

NATURA IMPACT REPORT – APPENDIX I

IN SUPPORT OF THE
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
FOR
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS
TO THE
**DRAFT MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2019-2025**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

for: Monaghan County Council

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Appendix I

Background information on European sites considered in the Natura Impact Report

This appendix presents background information relating to all European sites that are considered in the Natural Impact Report for the Proposed Material Alterations.

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Table 1 European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Material Alterations and associated Qualifying features and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests)	Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity ^{1,2}
001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	0.00	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	No site specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	Within	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	No site specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
UK0016621	Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	0.00	White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092] Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davalliana</i> * [7210] Alkaline fens [7230] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp [3140]	Grazing, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth. Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities. Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish). Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources). Air pollution, air-borne pollutants invasive non-native species. Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions. Biocenotic evolution, succession. Threats and pressures from outside the Member State.
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh SAC	0.00	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] European dry heaths [4030]	Grazing, Mining and quarrying. Air pollution, air-borne pollutants. Invasive non-native species, fire and fire suppression. Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	0.00	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavifrons</i>) [A395]	Modification of cultivation practices and grazing.
UK9020091	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	0.00	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, Mining and quarrying. Utility and service lines, airports, flightpaths. Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities. Interpretative centres. Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish). Invasive non-native species. Other ecosystem modifications; Changes in biotic and abiotic conditions.
000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs SAC	0.88	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150] Bog woodland [91D0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The main threats to the quality of the site are water polluting activities (such as runoff from fertiliser and slurry application, and sewage discharge) which have raised the nutrient status of some lakes to hypertrophic. Housing and boating developments are on the increase, both adjacent to and within the site. There is also significant fishing and shooting pressure on and around the lakes. Increased afforestation has resulted in some loss of wetland habitat and also loss of feeding ground for wintering birds such as Greenland White-fronted Goose.
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	1.29	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnus incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)* [91E0] Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355]	Forest and Plantation management & use. Grazing in forests/ woodland.

¹ DEFRA (2017) <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1527>² NPWS (2017) <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests)	Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity ^{1,2}
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	8.55	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No site specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	9.10	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	No site specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	10.37	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	No site specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	11.23	Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]	No site-specific threats have been identified by the NPWS
UK0030277	Slieve Gullion SAC	11.61	European dry heaths [4030]	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth. Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities. Air pollution, air-borne pollutants. Invasive non-native species. Fire and fire suppression.
UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC	12.76	Active raised bogs * [7110]	Grazing, Air pollution, air-borne pollutants fire and fire suppression. Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions. Biocenotic evolution, succession.

* Priority Habitat

Table 2: List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Impacts

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Active raised bogs	Deterioration of the hydrological conditions caused by peat cutting, drainage, forestry and burning. Arterial drainage, water abstraction, Inappropriate management e.g. overgrazing, forestry Peat extraction Agricultural reclamation	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Alkaline fens	Peat mining activities, land drainage; infilling; fertiliser pollution and eutrophication	Groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in nutrient or base status
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	Inappropriate grazing levels; invasive species; and clearance for agriculture or felling for timber	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish)	Disease is a major issue for the species. Also, habitat encroachment from the invasive American Signal Crayfish.	Disease, water quality, and food source available.
Blanket bog (active only)	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Bog woodland	Drainage, peat cutting, burning and development;	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	Peat or turf cutting, arterial drainage, local drainage and agricultural reclamation, infilling of sites with building waste, dumping of household refuse, afforestation, water pollution and urban expansion.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in nutrient or base status.
Estuaries	Pollution and fishing/aquaculture related activities addect habitat quality, particularly in some highly sensitive areas. The overall status is assessed as inadequate but improving.	The composition of estuary communities depends on environmental condition and sediment makeup with the most frequent being mud to fine sand communities. Water quality, flow dynamics and turbidity.
European dry heaths	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp	Nutrient enrichment arising from intensification of agriculture and urban developments.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Lutra lutra	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritim</i>)	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Peat cutting, overgrazing and afforestation of peatland habitats.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation	Nutrient enrichment; overgrazing; afforestation and general forest management; introduction of invasive species; and increased pressures from human activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species

Table 3 List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Impacts

Special Conservation Interests	Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests	
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km.	
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]		
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]		
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]	Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling.	
Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065]		
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]		
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]		
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Land use change is an issue for bird species. Changes in agricultural practices could affect the species due to their dependence on management practices for habitat availability.	
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]		
Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]	Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPA's identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities.	
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]		
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]		
Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]		
Herran Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]		
Knot (<i>Xalidris canutus</i>) [A143]		
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Availability of nesting/roosting habitat.	
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]		
Mallard (<i>Anus platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]	Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.	
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]		
Pintail (<i>Anus acuta</i>) [A054]		
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]		
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]		
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]		
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]		
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]		
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]		
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]		
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		Sensitivity and threats vary on a site to site basis. Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPA's designated for Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.