorities, water abstraction and waste water treatment are two very different processes which must be considered separately. It is also recommended that separate policies are drafted for the provision of water and the treatment of waste water</p> <p><b>The following statements should be incorporated into the text of the Draft RPGs</b></p> <p>Supply of good quality water is essential for life on earth and this must be protected and considered within the water services section of the RPGs</p> <p>Development of towns and villages is predicated on there being necessary water supply and waste water treatment capacity</p> <p>'For the purposes of this section, the provision of water services is taken to include the provision of water supplies and the provision of urban waste water treatment facilities required to treat dirty water. These two key components of water services are inextricably linked and yet are two distinctly different processes. The supply of good quality water is essential for life on earth and must therefore be protected. Our water supply comes from surface and ground water sources which are affected by quantity and quality of waste water discharges. The future development of our towns and villages are contingent upon there being the necessary water supplies and waste water treatment capacity to accommodate their growth. In the absence of sufficient water supply and waste water treatment capacity, towns and villages cannot grow due to the potential impact on water sources. This is also reinforced through the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and associated River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) which should be read in conjunction with these Guidelines'.</p> |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

|  |   |  |           |           |           |
|--|---|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| INFP 19. The provision of water and sewerage facilities within settlements and rural areas of the region, must be considered and consistent with the settlement framework for population growth laid out in Chapter 3 of these guidelines as well as the investment priorities outlined in table 5.1.  | Potentially all sites   | Water Quality                                  | Potential | Potential | Potential |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>New additional water supplies and waste water treatment plants will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1. As outlined in the tables in appendix 2, all future growth within the key settlements of the region will be accommodated through adequate water services outlined. It will be the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that the future growth of settlements can be accommodated through existing services or planned additional services. The additional policy outlined below incorporates this issue<br><br>Any developments in water services will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |   |  |           |           |           |
| INFP 20. Proposals for new or increased water abstraction from surface and groundwater sources shall be appropriately assessed for its potential impact upon Natura 2000 sites in situ and ex situ.  | Natura 2000 sites around Key Settlements that may be affected<br>River Boyne<br>Lough Gill – Maintain water quality | Over abstraction<br>Water quality<br>Land take | Potential | Potential | Potential |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Include the above policy in Water Services section. This should also be incorporated into county and town development plans and local area plans.  |   |  |           |           |           |
| INFP 21. Proposals for new or increased waste water discharge to surface or ground water shall be appropriately assessed for its potential impact upon Natura 2000 sites in-situ and ex-situ.  | None  | Positive                                       | No        | No        | No        |

# Draft Habitats Directive Assessment for RPGs

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| INFP 22. For all other settlements (in addition to the seven key settlements) and all rural and commercial development, Local authorities must comply with the provisions of the Habitats Directive.  | None   | Positive                             | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>The above assessment is based on the information provided in Appendices 3 and 4 relating to the key settlements within the region.<br><br><b>Additional Policy for RPGs – INFP 22</b><br>For all other settlements (in addition to the seven key settlements) and all rural and commercial development, Local authorities must comply with the provisions of the Habitats Directive in determining whether appropriate assessment of the potential impact of water and waste water provision on Natura 2000 sites is required.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Water Services Objectives</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 1. Local Authorities must aim to reduce UFW to 25% within the life time of the Guidelines.<br>INFO 2. Water conservation must be a priority through rehabilitation and reinforcement of existing water networks.<br>INFO 3. Surface water should be separated from waste water. Local authorities should promote SUDS, where possible.<br>INFO 4. Local authorities should promote rain water harvesting and other water conservation measures.<br>INFO 5. All drinking water supply sources should be protected and managed appropriately through the development plan process.<br>INFO 6. All waters receiving discharges should be protected and managed in accordance with the River Basin Management Plans and Programme of Measures. | Potentially all sites                        | Positive                             | No                               | No                                 | No  |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Energy Infrastructure Policy</b>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <p>INFP 23. Development plans should facilitate the provision of energy networks in principle, provided that it can be demonstrated that –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure</li> <li>the route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, cultural and environmental impacts to include Habitats Directive Assessment where required</li> <li>the design is such that it will achieve least environmental impact consistent with not incurring excessive cost</li> <li>where impacts are inevitable mitigation features have been included</li> <li>where it can be shown the proposed development is consistent with international best practice with regard to materials and technologies, that will ensure a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient and high quality network</li> </ul> | Potential on all sites                       | <p>Land take</p> <p>Impact on flight lines</p> <p>Disturbance</p> <p>Water levels</p> <p>Construction phase</p> <p>Fragmentation of habitat</p> <p>Drainage</p> | Possible                         | Possible                           | Possible                                  |
| <p><b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b></p> <p>Any proposed energy infrastructure will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1, ENVP 4 &amp; 5.</p>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective         | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Renewable Energy Policy</b>  |  |  |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 24. Promote and support an optimal mix of renewable energy generation within the region.   | Potentially some sites                       | Potential                                    | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Any proposed renewable energy infrastructure will be subject to requirements of policies INFP 1, ENVP 4 & 5.                                    |  |  |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 25. The BRA will prepare an Energy Strategy during the life of these Guidelines. Local authorities shall comply with the proposed integrated regional energy strategy on energy conservation and renewable energy generation.        | Potentially some sites                       | Potential                                    | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>The Energy Strategy will be subject to the requirements of policies INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.  |  |  |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 26. Local authorities should support and promote a move away from fossil-fuel energy production through investment in renewable energy and the creation of more 'green collar jobs'.   | Potentially some sites                       | Will encourage renewable energy developments | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>The provision of infrastructure for all new renewable energy sources will be the subject to the requirements of policies INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |  |  |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Renewable Energy Objectives   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 7. Provide landscape sensitivity analysis, in support of the regional strategy on renewable energy generation, to further refine locations suitable for development.   | Potentially all sites                        | Positive                             | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| INFO 8. Develop a balanced portfolio of renewable technologies.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 9. Establish measures, targets and timeframes to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency in line with national targets.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 10. Support and facilitate greater penetration of renewable technologies at residential, commercial and power generation levels, providing such initiatives are compliant with planning and environment criteria and international directives. |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 11. Local Authorities will ensure that strategic goals for reducing energy demand and energy related emissions will contribute in a major way to achieving regional and national climate change targets.                                       |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Any infrastructure proposed through the above objectives will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective      | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Telecommunications Policy</b>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 27. Development Plans and Local Area Plans should facilitate open access to high speed and high capacity broadband digital networks that will enable the development of a smart economy within the region. | Potentially all sites                        | Access roads<br>Construction<br>Land take | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>Any proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1.                  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |



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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective      | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Telecommunications Objectives  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 12. Support and promote the repair and upgrading of the existing telephone network including the provision of improved broadband enabled individual line services to all subscribers;                         | Potentially all sites                        | Access roads<br>Construction<br>Land take | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| INFO 13. Support and promote the provision of open access vendor neutral ducting in all new developments.  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 14. Support and promote the network enabling of all new build residential properties and the provision of open access co-located communication service connection and access facilities.                      |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 15. Support the provision and inclusion of publically owned open access ducting in all public infrastructural projects.   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 16. Support and promote the carrying out of integrated regionally planned telecommunication access provision to identify the existing deficiencies and inadequacies to address the servicing of future needs. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 17. Support and promote the extension of the availability of access to the MANS to small business and residential users through the provision improved access and lower connection and use costs.             |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFO 18. Support and facilitate the development of the National Broadband Scheme   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| Any proposed telecommunications infrastructure will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1.   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)   | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Waste Management Policy</b>  |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 28. Facilitate the provision of waste management facilities identified as necessary by regional waste management plans through the planning system subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.                                  | Potential impact on sites adjoining and down stream of the location of such facilities | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>All proposed waste management facilities shall comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and specifically to policies INFP 1 and ENVP 4. |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| INFP 29. Local Authorities within the region should explore and develop waste management practices on an inter regional and on a cross border basis.  | Potential impact on sites adjoining and down stream of the location of such facilities | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br><br>All proposed waste management facilities shall comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and policy INFP 1.                              |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

## Chapter 6: Environment

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Climate Change Policy   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 1. Support the implementation of the National Climate Strategy 2007-2012.  | See below                                    | See below                            | See below                        | See below                          | See below                                 |
| ENVP 2. Manage population growth through the proper planning and sustainable development of the region.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 3. Reduce demands on non – renewable resources and promote the use of sustainable resources.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| The development of renewable resources must not impact on the Natura 2000 network. Any proposed renewable energy infrastructure will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. The outcome of the Energy Strategy (policy INFP 25) will mitigate against the effects of climate change and is considered a positive action.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Climate Change Objective  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 1. Expand the use of geological and soil mapping to inform planning decisions relating to settlement, flooding, food production value and carbon sequestration, to identify prime agricultural lands (for food production), degraded/contaminated lands (which may have implications for water quality, health, fauna), and those which are essential for habitat protection, or have geological significance. | None   | None                                 | Positive                         | Positive                           | Positive                                  |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)                          | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Natural Heritage Policy  |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 4. All development plans and projects within the Border Region which would be likely (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) to give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity on any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, shall not be permitted on the basis of these guidelines unless imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be established and there are no feasible alternative solutions. | Sites that may be affected cannot be identified at this spatial scale | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| ENVP 5. All development plans and projects within the Border Region shall conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance, and sites proposed for designation, in particular, European sites (including Natura 2000 sites), and Ramsar sites, NHAs and statutory reserves.  |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 6. Local authorities shall implement the National Biodiversity Plan, through the adoption and implementation of local biodiversity action plans as part of integrated local heritage plans, as the conservation of biodiversity is an essential component of sustainable development.   |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment  |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Policies have been added as the mitigation and protection for the Natura 2000 network.   |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Natural Heritage Objectives   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 2. Continued development and renewal of Local Authority Heritage Plans in each Council area working with all key stakeholders to identify and deliver a range of actions and programmes to support heritage in the Council area. | All sites                                    | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| ENVO 3. Development and delivery of Bio-Diversity Action Plans in each Council area.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 4. Expansion of the programme to protect important individual or groups of trees through greater use of tree preservation orders through the undertaking of an inventory of the Council area where funding allows.               |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 5. Through development plans identify and protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within each council area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.                         |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Landscape Policy  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 7. Protect and manage the landscape of the region  | All sites                                    | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| ENVP 8. Local Authorities shall collaborate with adjoining Planning Authorities so that all development plan policies are consistent in the protection and management of the landscape  | All sites                                    | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| Landscape Objectives  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 6. Adopt policies and measures in County Development Plans to protect, manage and plan landscapes through the provision of Landscape Classification and Character Assessments in accordance with adopted European (and contemporary National) Landscape Guidance Documents such as 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention, February 2008' | All sites                                    | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| ENVO 7. Inclusion of policies in Development Plans to protect important views and prospects and special amenity areas to facilitate passive enjoyment of the heritage of the landscape.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Water Policy   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 9. To ensure alignment between the core objectives of the Water Framework Directive, (including River Basin Management Plans and POMS and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Management Plans pertaining to the Border Region) and other related plans such as County Development Plans and related Local Area Plans; Habitat and Species Protection Plans under the Habitats Directive, Water Services Investment Programme, Nitrates Action Programme; and Flood Management Plans. | All sites                                    | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| ENVP 10. Local Authorities shall prioritise, and aim to comply with the recommendations set out in the EPA Report 2009, Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 11. Local Authorities shall prioritise, and aim to comply with, the recommendations set out in the EPA Report 2009, The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Water Objectives  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 8. Local authorities must incorporate the issues from the River Basin Management Plans and all action measures set out in Shellfish Water Protection Measures within their jurisdiction into the plan making process so that the implications of development on water quality is a key driver in identification of suitable locations for new development. | All Sites                                    | Positive                             | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| ENVO 9. Development Management objectives and guidance places strong emphasis on the need for Sustainable Drainage Systems and water management to reduce both flood risk, overflows and the washing of pollutants from surface areas into receiving waters.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 10. Areas of good and poor ecological status in the River Basin Management Plans should be identified in all Development Plans and specific policies developed to protect their status, including restrictions on types of development which impact on water quality.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 11. Include ground water protection measures in Development and Local Area Plans in accordance with consultation with the DEHLG, EPA, GSI and any other relevant licensing bodies.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 12. Plans and projects that have the potential to negatively impact on Natura 2000 sites will be subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and in accordance with best practice and guidance.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| N/A   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |



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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Built Heritage Policy</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 12. To ensure that all aspects of the built heritage including archaeological, industrial, and architectural heritage, are suitably protected, enhanced, sensitively reused/ integrated into new development works and incorporated in development plans, records of protected structures, heritage plans and site specific projects and developments. | None   | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Built Heritage Objectives</b>   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 13. Protect all national and recorded monuments identified on the national record and also all other archaeological sites that emerge through investigative or construction works through the development plan and management process and in cooperation with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; | None   | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| ENVO 14. Adopt development plan policies and objectives to manage, protect, enhance, and/or sensitively integrate, where appropriate, all areas of heritage, as defined within the Heritage Act;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 15. Carry out thematic built heritage audits, in order to inform policy and decision making in the planning process and where appropriate, inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 16. Continue to protect through development plan policy and development management decisions, Architectural Conservation Areas, protected structures and vernacular buildings;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 17. Promote, where appropriate, settlement identity through traditional plot sizes, street patterns, street furniture and building scales in the development of towns, villages and clusters;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 18. Continue to provide Local Authority grant assistance in relation to specific conservation projects, where practical;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 19. Where appropriate, promote sensitive retrofitting of the established building stock;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 20. Improve the appearance and character of areas with particular townscape character by actively protecting their distinctive identities;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| ENVO 21. Seek protection, enhancement and sensitive integration/re-use, as may be appropriate of heritage transport corridors, including rail, road and water corridors, to ensure their long term future and their role in relation to access provision, tourism development, biodiversity space and development buffers; | Various                                      | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Any future proposed rail, road or water links/improvements will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 22. Undertake research to identify key historic landscapes within Council areas which merit protection and support through policies and objectives in Development Plans.  | None   | None                                 | No                               | No                                 | No  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Amenities and Recreation Policy</b>   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 13. To protect and enhance the natural environment and to recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value and benefits of green spaces in county, town and local Area Plans.   | None   | None                                 | Positive                         | Positive                           | Positive                                  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Amenities and Recreation Objectives  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 23. Support the co-ordination of development and design guidelines and development control standards within the Region (Cross-border co-operation will also be required on this issue).   | None   | None                                 | Positive                         | Positive                           | Positive                                  |
| ENVO 24. Ensure that the future provision of residential developments, or mixed use schemes with a residential element, should be consistent with the DEHLG Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas. |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 25. Support the retrofit of recreation, amenities and facilities in our towns, villages and rural areas.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 26. Encourage the promotion of natural wildlife spaces/corridors within existing urban areas.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| EVNO27 Support and promote an inter-regional and collaborative approach to the development of access to the countryside;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO28 Development Plans and Local Area Plans should support and protect the rights of landowners and rights of way throughout the region  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>N/A   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)           | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective  | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Coastal Policy</b>   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVP 14. Promote and support the development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management with all coastal local authorities in the Border region so that future Development Plans may be guided in relation to the management of coastal areas. | All coastal Natura 2000 sites both in-situ and ex situ | Positive  | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| <b>Coastal Objectives</b>   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |
| ENVO 29. Incorporate coastal zone management into relevant county, town and local area plans.   | All coastal Natura 2000 sites both in-situ and ex situ | Positive  | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| ENVO 30. Development plans should respect and accommodate the changing physical nature of the coastline including the risks of erosion and land instability, changes to the intertidal zone, the risk from flooding                       | Various  | Various<br>Refer to threats to site integrity identified in Section 4, tables 4.1 – 4.21. | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| ENVO 31. Ensure the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and seascape, biodiversity, historic and archaeological features and restrict the development of the undeveloped sections of the coastal zone.                          | All coastal Natura 2000 sites both in-situ and ex situ | Positive  | Positive only                    | Positive only                      | Positive only                             |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>N/A   |  |   |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| ENVP 15. Planning Authorities shall consult and seek to collaborate with the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency and the Loughs Agency so that development plans adopt a joint approach towards the management of the environment and the provision of infrastructure, community services and facilities. | None   | None                                 | Positive                         | Positive                           | Positive                                  |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Policy refers to collaboration and does not specifically do anything else   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

## Chapter 7: Social Infrastructure &amp; Community Development

| RPG Policy/Objective   |  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)                              | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Social Infrastructure and Community Development Policy   |  |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIP 1  | All areas of Social Infrastructure and Community Development shall be incorporated and integrated into all Development Plans and Development Management of planning authorities throughout the region. | Some sites may be affected but cannot be identified at this spatial scale | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| SIP 2.   | Development plans shall facilitate the provision of social infrastructure and community development through the zoning of sufficient and appropriate lands in accordance with DEHLG Guidelines.        |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment<br>The above policies will support the development of Social Infrastructure but does not directly propose development. It is not possible at this spatial scale to determine exactly how Natura 2000 sites may be affected. All zoning and development proposals will be subject to policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5 |  |   |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  |   | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)   | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Social Infrastructure and Community Development Objectives</b> |   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 1.  | Identify deficiencies in social infrastructure and plan for the future development of all services in an equitable and fair way through County Development Plans and related strategies of the local authority; | Potential<br>Some sites may be affected but cannot be identified at this spatial scale | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| SIO 2.  | Where appropriate, consider the future provision of social infrastructure on a cross border basis;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 3.  | Within appropriate settlements, provide adequate zoned lands to accommodate the future provision and development of social infrastructure;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 4.  | Identify appropriate sites within settlements for the provision of future social infrastructure;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 5.  | Ensure that all social infrastructure and community services are adequately accommodated within new residential schemes and are consistent with DEHLG Guidelines;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 6.  | Ensure that the necessary infrastructure is available, or is currently being planned for to accommodate local services within the community;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 7.  | Support and accommodate the development of existing services in line with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area;  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 8.  | Access to all and social inclusion must be at the core of all local authority planning and decision making;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| SIO 9.  | Facilitate the development of ICT services through the local authority planning system, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area;   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |



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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| SIO 10 Promote the social, physical and economic development of Gaeltacht areas                           | Various                                      | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment.</b><br>See comments above |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

## Chapter 8: Regional Flood Risk Appeal

| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impact' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Flood Risk Policy</b>  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |  |
| FRP 1. Development Plans and Local Area Plans should be consistent with The Planning System and Flood risk Management Guidelines – Guidelines for Planning Authorities and adopt a strategic, integrated, sustainable and proactive approach, to catchment management to reduce flood risk within the Region, managing the risk from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tidal effects around estuaries and along the coast including the implications of the predictions for sea level rise;</li> <li>• fluvial flooding along river corridors and other significant watercourses resulting from catchments within and beyond the Region and other sources of flooding; and</li> <li>• pluvial flooding resulting from surface water runoff and capacity constraints in surface water drainage systems.</li> </ul> | Potentially all sites                        | Potential                            | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Flood risk management should avoid negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites and should comply with the following policies: INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |  |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| FRP 2. Where new or upgraded flood/coastal defences are shown to be essential to protect existing development, all such proposals shall be subject to the Floods and Habitats Directive and all other statutory requirements.   | Potentially all sites                        | Potentially Positive                 | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| FRP 3. New development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding. However, it is recognised and acknowledged that the key urban settlements are at risk from coastal and fluvial flooding, but their continued growth and expansion can be facilitated through the careful expansion of the urban core and the implementation of appropriate land uses in areas at risk. | Potentially all sites                        | Potentially all sites                | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

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| RPG Policy/Objective  | Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code) | Potential Impact of Policy/Objective | Risk of Significant Impact (y/n) | Potential of 'combination impacts' | Risk of Significant 'combination impacts' |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| FRP 4. County Development Plans and Local Area Plans shall include a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Existing and proposed zoning of lands for development in areas at risk of flooding (flood plains <sup>7</sup> ) should follow the sequential approach and justification test set out in the Departmental Guidance on Flood Risk Management. | Potentially all sites                        | Potentially all sites                | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| FRP 5. SUDS based drainage plans should be prepared in conjunction with Local Area Plans to optimise flood/runoff management potential of the areas.  | Potentially all sites                        | Potentially all sites                | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1.  |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |
| FRP 6. Through flood plain protection and SUDs, Local Authorities should incorporate improvements in biodiversity and amenity for existing and future developments.   | Potentially all sites                        | Potentially all sites                | Potential                        | Potential                          | Potential                                 |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5.   |  |                                      |                                  |                                    |   |

7

Flood plain is defined as follows

Rivers – the extent of a flood event with a 1% annual probability of exceeding the peak floodwater level.

The Coast – the extent of a flood event with a 0.5% annual probability of exceeding the peak floodwater level

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|   |   |                       |                       |           |           |           |
|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| FRP 7.  | Direct strategically significant development to low risk areas.   | Potentially all sites | Potentially all sites | Potential | Potential | Potential |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |   |                       |                       |           |           |           |
| FRP 8.  | An evidence based approach should be adopted to the application of sequential approach and justification test in the zoning of flood susceptible lands for development. This should be transparent and use objective criteria appropriate to proposed zoning. | Potentially all sites | Potentially all sites | Potential | Potential | Potential |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |   |                       |                       |           |           |           |
| FRP 9.  | Founded on the precautionary approach to dealing with flood risk, measures such as flood compensation storage works or new hard-engineered flood defences alone will not be acceptable as justification for development in a flood plain.                     | Potentially all sites | Potentially all sites | Potential | Potential | Potential |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |   |                       |                       |           |           |           |
| FRP 10.   | Recognising the concept of coastal evolution and fluvial flooding as part of our dynamic physical environment, an adaptive approach to working with these natural processes shall be adopted.   | Potentially all sites | Potentially all sites | Potential | Potential | Potential |
| <b>Specific Action Required: Avoidance/Mitigation/Policy Deletion OR Amendment</b><br>Delivery of any flood/coastal defences will be subject to the requirements of policy INFP 1 and ENVP 4 & 5. |   |                       |                       |           |           |           |

## Appendix 1

4<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Our Ref: G2009/535

Mr. Padraig Maguire,  
Project Manager,  
Regional Planning Guidelines  
Corlurgan Business Park,  
Ballinagh Road,  
Cavan,  
Co. Cavan.

**Re: AA Screening Report Border RPG**

Dear Mr. Maguire,

Please find below the nature conservation recommendations of the Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

### **Comments Divisional Ecologist Eastern Division**

We note that the report submitted is titled stage 1 appropriate report screening. However it is incomplete as it consists simply of a table of all the sites listing their qualifying interests, conservation objectives and a list of potential threats to site integrity. While this information is necessary for a screening it does not constitute a screening. However, we note on page 10 of the document that in fact it is stated that this document is incomplete.

Each policy and objective of the draft plan must now be screened for each Natura 2000 site to determine if significant impacts are likely to occur as a result of the policy or objective including in combination impacts with other plans or projects. In line with Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 entitled "Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans" we recommend that the Commission guidance document entitled "Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" is followed. By following the templates provided in this guidance for reporting it ensures that all the relevant effects are examined.

With regard to the document submitted our recommendations are as below. While these recommendations apply to those sites in the eastern Division of NPWS they may be relevant to other sites also.

It is recommended that the introduction of species, including alien invasive species, be added as a threat to each site.

It is recommended that for all sites the threat of illegal dumping is added.

It is recommended that for the estuarine SACs that burning is added as a threat, this applies primarily to dunes but also to salt marsh as there have been Halloween bonfires on the salt marsh in the River Boyne estuary.

It is recommended that the threat listed as "Shellfisheries (including collection of spawn)" be expanded to include winkle picking, cockle and mussel collecting and bait digging. These activities should be added to both SAC and SPA as such activities not only disturb birds but also disturb the sediments and the invertebrate populations living in them.

It is recommended that the comprehensive list of threats for the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC on pages 41-42 should also be used on pages 52 and 57-58 where for some reason a much shorter list of threats has been given.

With regard to appropriate assessment some of the main issues that relate to appropriate assessment of Plans are as listed below for your information. These have been found useful in assessing County Development and Local Area Plans but some of the issues may also be useful when assessing the Regional Plan.

1. *Where is the potable water coming from, and is it from surface or ground water? Will the abstractions impact on any Natura 2000 sites on their own or in combination with abstractions for other Plan areas? So there is a need to look at what other population areas are abstracting from the same source/s*
2. *Where is the wastewater going to? What is the quality of the receiving environment? Does it comply with WFD and River Basin management Plan? Are there other discharges upstream or downstream that need to be considered for cumulative impacts? Are there species listed on annex II of the Habitats Directive present such as Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Salmon or Lamprey species? With regard to the SEOs for Water in the SEA it is important that the needs of the Freshwater Pearl Mussels, which are listed on annex II of the Habitats Directive, are considered in relation to water quality. Copies of the Draft Management Plans and Programmes of Measures for this species can be downloaded from [http://www.wfdireland.ie/docs/5\\_FreshwaterPearlMusselPlans/](http://www.wfdireland.ie/docs/5_FreshwaterPearlMusselPlans/) or through [www.envron.ie](http://www.envron.ie).*
3. *Is there an indicative map for wind energy? Will this have the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites. For SPAs flight paths of birds would need to be considered.*
4. *Are there any routes proposed in the plan such as roads, rails, gas pipelines, sewer or mains water pipelines, ESB cables, telecommunications cables etc. that could impact on Natura 2000 sites.*
5. *If the Plan allows for extra population where are the nearest amenity sites that people will visit and are any of them Natura 2000 sites such as rivers or beaches? Will the extra population impact on them? Are there other Plans that will also result in extra people pressure on such sites when taken in combination? Are there any amenity walkway policies or objectives in the Plan that could impact on Natura 2000 sites such as mountain, river or coastal walkways? River walkways also have the potential to impact on otters and bats which are strictly protected under the Habitats Directive and this would be an issue for the SEA.*
6. *Does the Plan refer to any National or County Strategies or similar which could impact on a Natura 2000 site such as a forest strategy or a tourist strategy?*
7. *Are the zonings proposed compatible with the protection of the Natura 2000 sites? In particular what is permitted in principle under such zonings and would such a zoning make developments permitted in principle more difficult to refuse?*

I have reviewed the Stage 1 Screening Report for the Habitats Directive Article 6 Assessment of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Regional Authority.

#### **Comments: Divisional Ecologist Northern Division**

It is noted that the screening report is not yet complete, but it is the opinion of the Department that the approach outlined on Page 10 is the correct method to complete the report. Please note that the report is only presently at point four i.e. Threats to site integrity.

The list of Natura 2000 sites with their qualifying/conservation interests for the Border Regional Authority Area (Counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan, Monaghan & Louth) is complete and correct. As discussed at the meeting between representatives of the Border Regional Authority and staff from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Ely Place on the 23rd October 2009, the list of conservation objectives for Special Areas of Conservation can be reduced to:

- To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at a favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the Annex II habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at a favourable conservation status.

It is only these conservation objectives that potential impacts should be assessed against. Please note that the other conservation objectives (namely: To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site; To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities) are derived from the Conservation Management Plans for the Special Areas of Conservation. These are essential conservation/management objectives regarding the management of the sites. They should be listed within the report, but are not subject to assessment.

The 'Potential threats to site integrity listed' is detailed. However, a number of inclusions/additions are recommended:

- Introduction of alien invasive species should be added as a potential threat to all sites;
- Increase pollution/decrease in water quality should be added as a potential threat to for all freshwater and marine sites including rivers, lakes (oligotrophic waters, hard oligo-mesotrophic waters, natural eutrophic lakes, dystrophic lakes), etc.;
- Illegal dumping should be added as a potential threat to all sites;
- Felling/removal of trees should be added as a potential threat to all SACs with woodland or scrub as an aspect of the qualifying interest;
- Siltation, water pollution and pearl fishing (illegal) should be added as a potential threat to all sites designated for Freshwater Pearl Mussel;
- Crayfish fishing should be added as a potential threat to all sites designated for White-clawed Crayfish;
- Persecution (poisoning) should be added as a potential threat to all SPAs designated for birds of prey i.e. Golden Eagle, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon and Hen Harrier;
- Disturbance from recreational/amenity use should be added as a potential threat to all SPAs;
- Quarrying/removal of sand should be added as a potential threat to all coastal SACs;
- Inappropriate land management should be added as a potential threat to all terrestrial SPAs;
- Aquaculture should be added as a potential threat to all marine sites, both SAC and SPA.

Additions/inclusions are recommended for the following sites:

- Bricklieve Mountains & Keshcorran SAC 001656. Add peat extraction, forestry and burning. A large portion of the SAC is bog/heathland, even though the associated habitat types are not listed in the qualifying interests. Damage to these areas could significantly affect site integrity;
- Flughany Bog SAC 000497. No potential threats are listed. Threats should include all those related to bog habitat;
- Ox Mountain Bogs. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution (Lough Talt – oligotrophic lake);
- River Moy SAC 002298. Please note that the River Moy is also listed for raised bog and oak woodland. The relevant threats associated with these habitat types should be added;
- Gannavegil Bog SAC 000142. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution. This site contains a number of small oligotrophic lakes;
- Lough Eske & Ardamona Wood SAC 000163. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution (Lough Eske – oligotrophic lake) and potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel;
- Lough Nillan Bog SAC 000165. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution. Lough Nillan Bog SAC contains a number of small oligotrophic lakes;
- Seesiagh Lough SAC 000185. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution (Seesiagh Lough – oligotrophic lake);

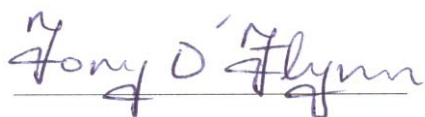


- West of Ardara/Mass Road. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution (Owenea catchment) and potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel;
- Cloghernagore Bog & Glenveagh National Park SAC 002047. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution (oligotrophic lakes) and potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel;
- Leannan River SAC 002176. Add decrease in water quality/increased pollution and potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

As outlined in the meeting of the 23rd October 2009 when discussing port development, policies and objective within the Regional Planning Guidelines should not create a false expectation that certain projects can proceed once the hurdle of appropriate assessment has been overcome. The integrity of the Natura 2000 sites is paramount and this should be clearly stated through the guidelines. If the appropriate assessment screening report is to conclude that there will not be significant impacts to the Natura 2000 sites and a full appropriate assessment is not required, then one would have to expect that the provisions in Article 6(4) would not be triggered during the lifetime of the guidelines.

The appropriate assessment screening report must examine the potential in combination impacts with other plans and projects that may adversely impact on Natura 2000 sites. Please see Departmental Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 - Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans. Please note that the Circular outlines that 'The impacts assessed must include the indirect and cumulative impacts of approving the plan, considered with any current or proposed activities, developments or policies impacting on the site. The potential impacts of policies outside Natura 2000 sites but potentially impacting upon them (known as 'ex situ' impacts) must also be included in the assessment'.

Is mise le meas,



Tony O'Flynn  
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## Appendix 2

Circular PD 7/09

16th July 2009

### Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI No. 684 of 2007

A Chara,

This circular sets out certain obligations on planning authorities under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (SI 684 of 2007) as well as the interrelationship between these requirements and investment plans under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme. This circular is advisory, and not a legal interpretation of the Regulations.

#### Background

The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 were introduced to, among other things, provide for an authorisation/licensing regime for local authority waste water discharges. The Regulations were part of a range of measures implemented in response to an adverse judgment of the European Court of Justice, in Case C-282/02, concerning Ireland's transposition and implementation of the Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC (June 2005).

Local authorities and An Bord Pleanála will be aware that Part VIII of the 2007 Regulations establishes clear linkage between decisions that they make as planning authorities on individual planning applications/appeals, and parallel obligations on local authorities, as water services authorities, to comply with emission limits for the discharge of wastewaters to water bodies arising from the stricter of either or both the Urban Waste Water Regulations (S.I. No. 254 of 2001) and emission limits based on achieving the environmental quality standards for the receiving waters, defined as the "Combined Approach<sup>1</sup>" under article 3 of the 2007 Regulations. The EPA is required under the Waste Water Regulations to apply the combined approach when issuing licences, ensuring that the licence issued and discharge limits set therein comply in full with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

1 "combined approach", in relation to a waste water works, means the control of discharges and emissions to waters whereby the emission limits for the discharge are established on the basis of the stricter of either or both, the limits and controls required under the Urban Waste Water Regulations, and the limits determined under statute or Directive for the purpose of achieving the environmental objectives established for surface waters, groundwater or protected areas for the water body into which the discharge is made.

The effect of the 2007 Regulations is such that planning authorities must assure themselves that in approving development that would give rise to additional discharges to a waste water works or from storm water overflows governed by EPA licences, such discharges, taken in conjunction with discharges from other existing and/or already approved development, are capable of being treated in a manner that is compliant with the stricter of the requirements of:

1. The Urban Waste Water Regulations; or
2. The requirements of an EPA licence (which should already incorporate the requirements at (1) above) and which may incorporate more demanding requirements than (1) above depending on the assimilative capacity and the environmental quality objectives that have been established for the receiving waters in question.

At the same time, a programme of investment in water services infrastructure across the country is being implemented under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme to ensure that infrastructure is in place to both facilitate proper planning and sustainable development and to protect the environment, especially water quality, in compliance with national and EU requirements.

## Obligations on Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála

Article 43 of the 2007 Regulations requires that where a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is considering an application for permission, an appeal or an application for approval under Section 34, 37, 37E, 175 or 226 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 for development which involves the disposal of waste water to a waste water works or is considering such a development under Section 179 of the 2000 Act, the authority or the Board must consider whether the discharges of wastewater from the proposed development, taken in conjunction with existing and/or already approved discharges, would cause non-compliance with the Combined Approach referred to above.

Therefore, an assessment of the adequacy of wastewater collection and disposal facilities to cater for the development proposed is now an essential requirement and a material consideration in the evaluation by planning authorities and the Board of applications for permission, in determining appeals or applications for approval of the types mentioned above and documentary evidence of, or reference to such an assessment must be attached to the relevant file.

Article 43 of the 2007 Regulations also requires that where a planning authority or the Board forms an opinion that the discharge from a proposed development would result in non-compliance with, or a significant breach of the combined approach, the planning authority or the Board shall, as the case may be:

- a) refuse permission or approval for the development;
- b) impose conditions on any grant of permission or approval to ensure that the discharge will not cause non-compliance with, or a significant breach of, relevant limits; or
- c) decide not to proceed with the development (as in the case of local authority own development).

Article 44 of the 2007 Regulations provides that where a planning authority, including An Bord Pleanála, considers a proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on waste water discharges, it may request the EPA to provide observations in relation to the planning authority's assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on discharges. The EPA must comply with any such request and, in making its decision, the planning authority or the Board shall have regard to the Agency's observations.

## Considerations in dealing with planning applications

The EPA has indicated that in the ongoing programme of licensing of discharges from each municipal wastewater treatment plant, one or other of the following scenarios will arise -

1. there will be plants where discharges will be compliant with the terms of their waste water discharge licence on the grant of the licence; and
2. there will be plants where discharges will not be immediately compliant with the terms of waste water discharge licences and where the licence includes a specified improvement programme and timeframe for the necessary remedial measures or works to be executed.

When considering proposed developments in locations where scenario 1 applies, planning authorities should monitor the cumulative effect of grants of permissions and approvals on available wastewater treatment capacity under the terms of the work's licence. In cases subject to applications or appeals to An Bord Pleanála, the cumulative assessment referred to above must form part of the documentation submitted to the Board. It is then a matter for the planning authority or the Board to decide on particular applications in the normal manner, having regard to the effects of the extra loadings of the proposed development on available wastewater facilities, and any EPA observations.

In relation to proposed developments in locations where scenario 2 applies, planning authorities and the Board should assess the impact of any proposed development very carefully and should either:

- a) avoid approving development that would create significant additional loadings on existing wastewater treatment works or storm water overflows that are already evidently struggling to meet the current terms of the waste water discharge licence and where upgraded facilities will take considerable time to put in place; or
- b) consider granting permission where suitably upgraded facilities will be procured, within a reasonable timescale that would allow the development proposed to proceed, in accordance with the specified improvement programme timeframe for compliance with the emission limit values in the relevant EPA discharge licence and ensuring that the requirements of the “combined approach” will be met.

In addition, planning authorities should only consider granting permission under paragraph (b) above where the development proposed is otherwise in accordance with the implementation of -

- the National Spatial Strategy;
- any Regional Planning Guidelines in force;
- the provisions of the relevant development plan and any local area plan; and will contribute towards the longer term proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

#### **Interaction between planning authorities and water services authorities**

It is crucially important, in situations where waste water treatment works receive discharges from more than one water services authority area, that regular and effective co-ordination takes place between planning authorities regarding (a) tracking the cumulative impact of ongoing grants of planning permission on remaining waste water treatment capacity and storm water overflow discharges, and (b) compliance with the combined approach referred to above and the terms of relevant EPA waste water discharge licences.

The EPA normally require, as a standard condition on waste water discharge licences, that water services authorities submit an Annual Environmental Report (AER) in respect of each discharge licence, detailing any increase in discharges and further planning consents that have accrued since the previous AER was submitted, taking account of the overall requirement to comply with the licence conditions.

Taking account of the above, the planning authorities that share the use of one or more wastewater treatment facilities must nominate one central co-ordinating planning authority to monitor the cumulative impact of the granting of planning permissions for future development on the remaining wastewater treatment capacity, and co-operate with that authority in submitting information on relevant planning decisions. Use of Geographical Information Systems and real time relay of information would be desirable in this type of co-ordination.

#### **Investment in Water Services Infrastructure**

Mindful of the implications of the 2007 Regulations in facilitating proper planning and sustainable development, the Department is focused on working pro-actively with water services authorities and investing in enhanced water services infrastructure in areas of greatest need from an environmental protection and economic development perspective.

The Department will engage with water services authorities in the near future in determining strategic water services investment requirements, taking account of the availability of public funding, and will be endeavouring to ensure that the appropriate infrastructural investment responses are in place in areas of greatest need to both meet the requirements of the 2007 Regulations and facilitate overall national and regional development priorities. If you have any queries in relation to this circular please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

**Barry Quinlan**

Barry Quinlan

Planning System

Direct Dial - (01) 8882829

## Appendix 3 - Waste Water Capacity and Demand Information for Strategically Important Settlements-2010-2022 (November 2009 figures)

| Settlement         | Position in RPG Settlement Hierarchy | Estimated Max. Capacity <sup>2</sup> [PE] <sup>3</sup> | Current Loading [PE] <sup>4</sup> | Current Spare Capacity or Shortfall [PE] <sup>5</sup> | Waste Water Infrastructure Priorities <sup>6</sup>   | Predicted Loading in 2022 [PE] <sup>7</sup> | Predicted Future Spare Capacity ** Or Shortfall [PE] | Q Value of Receiving Water <sup>8</sup> | Risk Assessment <sup>9</sup> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|------------------------------|
| Letterkenny        | Gateway                              | 6,000<br>40,000 under construct.                       | 22,000                            | 16,000  | Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme DBO<br>Letterkenny Sewerage Scheme Network Rehabilitation  | 30,000                                      | 10,000   | Estuarine unpolluted                    | at risk (A,D)                |
| Sligo              | Gateway                              | 50,000   | 27,000                            | 23,000  | Sligo Sewerage Scheme-Network improvements<br>Carraroe Sewerage Scheme<br>Cummeen Sewerage scheme<br>Hazelwood/Ballinode sewerage scheme   | 33,480                                      | 13,600 (Rosses Point inc.)                           | Coastal Intermediate                    | At risk (A,D,                |
| Dundalk            | Gateway                              | 179000   | 90,000                            | 89,000  | Coe's Road Pump Station Upgrade<br>Dundalk Drainage Network Study<br>Blackrock Sewerage Scheme - Dundalk Connector<br>Phosphorous/Nitrate Treatment Dundalk WWTP<br>Northern Sector Drainage Stage 2<br>South and West Sector Drainage Stage 1<br>Blackrock Network Rehabilitation | 110,700                                     | 68,300   | Estuarine Eutrophic                     | At Risk(1a)                  |
| Cavan              | Hub                                  | 22,000   | 17,171                            | 4,829   | Cavan Sewerage Scheme  | 21,978                                      | 0  | 2-3                                     | A,D                          |
| Monaghan           | Hub                                  | 43,000   | 30,000                            | 13,000  | Monaghan Town Collection Network – Advance Works Contract 2  | 37,000                                      | 6,000  | 3                                       | At Risk (1a)                 |
| Drogheda*          | Primary Dev. Centre                  | 101,000  | 70,000                            | 31,000  | Drogheda sewerage Network Improvement Scheme – Stages 1 & 2<br>Drogheda WWTP- Proposed Expansion to 125,000 PE<br>Phosphorous/Nitrate Treatment Drogheda WWTP  | 86,800                                      | 14,200   | Estuarine Intermediate                  | At Risk(1a)                  |
| Carrick on Shannon | Strategically Important Centre       | 3,000<br>11,500 Under Construct.                       | 5,435                             | 2,435   | Carrick on Shannon Sewerage improvement Scheme.<br>Currently under construction programmed for completion July 2011  | 7,609                                       | 3,900  | 4                                       | risk status 1A (D)           |

\* Drogheda (Louth and Meath combined) are served by one treatment plant therefore combined population is considered.

\*\* Network expansion will impact on this figure.

2 Maximum capacity that the WWTP for each designated settlement can operate at while satisfactorily treating the water to the required legislative standards

3 Population Equivalent

4 The loading figure is the estimated average of the highest available current loading figure

5 Shortfall indicates unlikely to be compliance with Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

6 These priorities are listed in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Water Services Investment Programme, ref. Section 5 of the Guidelines.

7 Predictions have been calculated by extrapolation of PE from Guidelines' target populations (for the year 2022) at same ratios as current populations (town + environs from 2006 census) to current PE figures

8 Source:

9 Source: River Basin District, October 2009 (<http://maps.epa.ie/InternetMapView/mapviewer.aspx>). Where they have been cited in the data, contributing point source factors are shown using the following codes: A= Combined sewer and treatment plant overflows; B= IPPC; C= Section 4 (Local Authority licensed discharges); D= Waste water treatment plants; and E= Water treatment plants and other pressures

## Maximising Use of Existing Water Services Infrastructure

Development objectives must provide sufficient water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal to meet target demands. Assessment of drinking water supply together with wastewater capacity has been prepared to establish the environmental beneficial and adverse impacts of the DEHLG minimum population targets.

### Wastewater

Information on current loading and capacity for wastewater has been provided by each local authority in the above table showing available wastewater treatment capacity. In light of the recently completed works at Sligo and current construction works at Letterkenny and Carrick-On –Shannon, it can be confidently stated that all the strategically important settlements in the Borders region will meet the UWWT Directive by the end of 2011. Predicted future loadings are calculated on DEHLG population targets to 2022 with reference to present loading trends. Significant additional capacity is likely to remain at Dundalk at the end of the guidelines period with Cavan likely to require augmentation. No significant adverse or uncertain impacts on the environment have been identified. All of the plants listed above will/ have treatment to required effluent standards and also with reference to assimilative capacity of receiving waters. Sludge Management Plans in each local authority are insuring that treated sludge's from all plants in the counties are produced to Class 'A' Biosolid before disposal and are in accordance with the 'Code of Good Practice for the Use of Biosolids in Agriculture' issued with circular L9/99.

## Appendix 4: Drinking Water Supply and Demand for Strategically Important Settlements (Nov 2009 figures)

| Settlement                | Position in RPG Hierarchy      | Supply Capacity (m3/day approx.) | Current Demand (m3/day approx.) | Current Spare Capacity or Shortfall - based on highest available current loading | Water Supply Infrastructure priorities <sup>8</sup>   | Predicted future capacity in 2022 (m3/day approx.) | Predicted Future Demand (m3/day approx.) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Letterkenny</b>        | Gateway                        | 9,700                            | 9,200                           | <b>500</b>   | County Donegal Water Conservation Project<br>Cranford Regional Water Supply Scheme Works for Letterkenny WS<br>Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Water supply scheme Dams & Source Dev.<br>Lough Mourne/Letterkenny Water supply scheme Treatment Capacity | 9,700  | 9,700                                    |
| <b>Sligo</b>              | Gateway                        | 25,000                           | 19,500                          | <b>5,500</b>   | County Sligo water Conservation & Network management  | 25,000   | 25,000                                   |
| <b>Dundalk</b>            | Gateway                        | 27,400                           | 20,000                          | <b>7,400</b>   | Cavanhill WTP Upgrade<br>Dundalk Water Conservation Rehabilitation Bundle No 1<br>Dundalk Strategic Water Study- Network Reinforcement -Priority 1 & 2 Measures   | 27,400   | 27,400                                   |
|                           |                                |                                  |                                 |  |   |  |  |
| <b>Cavan</b>              | <b>Hub</b>                     | <b>4,500</b>                     | <b>4,200</b>                    | <b>300</b>   | <b>Upgrading of treatment plant to meet compliance issues</b>   | <b>8,000</b>                                       | <b>8,000</b>                             |
| <b>Monaghan</b>           | Hub                            | 6,200                            | 3,000                           | <b>3,200</b>   | Co. Monaghan Water Conservation Project   | 6,200  | 6,200                                    |
|                           |                                |                                  |                                 |  |   |  |  |
| <b>Drogheda</b>           | Primary Dev Centre             | 20,000                           | 20,000                          | 0  | Drogheda Water Conservation- Rehabilitation Bundle No 1<br>EMSL&DWSIS- Staleen WTP Expansion<br>Staleen- Donore Watermain<br>Drogheda Water Network- Ring main  | 25,000   | 25,000                                   |
| <b>Carrick on Shannon</b> | Strategically Important Centre | 12,000                           | 9,200                           | <b>2,800</b>   | South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme  | 12,000   | 12,000                                   |

## Water

Augmentation schemes at Cavan, Drogheda and Dundalk together with spare capacity in the network and water conservation measures addressed during the life of the guidelines will meet future expected demand. The strategy detailed in Chapter 5 of the Guidelines on water services shows the need to move water conservation policy to one of the top priorities. The target set to reduce Unaccounted For Water to 25% should be achieved before implementation of new abstraction demands from surface or ground water sources. This will ensure no further unnecessary impacts on biodiversity.

<sup>8</sup> These priorities are listed in the Water Services Investment Programme