

NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

FOR THE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT KILKENNY CITY AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

for: Kilkenny County Council

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Chief Executive's Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when Kilkenny County Council finalises the AA at adoption of the Plan.

1.2 Legislative Context

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

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

1.3 Approach

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

In addition to being informed by these reports, the Natura Impact Report was also informed by the Council's:

- New Draft City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 and accompanying SEA Environmental Report;
- Current County Development Plan 2014-2020, and accompanying SEA/AA documents; and
- Current County Development Plan 2014-2020, and accompanying SEA/AA documents.

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

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor² model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

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

Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Kilkenny over the six-year period 2021-2027. Not later than four years after the adoption of the Plan, the Council is required to review it and commence the preparation of a new Plan.

This Plan comprises two Volumes:

- Volume 1 consists of a written statement and accompanying maps and includes the overarching strategies, objectives and Development Management Standards common to both the City and the County. Volume I is divided into 13 chapters setting out various provisions under the headings of:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction
 - Chapter 2: Climate Change
 - Chapter 3: Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends
 - Chapter 4: Core Strategy
 - Chapter 5: Economic Development and Tourism
 - Chapter 6: Housing and Community
 - Chapter 7: Rural Development
 - Chapter 8: Open Space and Recreation
 - Chapter 9: Heritage and Culture
 - Chapter 10: Infrastructure and Environment
 - Chapter 11: Renewable Energy Strategy
 - Chapter 12: Movement and Mobility
 - Chapter 13: Requirements for Developments
- Volume 2, Kilkenny City Strategies, consists of City-specific strategies (which apply to the area defined by the City Development Boundary), such as a Core Strategy, Retail Strategy and Heritage Strategy.

The text of both volumes is a statement of Council policy. Each chapter contains objectives and also has Development Management Standards in relation to specific areas and topics. These development management standards will apply to development proposals in addition to the other requirements for development set out in Volumes 1 and 2. Each chapter is not a stand-alone chapter, but should be read in conjunction with all other chapters.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat³ or species⁴ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. Although sites beyond this buffer zone would be considered if relevant, a review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European Sites that occur within 15 km of the County are provided in Table 3.1. European Sites and EPA Rivers and Catchments are also mapped in Figure 3.1. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) have been considered by both the AA screening assessment (provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Hugginstown Fen SAC [000404] Version1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for The Loughans SAC [000407] Version6.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671] Version1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Bannow Bay SAC [000697] Version1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Hook Head SAC [000764] Version1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Blackstairs Mountains SAC [000770] Version1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Slaney River Valley SAC [000781] Version1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Cullahill Mountain SAC [000831] Version6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC [000849] Version6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lisbigney Bog SAC [000869] Version6.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Galmoy Fen SAC [001858] Version1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Comeragh Mountains SAC [001952] Version6.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Suir SAC [002137] Version1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [002162] Version1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Thomastown Quarry SAC [002252] Version1.

³ Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

⁴ The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027] Version1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Bannow Bay SPA [004033] Version1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [004193] Version6.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for River Nore SPA [004233] Version6.

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

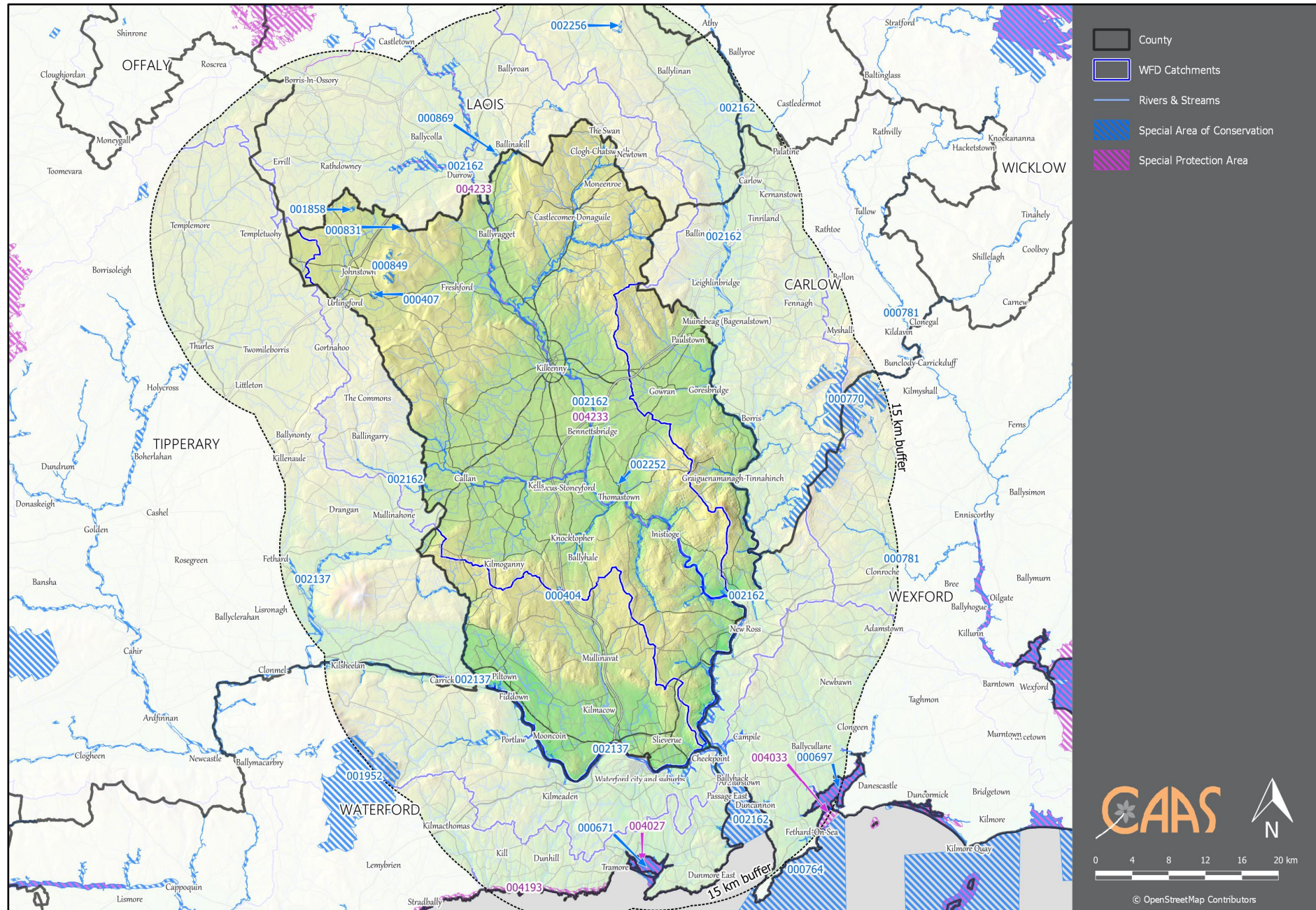


Figure 3.1 European Sites within and within 15 km of County Kilkenny

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of Kilkenny. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites.

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

The Plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Kilkenny area. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, economic development and tourism, housing and community development, open space and recreation, heritage and culture, infrastructure and environment, renewable energy and movement and mobility; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

The elements of the Draft Plan with the highest potential to give rise to the effects indicated above are generally associated with construction phase elements of the implementation of the Plan. The operational phase elements of the Plan are generally consistent with the existing condition of the area; however, these will also need to be carefully considered. All policies and objectives are considered in this assessment with respect to the ecological integrity of each of the European Sites identified. The assessment considers the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified, potential effects are assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European Sites considering information provided above, including Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites

| Site Code | European site | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above) | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 000404 | Hugginstown Fen SAC | Within | Alkaline fens [7230] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 000407 | The Loughans SAC | Within | Turloughs [3180] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 000831 | Cullahill Mountain SAC | Within | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 000849 | Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC | Within | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 001858 | Galmoy Fen SAC | Within | Alkaline fens [7230] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 002137 | Lower River Suir SAC | Within | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91EO], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092], <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099], <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> [1103], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | Within | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91EO], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Reefs [1170], <i>Salicornia</i> 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], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], European dry heaths [4030], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092], <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |

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| Site Code | European site | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above) | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <i>[1099]</i> , <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> [1103], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> [1421], <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> [1990] | | | |
| 002252 | Thomastown Quarry SAC | Within | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 004233 | River Nore SPA | Within | Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> [A229] | The Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the County. As this site is within the County boundary there are pathways for potential direct effects to the ecological integrity of the site and consideration at Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 000869 | Lisbigney Bog SAC | 0.15 | Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016] | This site is designated for terrestrial grassland and terrestrial species that are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage and graze management. Due to its proximity the River Barrow and Nore SAC, and the Kilkenny County border, Lisbigney Bog is considered to have pathways for direct potential effects to the ecological integrity and thus consideration under Stage 2 AA is required. | Yes | Yes |
| 000770 | Blackstairs Mountains SAC | 3 | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030] | This site is designated for terrestrial heathland habitats that are sensitive to direct land use management action such as drainage, burning and graze management. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 000671 | Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC | 8.95 | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] | The dilution effects of the sea and tidal interactions are identified to be significant in relation to minimising potential adverse effects to the qualifying interests of this site. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 004027 | Tramore Back Strand SPA | 8.97 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] 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] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | The dilution effects of the sea and tidal interactions are identified to be significant in relation to minimising potential adverse effects to the special conservation interests of this site. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SPA. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 000781 | Slaney River Valley SAC | 9.54 | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91EO], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099], <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> [1103], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], <i>Phoca vitulina</i> [1365] | The Plan area is hydrologically isolated from this site. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |

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| Site Code | European site | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential effects (refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above) | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 002256 | Ballyprior Grassland SAC | 10.1 | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] | The Plan area is hydrologically isolated from this site. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 004193 | Mid-Waterford Coast SPA | 11.39 | Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] | The dilution effects of the sea and tidal interactions are identified to be significant in relation to minimising potential adverse effects to the special conservation interests of this site. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SPA. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 000697 | Bannow Bay SAC | 11.49 | Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] | The dilution effects of the sea and tidal interactions are identified to be significant in relation to minimising potential adverse effects to the qualifying interests of this site. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 004033 | Bannow Bay SPA | 12.03 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] 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] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | The dilution effects of the sea and tidal interactions are identified to be significant in relation to minimising potential adverse effects to the special conservation interests of this site. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SPA. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 001952 | Comeragh Mountains SAC | 12.51 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> [1393] | The Plan area is hydrologically isolated from this site. There are no provisions in the plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |
| 000764 | Hook Head SAC | 14.84 | Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] | The dilution effects of the sea and tidal interactions are identified to be significant in relation to minimising potential adverse effects to the qualifying interests of this site. There are no provisions in the Plan that introduce any sources for effects to the land use of the SAC. As there are no sources with pathways for effects, no further assessment is required. | No | No |

3.4 Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Southern Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Draft County Development Plan complies with higher level plans, policies, strategies, etc. including the NPF and the RSE for the Southern Region. The County Development Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions, such as the Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

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

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

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


3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 9 (no.) European Sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA is required for the Plan (see Section 4 of this report). An AA Screening Determination undertaken by the planning authority is provided at Figure 3.2.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh Halla an Chontae Sraid Eoin Cill Chainnigh</p> | <p>Kilkenny County Council County Hall John Street Kilkenny</p> |
|--|--|



Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

under
the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
for the

Emerging Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027

In order to comply with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, this determination has been made by Kilkenny County Council relating to the potential for the emerging Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 to have significant effects on European sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, the information on the likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the emerging Draft Plan has been taken into account (this information will be placed on public display in the Natura Impact Report alongside the emerging Draft Plan). The process of screening for AA began at an early stage in the drafting of the Plan. The screening process assessed whether the emerging Draft Plan had the potential to have significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.


The screening process concluded that an AA of the emerging Draft Plan would be required, as the Plan: is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites; and may, on the basis of objective information, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects, if unmitigated have significant adverse effects on 10 (no.) European sites.

Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as climate action, economic development and tourism, housing and community development, open space and recreation, heritage and culture, infrastructure and environment, renewable energy and movement and mobility; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation.

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

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the emerging Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have a likely significant effect on a European site and therefore an AA is required.

Signatory: 

Date: 4/12/2020

Figure 3.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination

Section 4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the Plan alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse impacts on the integrity of the 10 European Sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3.1 for which there is "Potential Pathway for Significant Effects" and/or "Potential for In-Combination Effects"), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European Sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 10 European Sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan.

Appendix I characterises each of the qualifying features of the 10 European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁵.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts⁶:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Favourable conservation status of a habitat** can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance*

⁵ Last accessed 25th October 2020 <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>

⁶ These descriptions are informed by publications including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2016) "Guidelines for ecological impact assessment"; Environmental Protection Agency (2002) "Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements"; and National Roads Authority (2009) "Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Roads Schemes".

exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable’.

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

Generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

Assessment of potential adverse effects on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Sections 1.3 and 3). The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality); and climate change. Each of these potential changes are considered below and in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European Sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Plan provides for development across the County with specific settlements identified to facilitate more intensive development in these areas. The development of all infrastructural works such as those relating to water services, energy, residential and commercial structures, roads, access tracks and pathways have associated construction phase effects. These potential effects include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution and excessive noise. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

As identified above, County Kilkenny has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites as a result of the Plan. However, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site, such as those detailed in Sections 1.3⁷, 9.2.1.5⁸, 9.2.7⁹ and 13.29¹⁰.

These Policy Objectives will ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Please see Section 5 of this report for a full list of measures.

⁷ To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and is assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of the site.

⁸ Ensure that an ecological impact assessment is carried out, by suitably qualified professional(s), for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment

⁹ The Council will protect, manage and enhance the wetlands of the County having regard to the 'County Kilkenny Preliminary Wetland Survey, 2020' and subsequent surveys published during the lifetime of this plan. The Council will also ensure that there is an appropriate level of assessment in relation to proposals which involve draining, reclaiming or infilling of wetland habitats.

¹⁰ Topographical Survey, Accurately measured showing all relevant site features. Soil assessment – where appropriate to determine whether a soil is shrinkable, that may cause the potential for indirect damage. Soil structure composition and PH for the provisions of new planting. A tree survey - details trees and hedgerows identified on the topographical survey and on land adjacent to the development site, including individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands. Identifying tree dimensions, quality and retention value in accordance with the context of the proposed development. The tree survey - should identify the constraints posed by trees, both above and below ground, which will inform the site layout design. Constraints include, the presence of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), the existing and eventual crown spreads of trees and their unreasonable obstruction of light etc. Arboricultural Impact Assessment - a report should be compiled by an arboriculturist using the data collated from the site survey. The report should assess the impact and the effects the proposed design has directly and indirectly on the trees and where necessary recommends mitigation. A Tree Protection Plan – details the proposed design layout shown on a plan with all trees clearly identified with their root protection areas (RPA) annotated based on the topographical survey to include all trees. The classification of each tree and the required protection measures during development. New Planting – takes account of existing landscape features and is essential for consideration in the layout, design and future use of a proposed development. New planting should account for the future growth of canopies, stems and root systems to maturity and their potential effects on existing site structures. Arboricultural Method Statements – demonstrates how unavoidable construction operations may take place within the RPA or crown spread of trees (whichever is greatest), clearly demonstrating how these operations will have a little detriment to retained trees. These operations may include but are not exclusive to: a. Temporary access; b. Installation of service runs; c. Construction of hard standing; d. Foundation excavations; e. Subterranean structures e.g. basement extensions

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

As previously stated, the Plan provides for developments which have associated effects. These effects could result in the fragmentation of habitat and or species through light pollution, habitat loss and/or removal of stepping stone habitats, for example. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects in relation to fragmentation on the ecological integrity of any European site.

The Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources, such as Section 9.2.2¹¹ and 9.2.3¹². The Plan provides Policy Objectives to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones and pollinator greenways - these include 9.2.9¹³, 13.29 and 2.9.7 (Volume 2)¹⁴. Inappropriate lighting will be minimised through the implementation of Policy Objectives set out in Section 9 of the Plan, such as those under Sections 9.3.9¹⁵ and 10.2.5¹⁶.

Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as: waterways, in Section 10.2.8¹⁷; hedgerows and trees, in Section 9.2.5.1¹⁸; and agriculture, in Section 7.7.1¹⁹. These Policy Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and/or projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan and will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation will not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Plan. Please see Section 5 of this report for a full list of measures.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

Disturbance effects are caused by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns/distribution of species. Disturbance effects can relate to direct disturbance through human

¹¹ 9A Continue to identify and map habitats and green infrastructure of county importance, and raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity. Development Management Requirements:

- To Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- To Protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.
- To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.

¹² 9B To identify and map green infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan.

¹³ The Council will in as far as is practicable and affordable manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land.

¹⁴ To allow for green links and biodiversity conservation and to preserve, provide and improve recreational open space.

¹⁵ Development Management Requirements: To require an assessment, including mitigation measures, of the potential environmental, visual, and heritage impacts of proposals to floodlight buildings and structures.

¹⁶ To ensure that lighting is carefully and sensitively designed; To require that the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light spillage or pollution into the surrounding environment.

¹⁷ For developments adjacent to watercourses of a significant conveyance capacity any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back a minimum of 5-10m from the edge of the watercourse to allow access for channel clearing/maintenance. Any required setback may be increased to provide for habitat protection. Development consisting of construction of embankments, wide bridge piers, or similar structures will not normally be permitted in or across flood plains or river channels.

¹⁸ The Council will promote the planting of native tree and shrub species, by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping work and on County Council property and maximise the opportunity to enhance biodiversity within the City & County during the life time of the plan. Development Management Requirements:

- To protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character of the county, and to ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management, when undertaking, approving or authorising development.
- To ensure that when undertaking, approving or authorising development that sufficient information is provided to enable an assessment of impacts on woodlands, trees, and hedgerows.
- To have regard to, and seek the conservation of identified trees and woodlands from a) the National Survey of Ancient and Long-Established Woodlands, b) the Tree Register of Ireland (c) sites of significance identified in the Kilkenny Woodlands Survey 1997, (d) the National Survey of Native Woodlands, and (e) Survey of Mature Trees in Kilkenny City and Environs, in the assessment of planning applications
- To retain hedgerows, and other distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development; where the loss of the existing boundary is unavoidable as part of development, to ensure that a new hedgerow is planted using native species, and species of local provenance to replace the existing hedgerow and/or that the wall is re-built using local stone and local vernacular design.
- To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and, where appropriate make use of Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees and groups of trees which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value.
- To require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments as appropriate. See Appendix G for a list of native trees and shrubs.

¹⁹ Agriculture developments will be constructed and located so as to ensure that there is no threat of pollution to ground or surface waters.

activity/movement or noise pollution. This is particularly relevant in relation to tourism and recreation as many of the County's destinations or attractions are in or adjacent to European sites. Many European sites within the Kilkenny area have recreational related pressures such as water sports or hiking trails as known threats and pressures. Policy Objectives such as 8A to 8I²⁰ have the potential to add to these sources for effects. However, policy detailed in Section 8.4.3²¹ focuses on promoting sustainable tourism while protecting European Sites.

The Plan accounts for noise pollution effects through its Policy Objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the Plan avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the County Kilkenny Council Draft Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (prepared under SI No. 140 of 2006). Other disturbance effects could relate to a reduction in habitat quality due to anthropocentric sensitivities for protected birds and mammals. Policy Objectives of noise mapping, such as that under Section 10.2.3²², have been built into the Plan.

These measures are robust to ensure that any sensitive habitat features or species will be identified and only compliant applications will be granted. Please see Section 5 of this report for a full list of measures.

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects,

²⁰ 8A To develop a recreational and biodiversity park on the site of the now closed municipal landfill at Dunmore; 8B To progress plans for the provision of a pedestrian bridge upstream of Greens Bridge including the provision of access along the eastern bank of the river up from Greensbridge, to the proposed bio-diversity park at Dunmore as part of the River Nore Linear Park; 8C Construction of a Boardwalk at Greensbridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk; 8D To undertake a feasibility study to determine the optimal location for, and to develop, a water sports hub on the River Nore; 8E To provide a pedestrian crossing along the northern side of Greens Bridge

²¹ It will not have adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, will not result in damage to sites of nature conservation importance or features of the archaeological and built heritage; The development will not result in over intensification of use leading to pollution, excessive noise and nuisance.

²² 10E To continue to update Noise Mapping in accordance with revised or updated thresholds for Noise Mapping. 10F Develop priority list of actionable works to mitigate against excessive noise and implement subject to cost benefit analysis.

habitat encroachment and trampling. However, the Plan mitigates effects by requiring compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives – for example in Sections 1.3²³, 11.5.3²⁴ and 11.5.3.1²⁵.

Overall, the Plan identifies an approach that can be taken when assessing the ecological impacts of a proposed development on European sites, and the precautions surrounding this approach.

Furthermore, the Plan contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Kilkenny through native planting, preservation of hedgerows and natural features, and restoration of semi natural habitats, where affordable. Similarly, the Plan recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of species diversity overall through connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources in developments. Further to these provisions there are Policy Objectives related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as waterways (detailed above) or existing trees and hedgerows. These Policy Objectives apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above. In addition to this the Plan identifies Policy Objectives to protect and improve water quality interactions, which can influence species densities. There are also a number of provisions relating to protective buffer zones, further assessment requirements as well as commitments to increasing water quality standards. Further details in relation to relevant mitigation measures are in Section 5 below.

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The Plan contains many robust Policy Objectives to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Groundwater quantity is also a potential issue as most of the drinking water in the County comes from groundwater

²³ To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and is assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of the site.

²⁴ In accordance with the guidance, when considering an application for wind energy development, the planning authority may consider some if not all of the following matters:

- Environmental Assessments (EIA, AA etc. See 10.5.3.1 below) including mitigation included in Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs);
- Community engagement and participation aspects of the proposal and how its Community Benefit Fund will contribute to the wider County of Kilkenny's Energy Efficiency targets at a local level. (the www.3cea.ie coordinate such proposals under the County Climate Action Plan.)
- Grid Connection details
- Geology and ground conditions, including peat stability; and management plans to deal with any potential material impact. Reference should be made to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map to confirm ground conditions are suitably stable for project;
- Site drainage and hydrological effects, such as
 - water supply and quality and watercourse crossings;
 - management plans to deal with any potential material impact on watercourses;
 - the hydrological table;
 - flood risk including mitigation measures;
- Landscape and visual impact assessment, including the size, scale and layout and the degree to which the wind energy project is visible over certain areas and in certain views;
- Visual impact of ancillary development, such as grid connection and access roads;
- Potential impact of the project on natural heritage, to include direct and indirect effects on protected sites or species, on habitats of ecological sensitivity and biodiversity value and, where necessary, management plans to deal with the satisfactory co-existence of the wind energy development and the particular species/habitat identified;
- Potential impact of the project on the built heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage;
- It is recommended that consideration of carbon emissions balance is demonstrated when the wind energy developments requires peat extraction.
- Local environmental impacts including noise, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference, etc.;
- Adequacy of local access road network to facilitate construction of the project and transportation of large machinery and turbine parts to site, including a traffic management plan;
- Information on any cumulative effects due to other projects, including effects on natural heritage and visual effects;
- Information on the location of quarries to be used or borrow pits proposed during the construction phase and associated remedial works thereafter;
- Disposal or elimination of waste/surplus material from construction/site clearance, particularly significant for peatland.

²⁵The assessment of the impacts of developments shall comply with the relevant European Directives as transposed into Irish legislation, including the EIA Directive, the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. As regards the directives, these assessments will relate to all mandatory categories and where, following screening, if required, a full EIAR or NIS is produced, these must include the impacts of both the planning application and its grid connections. In relation to EIAR, the assessment must address the direct effects and any short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative, indirect, secondary, cumulative and transboundary effects of the whole project, i.e. the wind energy development and the grid connection. In relation to the grid connection it is preferable that the corridor approach be used. In relation to NIS, the assessment shall consider all potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites. It is recommended that Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) of projects be submitted with applications. These plans generally include mitigation measures which should ideally input into both Environmental Impact Assessment Report or Appropriate Assessment at planning application stage. All planning application submission (and in particular the EIAR) must include details of the site compound and access arrangements. The applications must include details of the location and design of the site compound and construction methods, environmental mitigation methods and proposed reinstatement.

sources. Abstractions for drinking water could individually and/or cumulatively could impact upon ecology, including European sites. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant impact upon the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites (10.1.8.2²⁶). Policy Objectives that specifically relate to the protection of water quality that account for potential effects to European sites are included in Sections 8.4.3 and 9.2.2²⁷.

Similarly, emissions to air and hazardous waste have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the Plan contains Policy Objectives in Sections 7.5.2²⁸ and 10.2.1.1²⁹, which account for this. Increased development pressures could place additional loadings onto the existing waste water treatment plant facilities. The SEA indicates the available capacity within the existing Waste Water Treatment infrastructure in the County.

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The Plan includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Section 1.3 "Appropriate Assessment" of the Plan provides that 'Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) ³⁰'. Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European Sites considered.

²⁶ The Council will support and protect the high-water quality status of the Kilkenny Blue Dot designated catchment area by restricting high intensity agriculture and other developments that may impact the quality of the water in the catchment.

²⁷ 9A Continue to identify and map habitats and green infrastructure of county importance, and raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity. Development Management Requirements:

- To Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- To Protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.
- To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.

²⁸ Undertaking non-energy extractive activities in accordance with Natura 2000 requirements; NPWS Guidelines for the protection of Biodiversity within the Extractive Industry and the GSI's Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry.

²⁹ The Council will promote the best ambient air quality compatible achievable with sustainable development.

³⁰ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Potential Effects arising from the Plan

| Site Code | Site Name ³¹ | Distance (Km) | Characterisation of Potential Effects ³² |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 000404 | Hugginstown Fen SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Wetlands and peatlands have been considered for protection in Plan Sections 9.2.7 and 9.2.8, with regard to their biodiversity value – such habitats help reduce flood risk and increase water filtration.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 000407 | The Loughans SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site are drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing. These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 000831 | Cullahill Mountain SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site are removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, non-intensive mowing.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 000849 | Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site fertilisation, Intensive grazing and Removal of hedges and coppices or scrub.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 001858 | Galmoy Fen SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site are underground mining, grazing, silviculture, and forestry.</p> <p>These pressures relate to forestry and mining. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard. Sustainable forestry practices are provided for in the Plan, detailed in Section 7.4.2. Wetlands and peatlands have been considered for protection in Plan Sections 9.2.7 and 9.2.8, with regard to their biodiversity value – such habitats help reduce flood risk and increase water filtration.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 002137 | Lower River Suir SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site port areas, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, cultivation, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, Discharges, Pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish), Silviculture, forestry, Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation and Fertilisation.</p> <p>These pressures relate to human habitation, hydrological interactions, fisheries, erosion, flood risk management, pollution and invasive species. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. The Plan also provides for flood risk management in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities in Section 10.2.6.2, and appropriate surface water drainage in Section 10.2.8. Water quality management to protect groundwater is provided for in the Plan in Section 10.1.8.5. Wetlands and peatlands have been considered for protection in Plan Sections 9.2.7 and 9.2.8, with regard to</p> |

³¹ For distance from Plan boundary and qualifying features for each European Site (QIs and SCIs), please refer to Table 3.1

³² Informed by, inter alia, The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland, Overview Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019)

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| Site Code | Site Name ³¹ | Distance (Km) | Characterisation of Potential Effects ³² |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| | | | <p>their biodiversity value – such habitats help reduce flood risk and increase water filtration. Section 9.2.10 details a policy for the identification and development of a management plan for invasive species on developments within the county.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site are industrial or commercial areas, agricultural intensification, dykes and flooding defence in inland water systems, removal of hedges and coppices or scrub, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Sand and gravel quarries, reduction in migration or migration barriers, forestry activities not referred to above, invasive non-native species, peat extraction, netting, forest replanting (native trees), human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, port areas, changes in abiotic conditions, modifying structures of inland water courses, Leisure fishing, pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial; marine and brackish), forest and plantation management & use, intensive cattle grazing, dredging or removal of limnic sediments, water abstractions from surface waters, use of fertilizers (forestry), intensive fish farming, intensification, erosion.</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, forestry, hydrological interactions and alterations, habitat fragmentation, fisheries, pollution and erosion. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29. Section 7.4.2 provides policy for forestry development within the County to be progressed with environmental considerations of increasing woodland cover. Furthermore, habitat connectivity will be maintained through Policy Objectives such as: 9.2.2, 9.2.3 and 9.2.4. There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to fire management, mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects in this regard.</p> <p>Policies requiring adherence to Natura 2000 requirements for non-energy extractive activities, and adherence to NPWS guidelines for the protection of biodiversity in the extractive industry, are detailed in Section 7.5.2 of the Plan. The Plan promotes the development of agricultural activities however Policy Objectives contained within the Plan in Section 7.7.1 ensure that intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off to surface waters will be managed appropriately. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water detailed in Sections 10.1.8.2, 10.1.8.4 and 10.1.8.5.</p> <p>There are no provisions related to fish farming within the Plan as these threats are identified in the downstream reaches of the SAC, which are outside the boundaries of the Plan. Leisure fishing in Ireland is strictly controlled by IFI using a monitored licencing process therefore there are no likely significant effects identified in this regard. There is consideration for migration of fish where necessary in development proposals within the county; detailed in Section 7.6.1. The Plan also provides for flood risk management in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities in Section 10.2.6.2, and appropriate surface water drainage in Section 10.2.8. Wetlands and peatlands have been considered for protection in Plan Sections 9.2.7 and 9.2.8, with regard to their biodiversity value – such habitats help reduce flood risk and increase water filtration. Section 9.2.10 details a policy for the identification and development of a management plan for invasive species on developments within the county.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 002252 | Thomastown Quarry SAC | Within | <p>The known threats to this site ground water interactions, on site management activities particularly affecting hydrology, pollution.</p> <p>These pressures relate to hydrology, direct management and pollution. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. The Plan has Policy Objectives to ensure the implementation of the Plan will not result in significant adverse effects to hydrological interactions for surface and ground water detailed in Sections 10.1.8.2, 10.1.8.4 and 10.1.8.5. The Plan also provides for flood risk management in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities in Section 10.2.6.2, and appropriate surface water drainage in Section 10.2.8. Section 9.2.10 details a policy for the identification and development of a management plan for invasive species on developments within the county. Policies requiring adherence to Natura 2000 requirements for non-energy extractive activities, and adherence to NPWS guidelines for the protection of biodiversity in the extractive industry, are detailed in Section 7.5.2 of the Plan.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 004233 | River Nore SPA | Within | <p>The known threats to this site are landfill, land reclamation and drying out, and port areas.</p> <p>These threats and pressures relate to the coastal areas of the SPA that are outside of the Plan boundary. However, the SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects through noise pollution that are mitigated for by Policy Objectives in Sections 8.4.3, 8.5. and 10.2.3.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |
| 000869 | Lisbigney Bog SAC | 0.15 | <p>The known threats to this site are disposal of household or recreational facility waste, burning down, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, disposal of inert materials, species composition change (succession).</p> <p>These pressures relate to agriculture, natural processes, direct land use management and waste disposal. No direct land take or habitat loss will occur due to the implementation of the Plan either within any European sites or any connectivity corridors necessary to support the ecological integrity of the site, due to Policy Objectives in Sections 1.3, 9.2.1.5, 9.2.2, 9.2.5.1, 9.2.7, 9.2.8 and 10.1.8.5. Similarly, the removal of hedgerows or coppicing will be managed through Policy Objectives such as those in Section 13.29.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Plan that relate to mowing or grazing regimes specifically, therefore there are no sources for effects either positive or negative in this regard. Policies that aim to increase biodiversity of selected sites and increase connectivity have potential to be positive for this SAC, such policies are described in Sections 9.2.3, 9.2.7, 9.2.8, 9.2.9 - and 2.9.7 and 4.2.2 of Volume 2.</p> <p>For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.</p> |

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

Table 5.1 outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European Sites as identified above. The Draft Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European Site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European Sites are identified in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 Mitigation Measures that will protect European sites

| Plan Section | Policy Description | Mitigation measure(s), including |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---|
| VOL. 1 | | |
| 1.3 | Appropriate Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and is assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of the site. |
| 1.4 | Sustainability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives for sustainability “across all of the Plan sections” defined for the council by World Commission on Environment and Development definition: “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” |
| 1.5 | Structure of the Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Development Management Standards and requirements for new development out in the Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the Plan as appropriate. |
| 1.6.1.2 | The Climate Action Plan 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council has had regard to the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework in framing this development plan and has already sought to introduce planning and development measures in the overall approach to adaptation to climate change, for example by ensuring that risks of flooding are identified and integrated into the planning process. The local authority recognises that a proactive approach, in which the challenges posed by climate change are integrated into the development of policies, plans and programmes is essential. The Council have integrated and will continue to integrate both mitigation and adaptation measures into the City & County Development as required by National and Regional policies and objectives. |
| 2.1 | Climate change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To embed climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations in all the policies and services of the Council. |
| 2.5 | Strategic Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2A To provide policies and detailed SMART4 objectives that support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrate land use and transportation, and maximise opportunities through development form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon emissions. 2B To support the implementation of the National Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Action Charter for Local Authorities, and to facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by embedding appropriate policies within the Development Plan: 2C To promote, support and direct effective climate action policies and objectives that seek to improve climate outcomes across the settlement areas and communities of County Kilkenny helping to successfully contribute and deliver on the obligations of the State to transition to low carbon and climate resilient society, 2D To integrate appropriate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all forms of development. 2E To ensure that the Draft Development Plan transposes, supports and implements strategic objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to create an enabling local development framework that: (a) promotes and integrates important climate considerations in local development and the assessment of planning applications and (b) supports the practical implementation of national climate policy and targets to assist in the delivery of the national transition objective. 2F To promote and encourage nature-based approaches and green infrastructural solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 2G To reduce energy related CO2 emissions of Kilkenny County Council 2H To achieve the commitment under the European Climate Alliance to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent every 5 years. |
| 5.2.6 | Woodstock | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5D To implement the Woodstock Business Plan on a phased basis as resources permit subject to the outcome of environmental assessments and the planning process. |
| 5.2.9 | Tourism Objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5E Invest in public realm to create more multi-functional vibrant and inviting public spaces in urban areas and villages, which will greatly enhance the overall quality of place and act as a catalyst to stimulate private sector development. The public realm will be informed by the Kilkenny Access for All Strategy 2018-2021. 5F Development of Kilkenny Greenway as part of the South East Greenway in South Kilkenny, 5G Development of the Waterford to Rosslare Greenway 5H Continue the development of projects for submission under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) and other funding schemes (e.g. LEADER Programme.) The Council will continue the development of major flagship tourism projects within the county to enhance the tourism product. |
| 7.2.4 | Fencing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, wildlife habitats, areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. As such the Council will also ensure that developments shall not be detrimental to archaeological and heritage features of importance. |
| 7.4.2 | Sustainable Forest Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have regard to the Indicative Forest Statement and all relevant Forest Service Guidelines in the assessment of any forestry applications. To encourage sustainable forest management and require a diversity of species in afforestation proposals and in particular to require a proportion of all new forestry development to consist of native hardwood species in order to extend the range of potential end uses and to reduce the potential for adverse impact on the landscape resulting from monoculture. To ensure that Forestry shall not obstruct existing public rights of way and established walking routes. |

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| Plan Section | Policy Description | Mitigation measure(s), including |
|--------------|---|--|
| 7.5.2 | Aggregate Potential Mapping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking non-energy extractive activities in accordance with Natura 2000 requirements NPWS Guidelines for the protection of Biodiversity within the Extractive Industry and the GSI's Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry. |
| 7.6.1 | Fishing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require that adequate provisions are made to accommodate free upstream and downstream migration of all fish in development proposals. Protection of water quality will be a primary consideration in relation to assessing development proposals. |
| 7.7.1 | Diversification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high standard of design and maintenance will be required in all developments in rural areas. Agriculture developments will be constructed and located so as to ensure that there is no threat of pollution to ground or surface waters. Fencing in upland or highly scenic areas will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm and that it conforms to the best agricultural practice. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence, and in the case of a wire fence the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Barbed wire will not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required. |
| 7.8.3 | Rural Housing Policies – Other rural areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any proposed vehicular access would not endanger public safety by giving rise to a traffic hazard' That any proposed on-site waste water disposal system is designed, located and maintained in a way which protects water quality, That the siting and design of new dwellings takes account of and integrates appropriately with its physical surroundings and other aspects of the natural and cultural heritage and, That the proposed site otherwise accords with the objectives of the development plan in general. |
| 8.3 | Trails, Cycleways and Linear Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8A To develop a recreational and biodiversity park on the site of the now closed municipal landfill at Dunmore. 8B To progress plans for the provision of a pedestrian bridge upstream of Greens Bridge including the provision of access along the eastern bank of the river up from Greensbridge, to the proposed bio-diversity park at Dunmore as part of the River Nore Linear Park. 8C Construction of a Boardwalk at Greensbridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk 8D To undertake a feasibility study to determine the optimal location for, and to develop, a water sports hub on the River Nore 8E To provide a pedestrian crossing along the northern side of Greens Bridge |
| 8.3 | Trails, Walkways and Linear Parks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8F To continue the development of new trails and walkways such as the Castlecomer, Knockdrinna Wood and Ballyhale Looped Walks and the upgrade of others such as the Freshford, Gathabawn and Kilmacoliver Looped Walks and the Nore Valley Walk. 8G Investigate the development of a horse trail/bridle path at Woodstock estate. 8H To complete the development of the linear park along the River Nore in the area of the Abbey Quarter. 8I To extend the linear park at the Abbey Quarter to link with the existing section of the River Nore Linear Park at Riverside Drive. |
| 8.4 | Greenways and Blueways | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8J To complete the construction of the Kilkenny Greenway, connecting New Ross to Waterford. 8K To promote and development of the Waterford to Rosslare Greenway in association with Waterford City and County council and Wexford County Council |
| 8.4.3 | Development associated with Water Sports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will not have adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, will not result in damage to sites of nature conservation importance or features of the archaeological and built heritage; The development will not result in over intensification of use leading to pollution, excessive noise and nuisance. |
| 8.5.4 | Intensive and major sports facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is designed so as to minimise the impact of noise and light pollution. There is no significant detrimental impact on the natural environment or features of the archaeological or built heritage. |
| 9.2.1.5 | Protected Plant and Animal Species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that an ecological impact assessment is carried out, by suitably qualified professional(s), for any proposed development likely to have a significant impact on rare and threatened species including those species protected by law and their habitats. Ensure appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment. |
| 9.2.2 | Biodiversity Outside of Habitats Designated for Nature Conservation | <p>9A Continue to identify and map habitats and green infrastructure of county importance, and raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity. Development Management Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. To Protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites. To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development. |
| 9.2.3 | Green Infrastructure | 9B To identify and map green infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan |
| 9.2.4 | Geological Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all new developments in the early preplanning stage of the planning process to identify, protect and enhance ecological features by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes, bat roost sites, green roofs, etc.) and provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process. |
| 9.2.5.1 | Hedgerows | <p>The Council will promote the planting of native tree and shrub species, by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping work and on County Council property and maximise the opportunity to enhance biodiversity within the City & County during the life time of the plan. Development Management Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character of the county, and to ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management, when undertaking, approving or authorising development. To ensure that when undertaking, approving or authorising development that sufficient information is provided to enable an assessment of impacts on woodlands, trees, and hedgerows. To have regard to, and seek the conservation of identified trees and woodlands from a) the National Survey of Ancient and Long-Established Woodlands, b) the Tree Register of Ireland (c) sites of significance identified in the Kilkenny Woodlands Survey 1997, (d) the National Survey of Native Woodlands, and (e) Survey of Mature Trees in Kilkenny City and Environs, in the assessment of planning applications |

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| Plan Section | Policy Description | Mitigation measure(s), including |
|--------------|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To retain hedgerows, and other distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development; where the loss of the existing boundary is unavoidable as part of development, to ensure that a new hedgerow is planted using native species, and species of local provenance to replace the existing hedgerow and/or that the wall is re-built using local stone and local vernacular design. To discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and, where appropriate make use of Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees and groups of trees which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value. To require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments as appropriate. See Appendix G for a list of native trees and shrubs. |
| 9.2.7 | Wetlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will protect, manage and enhance the wetlands of the County having regard to the 'County Kilkenny Preliminary Wetland Survey, 2020' and subsequent surveys published during the lifetime of this plan. The Council will also ensure that there is an appropriate level of assessment in relation to proposals which involve draining, reclaiming or infilling of wetland habitats. |
| 9.2.8 | Peatlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will protect peatlands from inappropriate development having regard to their amenity and biodiversity value and their visual sensitivity. |
| 9.2.9 | Pollinators | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will in as far as is practicable and affordable manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land. |
| 9.2.10 | Invasive Species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015. |
| 9.2.11 | Native Plant Species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote the use of native plants and seeds from indigenous seed sources in all landscape projects. |
| 9.3.9 | Floodlighting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To require an assessment, including mitigation measures, of the potential environmental, visual, and heritage impacts of proposals to floodlight buildings and structures. |
| 10.1.8.2 | Blue Dot Designations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will support and protect the high-water quality status of the Kilkenny Blue Dot designated catchment area by restricting high intensity agriculture and other developments that may impact the quality of the water in the catchment. |
| 10.1.8.4 | Water Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A To complete the mapping of source protection areas and to map Source Protection Areas for any new public water supply schemes as appropriate. 10B To ensure that Source Protection Areas are identified for any multiple unit housing developments with private water supplies. |
| 10.1.8.5 | Water Quality Development Management Standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To have regard to the Groundwater Protection Scheme and to comply with the Water Services Acts 2007 as amended in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. |
| 10.2.1.1 | Air Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will promote the best ambient air quality compatible achievable with sustainable development. |
| 10.2.3 | Noise mapping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10C To continue to update Noise Mapping in accordance with revised or updated thresholds for Noise Mapping. 10D Develop priority list of actionable works to mitigate against excessive noise and implement subject to cost benefit analysis. |
| 10.2.5 | Light pollution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that lighting is carefully and sensitively designed To require that the design of external lighting minimises the incidence of light spillage or pollution into the surrounding environment. |
| 10.2.6.2 | Flood management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is Council policy to adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response. |
| 10.2.8 | Surface Water Drainage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For developments adjacent to watercourses of a significant conveyance capacity any structures (including hard landscaping) must be set back a minimum of 5-10m from the edge of the watercourse to allow access for channel clearing/maintenance. Any required setback may be increased to provide for habitat protection. Development consisting of construction of embankments, wide bridge piers, or similar structures will not normally be permitted in or across flood plains or river channels. Adequate allowance be made for climate change in designing surface water proposals a multiplication factor of 1.2 shall be applied to all river return periods up to 100 years except in circumstances where the OPW have provided advice specifying the particular multiplication factor for return periods up to 100 years. In the case of rainfall a multiplication factor of 1.1 shall be applied to rainfall intensities to make allowance for climate change requirements. |
| 11.4 | Energy Targets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11C To meet 100% of electricity needs for Kilkenny from renewable sources by 2030, including Wind energy, Solar energy and bio energy and to work with agencies, including the 3CEA to proactively achieve this target. |
| 11.5.3 | Wind Energy Development Strategy – Development Management Guidance | <p>In accordance with the guidance, when considering an application for wind energy development, the planning authority may consider some if not all of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Assessments (EIA, AA etc. See 10.5.3.1 below) including mitigation included in Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs); Community engagement and participation aspects of the proposal and how its Community Benefit Fund will contribute to the wider County of Kilkenny's Energy Efficiency targets at a local level. (the www.3cea.ie coordinate such proposals under the County Climate Action Plan.) Grid Connection details Geology and ground conditions, including peat stability; and management plans to deal with any potential material impact. Reference should be made to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map to confirm ground conditions are suitably stable for project; Site drainage and hydrological effects, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> water supply and quality and watercourse crossings; management plans to deal with any potential material impact on watercourses; the hydrological table; flood risk including mitigation measures; Landscape and visual impact assessment, including the size, scale and layout and the degree to which the wind energy project is visible over certain areas and in certain views; Visual impact of ancillary development, such as grid connection and access roads; Potential impact of the project on natural heritage, to include direct and indirect effects on protected sites or species, on habitats of ecological sensitivity and biodiversity value and, where necessary, management plans to deal with the satisfactory co-existence of the wind energy development and the particular species/habitat identified; Potential impact of the project on the built heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage; It is recommended that consideration of carbon emissions balance is demonstrated when the wind energy developments requires peat extraction. |

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| Plan Section | Policy Description | Mitigation measure(s), including |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local environmental impacts including noise, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference, etc.; Adequacy of local access road network to facilitate construction of the project and transportation of large machinery and turbine parts to site, including a traffic management plan; Information on any cumulative effects due to other projects, including effects on natural heritage and visual effects; Information on the location of quarries to be used or borrow pits proposed during the construction phase and associated remedial works thereafter; Disposal or elimination of waste/surplus material from construction/site clearance, particularly significant for peatland. |
| 11.5.3.1 | Environmental Assessments | The assessment of the impacts of developments shall comply with the relevant European Directives as transposed into Irish legislation, including the EIA Directive, the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive. As regards the directives, these assessments will relate to all mandatory categories and where, following screening, if required, a full EIAR or NIS is produced, these must include the impacts of both the planning application and its grid connections. In relation to EIAR, the assessment must address the direct effects and any short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative, indirect, secondary, cumulative and transboundary effects of the whole project, i.e. the wind energy development and the grid connection. In relation to the grid connection it is preferable that the corridor approach be used. In relation to NIS, the assessment shall consider all potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites. It is recommended that Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) of projects be submitted with applications. These plans generally include mitigation measures which should ideally input into both Environmental Impact Assessment Report or Appropriate Assessment at planning application stage. All planning application submission (and in particular the EIAR) must include details of the site compound and access arrangements. The applications must include details of the location and design of the site compound and construction methods, environmental mitigation methods and proposed reinstatement. |
| 11.6.10 | Bioenergy | <p>Bioenergy CHP plants shall not be located where such plants have the potential to impact residential or other amenities or environmental quality by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emissions to air, ground, water, visual impact, noise or light pollution. |
| 13.29 | Tree and Hedgerow Preservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical Survey - Accurately measured showing all relevant site features. Soil assessment – where appropriate to determine whether a soil is shrinkable, that may cause the potential for indirect damage. Soil structure composition and PH for the provisions of new planting. A tree survey - details trees and hedgerows identified on the topographical survey and on land adjacent to the development site, including individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands. Kilkenny Draft CCDP Volume 1 Draft 23/11/2020 266 Identifying tree dimensions, quality and retention value in accordance with the context of the proposed development. The tree survey - should identify the constraints posed by trees, both above and below ground, which will inform the site layout design. Constraints include, the presence of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), the existing and eventual crown spreads of trees and their unreasonable obstruction of light etc. Arboricultural Impact Assessment - a report should be compiled by an arboriculturist using the data collated from the site survey. The report should assess the impact and the effects the proposed design has directly and indirectly on the trees and where necessary recommends mitigation. A Tree Protection Plan – details the proposed design layout shown on a plan with all trees clearly identified with their root protection areas (RPA) annotated based on the topographical survey to include all trees. The classification of each tree and the required protection measures during development. New Planting – takes account of existing landscape features and is essential for consideration in the layout, design and future use of a proposed development. New planting should account for the future growth of canopies, stems and root systems to maturity and their potential effects on existing site structures. Arboricultural Method Statements – demonstrates how unavoidable construction operations may take place within the RPA or crown spread of trees (whichever is greatest), clearly demonstrating how these operations will have a little detriment to retained trees. These operations may include but are not exclusive to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Temporary access b. Installation of service runs c. Construction of hard standing d. Foundation excavations e. Subterranean structures e.g. basement extensions |
| VOL. 2 | | |
| 2.9.7 | Biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To allow for green links and biodiversity conservation and to preserve, provide and improve recreational open space. |
| 4.2.2 | Green Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C4A To identify and map green infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan C4B To develop a green infrastructure strategy integrating the existing assets and identifying new assets. |

Section 6 Conclusion

Stage 1 AA Screening and Stage 2 AA of the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan has been carried out. Implementation of the Draft Plan has the potential to result in effects to the integrity of any European Sites, if unmitigated.

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects³³. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the Plan.

³³ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Appendix I Background information on European Sites

List of European Sites considered by the assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Description/Vulnerability

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Site Description/Vulnerability |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| 000404 | Hugginstown Fen SAC | Within | Alkaline fens [7230] | Hugginstown Fen is situated approximately 4 km south-west of Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny. The site consists of a relatively large, isolated area of swamp and floating fen developed in a small valley in hilly country. It is underlain by limestone glacial till overlying and surrounded by acid Old Red Sandstone. The catchment is relatively small and iron-rich springs are an important source of water for the wetland. This site has been damaged to some extent by drainage, especially in the southern part. The standard data form for the site identifies agricultural and forestry practices to be known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000407 | The Loughans SAC | Within | Turloughs [3180] | The Loughans is a turlough situated in flat land about 3 km east of Urlingford, below the Slieve Ardagh Hills, in Co. Kilkenny. The basin is slightly undulating, with banks and hummocks of glacial drift around which the water rises. It has a level floor for the most part, but swallow holes and subsidence hollows are present. The turlough floods regularly, despite some drainage. In summer, it retains a permanent central pond and there are several subsidiary wet hollows at the eastern end. The standard data form for the site identifies agricultural practices to be known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000831 | Cullahill Mountain SAC | Within | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] | Cullahill Mountain SAC lies on a western outlier of the Castlecomer plateau, 6 km north-east of Johnstown in Co. Kilkenny. In this area, the underlying limestone has been exposed relatively recently by erosion of the higher shales. The rock is in the form of an escarpment, with a steep side facing the central plain (and the CorkDublin road) and more gradual slopes to the south-east where the shale soon appears. The standard data form for the site identifies agricultural practices to be known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000849 | Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC | Within | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] | Spahill and the adjacent hills form part of an escarpment which links the Slieve Ardagh Hills with the Castlecomer Plateau in Co. Kilkenny. The hills are of limestone overlain by shales and/or sandstones, and so the surface geology is variable, with different rock types supporting different vegetation types. This particular site is mostly limestone, exposed as small ledges or as flat sheets. When the latter occurs it is often weathered into a pavement pattern, similar to that found in the Burren, Co. Clare. The hills are generally low and rounded - they rise relatively steeply from the central plain but drop south-eastwards more gently. Their surface is grassy in appearance but the soil is shallow, especially on the upper parts, and the rock breaks through frequently. The standard data form for the site identifies agricultural practices to be known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 001858 | Galmoy Fen SAC | Within | Alkaline fens [7230] | Galmoy Fen is situated 7 km north of Johnstown in Co. Kilkenny, close to the boundary with Co. Laois. It comprises a cutover raised bog that has become flooded with base-rich groundwater and that now supports alkaline fen vegetation. It lies in a depression and is underlain by Carboniferous limestone. Parts of the site are grazed by cattle and the whole area is used for shooting. The standard data form for the site identifies underground mining, agricultural and forestry practices to be known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 002137 | Lower River Suir SAC | Within | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91EO], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092], <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099], <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> [1103], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] | Lower River Suir SAC consists of the freshwater stretches of the River Suir immediately south of Thurles, the tidal stretches as far as the confluence with the Barrow/Nore immediately east of Cheekpoint in Co. Waterford, and many tributaries including the Clodiagh in Co. Waterford, the Lingaun, Anner, Nier, Tar, Aherlow, Multeen and Clodiagh in Co. Tipperary. The Suir and its tributaries flow through the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford. Land use at the site consists mainly of agricultural activities including grazing, silage production, fertilising and land reclamation. The grassland is intensively managed and the rivers are therefore vulnerable to pollution from run-off of fertilisers and slurry. Arable crops are also grown. Fishing is a main tourist attraction on stretches of the Suir and some of its tributaries, and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. Fishing stands and styles have been erected in places. Both commercial and leisure fishing takes place on the rivers. The Aherlow River is a designated Salmonid Water under the E.U. Freshwater Fish Directive. Other recreational activities such as boating, golfing and walking are also popular. Several industrial developments, which discharge into the river, border the site including three dairy related operations and a tannery. The standard data form for the site identifies forestry, agriculture, urban discharges, reclaiming of land, port activities, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation and invasive species to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 002162 | River Barrow and River Nore SAC | Within | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91EO] Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Reefs [1170], 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], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], European dry heaths [4030], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092], | This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow and Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. The site passes through eight counties – Offaly, Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford. Major towns along the edge of the site include Mountmellick, Portllington, Monasterevin, Stradbally, Athy, Carlow, Leighlinbridge, Graigenamanagh, New Ross, Inistioge, Thomastown, Callan, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny and Durrow. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr, Fushoge, Mountain, Aughavaud, Owenass, Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow, and the Delour, Dinin, Erkina, Oweveg, Munster, Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. The main threats to the site and current damaging activities include high inputs of nutrients into the river system from agricultural run-off and several sewage plants, over-grazing within the woodland areas, and invasion by non-native species, for example Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>) and Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>). The water quality of the site remains vulnerable. Good quality water is necessary to maintain the populations of the Annex II animal species listed above. Good quality is dependent on controlling fertilisation of the grasslands, particularly along the Nore. It also requires that sewage be properly treated before discharge. Drainage activities in the catchment can lead to flash floods which can damage the many Annex II species present. Capital and maintenance dredging within the lower reaches of the system pose a threat to migrating fish species such as lamprey and shad. Land reclamation also poses a threat to the salt meadows and the populations of legally protected species therein. The standard data form for the site identifies forestry, agriculture, urban discharges, fisheries activities including leisure/sport fishing, reclaiming of land, port activities, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, extraction of material, erosion and invasive species to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |

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| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Site Description/Vulnerability |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------|---|--|
| | | | <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> [1103], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> [1421], <i>Margaritifera durrovensis</i> [1990] | |
| 002252 | Thomastown Quarry SAC | Within | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] | Thomastown Quarry is situated along the R700 road about 1 km north of Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. It comprises a disused limestone quarry in which an excellent diversity of calcareous habitat types has developed. The standard data form for the site identifies urbanisation. Extraction and agricultural practices to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 004233 | River Nore SPA | Within | Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> [A229] | The River Nore SPA is a long, linear site that includes the following river sections: the River Nore from the bridge at Townparks, (north-west of Borris in Ossory) to Coolnamuck (approximately 3 km south of Inistioge) in Co. Kilkenny; the Delour River from its junction with the River Nore to Derrynaseera bridge (west of Castletown) in Co. Laois; the Erkina River from its junction with the River Nore at Durrow Mills to Boston Bridge in Co. Laois; a 1.5 km stretch of the River Goul upstream of its junction with the Erkina River; the Kings River from its junction with the River Nore to a bridge at Mill Island, Co. Kilkenny. <u>The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.</u> The standard data form for the site identifies port activities, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000869 | Lisbigney Bog SAC | 0.15 | Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016] | Lisbigney Bog is situated about 5 km north-east of Durrow in Co. Laois. Although referred to as a bog, this site is actually a wetland dominated by fen vegetation. It is a former lake basin, and is now criss-crossed by streams. The standard data form for the site identifies burning, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, agricultural practices, discharges of material and successional processes to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000770 | Blackstairs Mountains SAC | 3 | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030] | The Blackstairs Mountains are located along the border of the Counties Wexford and Carlow, forming a mountain chain that runs in a north-east/south-west direction for approximately 22 km, and includes six peaks over 520 m. The range has a core of granite, and on the Carlow side, erosion has cut deeply into the dome exposing successive layers of granite, giving a steeply stepped slope. On the east side some overlying Ordovician slates and sandstones are evident. Land use within the site is centred on grazing. Overall, sheep numbers are low, though there are some pockets where high numbers are found. In these areas there are patches of bare ground, an abundance of Mat-grass and in some places upland grassland replaces the heath. Burning of the Heather is carried out on what appears to be a rotational basis. Heather is regenerating in the burnt areas. From a distance the age structure is evident in the different hues of brown to be seen. Cattle are overwintered on the slopes just inside the boundary of the commonage. Severe poaching is associated with this, especially where supplementary feeding is carried out. Coniferous forestry is present over much of the slopes of the mountain (outside of the site), extending to a height of 640 m north of Mount Leinster. The standard data form for the site identifies erosion, recreational activity, forestry, agriculture and burning to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000671 | Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC | 8.95 | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] | This composite coastal site lies at the head of Tramore Bay, east of Tramore town in Co. Waterford. The Tramore dunes (Burrow) are the result of a classic inshore process - the growth of a spit of shingle and sand across a shallow bay. Behind the spit lies the Back Strand which dries out at low tide and is connected to the open sea by narrows at Rinneshark. The Burrow has a narrow neck and expands eastwards. Longshore drift is from the west so any loose material accumulates at the tip, which is hooked, and on the opposing spit at Bass Point. The main threat to the stability of the dune habitats is from recreational pressures, with heavy usage of the site due to its proximity to Tramore, a popular holiday town. Already some large blow-outs and areas of bare sand are present. Driftline and shingle vegetation is also under pressure from heavy usage of the beach area. The intertidal and saltmarsh habitats are not under significant threat, though possible seepage from the nearby landfill site is a potential threat. The standard data form for the site identifies agriculture, recreational activity, fisheries activities including leisure fishing, urbanisation, and invasive species to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 004027 | Tramore Back Strand SPA | 8.97 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] 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] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | Tramore Back Strand SPA is located approximately 2 km east of Tramore town in County Waterford. It comprises a medium-sized estuary sheltered from the open sea by a long shingle spit, with high dunes. The area known as the Back Strand empties almost completely at low tide; it is connected to the outer bay and sea by narrows at Rinnashark. The standard data form for the site identifies agriculture, recreational activity, urbanisation, pollution and invasive species to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000781 | Slaney River Valley SAC | 9.54 | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91EO], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculo fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029], <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> [1095], <i>Lampetra planeri</i> [1096], <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099], <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> [1103], <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106], <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355], <i>Phoca vitulina</i> [1365] | This site comprises the freshwater stretches of the River Slaney as far as the Wicklow Mountains; a number of tributaries, the larger of which include the Bann, Boro, Glasha, Clody, Derry, Derreen, Douglas and Carrigower Rivers; the estuary at Ferrycarrig, and Wexford Harbour. The site flows through the Counties of Wicklow, Wexford and Carlow. Towns along the site but not within it include Baltinglass, Hacketstown, Tinahely, Tullow, Bundclody, Camolin, Enniscorthy and Wexford. The river is up to 100 m wide in places and is tidal at the southern end from Edermine Bridge below Enniscorthy. In the upper and central regions almost as far as the confluence with the Derry River the geology consists of granite. Above Kilcarr Bridge, the Slaney has cut a gorge into the granite plain. The Derry and Bann Rivers are bounded by a narrow line of uplands which corresponds to schist outcrops. Where these tributaries cut through this belt of hard rocks they have carved deep gorges, more than two miles long at Tinahely and Shillelagh. South of Kildavin the Slaney flows through an area of Ordovician slates and grits. Agriculture is the main land use. Arable crops are important. Improved grassland and silage account for much of the remainder. The spreading of slurry and fertiliser poses a threat to the water quality of this salmonid river and to the populations of E.U. Habitats Directive Annex II animal species within it. Run-off is undoubtedly occurring, as some of the fields slope steeply directly to the river bank. In addition, cattle have access to the river bank in places. Fishing is a main tourist attraction along stretches of the Slaney and its tributaries, and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of boats. Fishing stands and styles have been erected in places. Both commercial and leisure fishing takes place. There are some gravel pits along the river below Bundclody and many of these are active. There is a large landfill site adjacent to the river close to Hacketstown and at Killurin. Boating, bait-digging and fishing occur in parts of Wexford Harbour. Waste water outflows, runoff from intensive agricultural enterprises, a meat factory at Clohamon, a landfill site adjacent to the river, and further industrial development upstream in Enniscorthy and in other towns could all have |

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| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Features (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Site Description/Vulnerability |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------|---|---|
| | | | | potential adverse impacts on the water quality unless they are carefully managed. The spread of exotic species is reducing the quality of the woodlands. The standard data form for the site identifies agriculture, recreational activity, hydrological interactions, extraction, land reclamation, urbanisation, pollution and invasive species to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 002256 | Ballyprior Grassland SAC | 10.1 | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) [6210] | Ballyprior Grassland, 4 km south of the village of Stradbally in Co. Laois, is located at the north end of the Castlecomer Plateau on largely limestone bedrock. The soils of the area are generally thin and well drained, varying from a deeper sandy loam in lower places (10-20 cm depth), to thin or stony soil over local drift (5-10 cm depth) on the elevated plateau. Ballyprior Grassland was traditionally managed as a commonage for grazing of cattle and horses. But the recent division of the lands into private holdings has led to a drive to improve the agricultural quality and output of these lands. Much of the farmland in surrounding areas is improved. Recent damage has occurred to parts of the site and some damaged habitat has been excluded. Semi-improved grassland has developed from enrichment and fertilising in the west of the site, with persistent Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>) in places. South of the site, recent afforestation has resulted in loss of contiguous grassland habitat. The standard data form for the site identifies agriculture, forestry and paths, track & cycleways to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 004193 | Mid-Waterford Coast SPA | 11.39 | Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103] Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] | The Mid-Waterford Coast SPA encompasses the areas of high coast and sea cliffs in Co. Waterford between Newtown Cove to the east and Ballyvoyle to the west. The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge. The high-water mark forms the seaward boundary. The site is underlain by Devonian sandstones, siltstones, mudstones and conglomerates as well as a variety of volcanic rocks of Ordovician age. Sea cliffs are the predominant habitat of the site; these occur along its length and are generally well-vegetated by a suite of typical sea cliff species. Above the cliff's areas of heath, improved grassland, unimproved wet and dry grassland, and woodland occur. The standard data form for the site identifies infrastructure within the landscape, storage of materials and agricultural practices to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000697 | Bannow Bay SAC | 11.49 | Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) [1420], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] | Bannow Bay SAC is a relatively large estuarine site, approximately 14 km long, on the south coast of Co. Wexford. Small rivers and streams to the north and south-west flow into the bay and their sub-estuaries from part of the site. The bay contains large areas of mud and sand, and the underlying geology is mainly of Ordovician slates with the exception of the areas to the east of Bannow Island which are underlain by Cambrian slates. Land use at the site consists mainly of shellfish farming; approximately 20 ha of the intertidal area is under cultivation. Current annual production of oysters is approximately 100 tonnes, concentrated mainly on three farms. There are other farms, but these are in the initial stages of cultivation and current production is negligible. There is evidence of poor farm management in some locations. There are numerous abandoned trestles in the intertidal zone and along the top of the shore. Grading equipment is permanently left on the shore and some areas of saltmarsh are being used as a grading area for oysters. In some areas damage is caused to the shingle vegetation and to the substrate by tractors accessing the aquaculture farms. Any further increase in aquaculture poses a threat. Other land uses include shooting, bird-watching, conservation management, grazing in some of the dune areas, horse-riding on the beach and Big Burrow sand dunes, picnicking, swimming, sailboarding, jet-skiing, line fishing and bait digging. The removal of sand and beach material also occurs at the site. The standard data form for the site identifies dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, hydrological interactions, invasive species, urbanisation, discharge, transport infrastructures, recreational activities, fisheries activities including leisure fishing, extraction of material and land reclamation to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 004033 | Bannow Bay SPA | 12.03 | Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] 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] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | Bannow Bay is a large, very sheltered, estuarine system with a narrow outlet to the sea, situated on the south coast of Co. Wexford. It is up to 14 km long along its north-east/south-west axis and has an average width of about 2 km. A number of small- to medium-sized rivers flow into the site, the principal being the Owenduff and the Corock which enter at the top end of the estuary. Very extensive intertidal mud and sand flats are exposed at low tide. The sediments have a rich macroinvertebrate fauna, with such species as Peppery Furrow-shell (<i>Scrobicularia plana</i>), Ragworm (<i>Hediste diversicolor</i>) and Lugworm (<i>Arenicola arenaria</i>) occurring frequently. Mats of green algae (<i>Ulva</i> spp.) are present on the intertidal flats and shorelines. Salt marshes are well-developed in the sheltered areas of the site and are characterised by species such as Common Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>), Sea Aster (<i>Aster tripolium</i>), Thrift (<i>Armeria maritima</i>), Sea Plantain (<i>Plantago maritima</i>), Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>), Saltmarsh Rush (<i>Juncus gerardi</i>) and Sea Rush (<i>Juncus maritimus</i>). Swards of Glasswort (<i>Salicornia</i> spp.) occur on the lower zones of the salt marshes and extend onto the intertidal flats. The standard data form for the site identifies agriculture, discharge, recreational activities, tracks, paths & trails and fishery practices to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 001952 | Comeragh Mountains SAC | 12.51 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i> [1393] | The Comeragh Mountains are situated approximately 11 km south-west of Carrickon-Suir in Co. Waterford. They consist of a plateau of Old Red Sandstone with its edges deeply scarred by recent glaciation. Corries and deep valleys are cut into the eastern and western sides leaving a central ridge with a width reduced to 270 m at its narrowest point. The rocks, which are horizontally-bedded, stand out as a series of terraces around these corries, which often house small mountain lakes such as Coumshingaun, the Sgilloge Loughs, the Coum Iarthar Loughs and Crotty's Lough. The integrity of the remaining areas of blanket bog and the general habitat diversity of the site are under threat from land use pressures such as grazing, burning, afforestation and leisure activities. The standard data form for the site identifies erosion, recreational activities, tracks, paths & trails, invasive species, peat extraction, agricultural and forestry practices to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |
| 000764 | Hook Head SAC | 14.84 | Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] | The areas of conservation interest at Hook Head comprise marine subtidal reefs to the south and east of the Hook Head Peninsula, and also sea cliffs from Hook Head to Baginbun and Ingard Point. The peninsula forms the eastern side of Waterford Harbour, while to the east it adjoins the estuary mouth of Bannow Bay. Hook Head itself is composed of Carboniferous limestone overlain by Devonian Old Red Sandstone and is palaeontologically of international importance. The standard data form for the site identifies siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, erosion, recreational activities and fishery practices to be the known threats and pressures for the site. |

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

| Qualifying Interests | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Alkaline fens</i> [7230] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| <i>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</i> [91EO] | 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. |
| <i>Alpine and Boreal heaths</i> [4060] | Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| <i>Annual vegetation of drift lines</i> [1210] | Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works. | Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management. |
| <i>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima)</i> [1330] | 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>Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri)</i> [1096] | Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants. | Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change. |
| <i>Calcareous fens with species of the <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i></i> [7210] | Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| <i>Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</i> [8210] | Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| <i>Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo moulinsiana)</i> [1016] | Loss of riverside and canalside habitat; exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, and sheep grazing and overexploitation of dune sites. | Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes. |
| <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i> [2110] | Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| <i>Estuaries</i> [1130] | Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality. | Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity |
| <i>European dry heaths</i> [4030] | Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion. | Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| <i>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)</i> [2130] | Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>). | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| <i>Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera)</i> [1029] | In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due to urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation. | Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution. |
| <i>Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels</i> [6430] | Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| <i>Killarney Fern (Trichomanes speciosum)</i> [1421] | Threatened by habitat loss, deliberate collection, encroachment of invasive or vigorous species, or indirectly by water pollution, removal of woodland or alteration of watercourses. | Land use management and direct impacts. |
| <i>Large shallow inlets and bays</i> [1160] | <i>Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species. Overall Status is assessed as Bad and deteriorating, a genuine decline since the 2013 assessment of Inadequate and improving, and is based on more detailed information.</i> | Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities. |
| <i>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)</i> [1420] | Area losses, associated with algal mats formed as a consequence of water pollution, which resulted in a contraction of the range of the habitat. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |
| <i>Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)</i> [1410] | Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation. |
| <i>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</i> [1140] | Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development. |
| <i>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></i> [4010] | Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| <i>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</i> [91A0] | The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |
| <i>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)</i> [3110] | Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| <i>Otter (Lutra lutra)</i> [1355] | Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); unting; 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. |
| <i>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</i> [1220] | Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel. | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal. |
| <i>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)</i> [7220] | Ground water interactions, on site management activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| <i>Reefs</i> [1170] | Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition. | Sensitive to disturbance and pollution. |
| <i>River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis)</i> [1099] | Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants. | Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change. |
| <i>River Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera durrovensis)</i> [1990] | In stream works, hydrological and morphological alterations, sediment and enrichment, pollution due to urbanisation etc. Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation. | Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution. |
| <i>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</i> [1310] | Invasive Species; erosion and accretion. | Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species. |
| <i>Salmon (Salmo salar)</i> [1106] | Marine survival rates are of concern for the populations. | Disease, parasites and barriers to movement. |

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| Qualifying Interests | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)</i> [1095] | Barriers to upstream migration (e.g. weirs), which limit access to spawning beds and juvenile habitat are main threats to this species. | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity. |
| <i>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)</i> [6210] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| <i>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)</i> [2120] | Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| <i>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</i> [8220] | Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i>). | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| <i>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)</i> [8110] | Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| <i>Slender Green Feather Moss (Drepanocladus vernicosus)</i> [1393] | Pollution, land use, climate change and invasive species. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| <i>Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles</i> [9110] | Invasive Species; erosion and accretion. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |
| <i>Turloughs</i> [3180] | Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| <i>Twaite Shad (Alosa fallax fallax)</i> [1103] | Habitat quality, particularly at spawning sites is the most notable threat to this species. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| <i>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</i> [1230] | A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force. | Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage. |
| <i>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</i> [3260] | Hydrological and morphological changes, water quality, enrichment, and surface water discharges from industrial site and/or agriculture. | Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions. |
| <i>White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)</i> [1092] | Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation. | Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution. |

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

| Current threats to Qualifying Interests | | | Vulnerabilities of species of conservation interest |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</p> <p>Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</p> <p>Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</p> <p>Northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]</p> <p>Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>Little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>) [A026]</p> <p>Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</p> <p>Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]</p> <p>Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i> [Iceland/UK/Ireland]) [A043]</p> <p>Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</p> <p>Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) [A051]</p> <p>Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]</p> <p>Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</p> <p>Northern shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</p> <p>Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]</p> <p>Wetlands for waterbirds [A999]</p> | <p>Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</p> <p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</p> <p>Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p> <p>Eurasian oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p> <p>European golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Northern lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</p> <p>Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143]</p> <p>Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]</p> <p>Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) [A151]</p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Eurasian curlew (<i>Numerius arquata</i>) [A160]</p> <p>Common redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</p> <p>Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164]</p> <p>Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</p> <p>Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) [A176]</p> | <p>Black-headed gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p> <p>Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</p> <p>Lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</p> <p>Herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</p> <p>Black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</p> <p>Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>) [A191]</p> <p>Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p> <p>Little tern (<i>Sterna albigifrons</i>) [A195]</p> <p>Common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</p> <p>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200]</p> <p>Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</p> <p>Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) [A222]</p> <p>Wood warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>) [A314]</p> <p>Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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 SPAs identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Vegetation composition, structure and functionality <p>Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPAs designated for Wetland and Waterbirds is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds using it.</p> |

Appendix II Relationship Other Plans and Programmes

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

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|--|---|
| International/ European Level | | | |
| SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a “screening procedure” is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species’ habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I are required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution. | <p>Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland’s third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State’s NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|---|--|
| EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. | <p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation | <p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD)) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p> |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner. | <p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy. Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services. The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry Sustainable management of fish stocks Reducing invasive alien species Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Green Infrastructure Strategy | Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity | An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. | <p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change | It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. | The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement) | <p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C. | well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. | cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. | <p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. | <p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) | The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source. | <p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| | | <p>contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. | |
| European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study. | The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles') | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Landscape Convention 2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory |

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| The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020) | <p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing | <p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. | <p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) | <p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species | <p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Bali Road Map (2007) | <p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. | <p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Cancun Agreements (2010) | <p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building | <p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Doha Climate Gateway (2012) | <p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Common Agricultural Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p> |

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| EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. | <p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p> | <p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Stockholm Convention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner To target additional POPs Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Ramsar Convention | <p>The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".</p> | <p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| European 2020 Strategy for Growth | <p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. | <p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019 | <p>The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy | <p>A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.</p> | <p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. | achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package | Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU. | The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Level | | | |
| Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. | <p>National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [in preparation] | <p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. | In preparation | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in- |

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| | of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. | combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Waste Management Act 1996, as amended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. | <p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources | <p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. | <p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. <p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013) | These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. | <p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. | <p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. | <p>arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| All Island Grid Study 2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system. | <p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies; and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Water Resources Plan [in preparation] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. | <p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater | framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020) | Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU." | General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. | This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning." | The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020 | This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; | The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i> | <p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012 | A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades. | <p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply | <p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being prepared for energy supply disruptions | other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030) | The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050. | 2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive. | Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. | achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Broadband Plan (2012) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. | <p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. | <p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. | <p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER. | |
| Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. | <p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Food Harvest 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan | Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment | not applicable | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Rural Development Programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas | <p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities | achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Forestry Programme (2014-2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. | <p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation and Creation of Woodland NeighbourWood Scheme Forest Roads Reconstitution Scheme Woodland Improvement Scheme Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions Producer Groups Innovative Forest Technology Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| River Basin Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. Involve the public through consultations. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025) | This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations. | <p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. | CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020 | <p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. | <p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2022-2028

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016 | Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources. | Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030 | This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework. | Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Food Wise 2025 (DAFM) | Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further. | Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland • Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 • Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. • By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. | <p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 | The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe. | <p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2022-2028

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025 | The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work. | The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) | Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources. | Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030 | This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework. | Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014) | Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country. | The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present. • There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025. The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020 | The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> . | Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. • Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Development and Innovation – A strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016) | This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors. | The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2022-2028

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019 | The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle. | One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 : (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006) | The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities. | The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011 | The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020) | The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland. The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs. | The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment. Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector. Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection. Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period. Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses. Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012 | Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors; Increase the contribution to the national GDP; Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework; Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; Implement and comply with environmental legislation; Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity; Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and Engagement and participation by all. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2022-2028

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| Regional/ County/Local Level | | | |
| Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031 | The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Southern Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework. | The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine counties, Cork, Clare, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford. The Region's nine counties are administered by 10 local authorities; Cork includes Cork City Council and Cork County Council. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024 | The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with objectives and priorities focusing on improving public and sustainable transport. | The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs | Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Groundwater Protection Schemes | A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Kilkenny LECP 2016-2021 | Vision Statement: Kilkenny is a great place to live, work and play; offering its citizens dignity, security and the capacity to participate to their maximum potential. The Local Economic and Community Plan will create the framework conditions to ensure that this continues to be the case by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the enterprise economy, • facilitating innovation and entrepreneurship, • enhancing the visitor experience, • enhancing educational attainment and skills development, • developing the rural economy, • advancing access and communications infrastructure, • fostering leadership and capacity, • protecting and utilising the natural, cultural and built environment, • contributing to regional growth and international potential, • addressing area based poverty and disadvantage, • addressing poverty and social exclusion, • enhancing community facilities and participation, and • improving health and wellbeing. | <p>High-Level Economic Goals and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Support the Enterprise Economy • Goal 2: Facilitate Innovation and Entrepreneurship • Goal 3: Enhance Visitor Experiences • Goal 4: Provide for enhanced levels of Educational Attainment and Skills Development • Goal 5: Develop the Rural Economy • Goal 6: Improve Access and Communications Infrastructures • Goal 7: Foster Leadership and Increase Local Capacity • Goal 8: Protect and Utilise the Natural, Cultural and Built Environment • Goal 9: Contribute to Regional Growth and International Potential <p>High-Level Community Goals and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 10: Address Area-based Poverty & Disadvantage • Goal 11: Address Poverty and Social Exclusion (targeted approaches) • Goal 12: Enhance Community Facilities and Participation • Goal 13: Improve Health & Wellbeing | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Land Use Plans in force within Kilkenny and in other adjoining planning authorities. This includes Development Plans and Local Area Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development. Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy 2018-2022 | The County Kilkenny Heritage Plan and the County Kilkenny Biodiversity Plan are incorporated in the Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy 2018-2022 | Plan's objectives include those relating to the protection and management of archaeological and architectural heritage and biodiversity. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Kilkenny's Statement of Tourism Strategy and work programme 2017-2022 | Underpin the Councils' support for the tourism industry in Kilkenny over the next five years. | Sets out a vision, goals, objectives, and aligns with national tourism policy, national initiatives, regional objectives and the objectives of the Council's adopted Local Economic Community Plan. It is intended that the Strategy and Work Programme will support the delivery of the objectives of the LECP, support Kilkenny Tourism, and support local community tourism initiatives. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Kilkenny County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 | In accordance with the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, Kilkenny County Council published its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2019. | Recommends actions for adaptation and mitigation options. The Strategy includes a number of policy recommendations to ensure County remains resilient to climate change and those recommendations have been included in this Development Plan. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 | Gives effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021. | Strategic Objectives for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Resource Efficiency Coordination Infrastructure Planning Enforcement and Regulations Protection Other Wastes | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Kilkenny Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 | <p>The Noise Action Plan is designed with the twin aims of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding significant adverse health impacts from noise, and Preserving environmental noise quality where it is good | Under the Regulations, Kilkenny County Council is the action planning authority responsible for the creation and implementation of the Noise Action Plan for County Kilkenny. The Noise Action Plan for County Kilkenny is based on strategic noise mapping carried out for County Kilkenny and is based solely on road traffic noise. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2022-2028

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to the Ireland's Ancient East brands | Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment. | Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes | These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes. | These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 3.4 and 4.3.1) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |