FEHILY TIMONEY

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

DUBLIN CITY LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:

Dublin City Council

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Dublin City Council

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

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

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

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

1.2 Post Draft Plan Consultation Revisions

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

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

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

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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

1.4 Approach

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature[1] was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives (including spatial data collected for the most recent Article 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

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

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model[2], where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment[3] (SEA) process being undertaken on the LACAP, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

[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

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

2. DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

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

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

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

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

DCC's prospective LACAP will be a continuance of DCC's previous Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) (which was subject to SEA) published in 2019.

2.2 Context

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.3 Plan Content

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

Table 2-1: LACAP Theme Area and Main Objectives

Theme Area	Main Objective
Resilient City	Social Housing Regeneration
	Public Buildings Regeneration
	Climate Resilient Critical Infrastructure
	Edible Dublin: Food Strategy
Resource-Full City	A Nature Full City
	Restoring the City's Rivers
	Re-Use of Buildings
	Ecosystem of Social and Circular Enterprises
Creative City	Community Hubs
	Networks for Knowledge Exchange
	Innovation Districts
	Decarbonisation Zones
Social City	A Connected Active Travel Network
	Neighbourhoods are the Heart
	Our Parks are Playful Places for All Ages
	A Re-Imagined Public Realm
O & SD	Adaptation to increased Flood Events (Flood Defence, Monitoring, Flood Response).
	Biodiversity protection and enhancement
	Increase sustainable initiatives within the Local Authority
	Public awareness campaigns regarding climate change and climate action
	Public engagement activities and educational programmes such as bike weeks and flood awareness campaigns.
	Nature-based solutions

2.4 Overall Vision and Strategic Outcomes

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

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

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

3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant affects 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 habitat[4] or species[5] at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

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

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

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

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

- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SAC [IE0000199] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head SAC [IE0000202] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Lambay Island SAC [IE0000204] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [IE0000205] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SAC [IE0000208] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [IE0001398] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SAC [IE0002193] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SPA [IE0004015] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA [IE0004016] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SPA [IE0004025] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Lambay Island SPA [IE0004069] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [IE0004113] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [IE0004117] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 9.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA [004236] Version 1.

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

3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix 1. Sites are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

690000 695000 700000 705000 710000 715000 720000 725000 730000 735000 740000

755000 750000 745000 740000 735000 730000 725000 720000 715000

004015 SPA
000208 SAC
000204 SAC
000205 SAC
004236 SPA
004016 SPA
000199 SAC
004117 SPA
002193 SAC
003000 SAC
001398 SAC
000202 SAC
004113 SPA
004006 SPA
000206 SAC
DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
000210 SAC
004024 SPA
004172 SPA
001209 SAC
000725 SAC
000713 SAC
000397 SAC
000714 SAC
004063 SPA
002122 SAC
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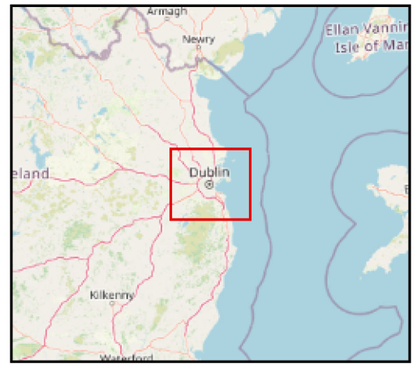

Legend

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Local Authority Boundary - 15km Buffer
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO:	3.1		
CLIENT:	DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL		
DATE:	02/11/2023	**SCALE:**	1:177,500 @ A3

0 1 2 4 km

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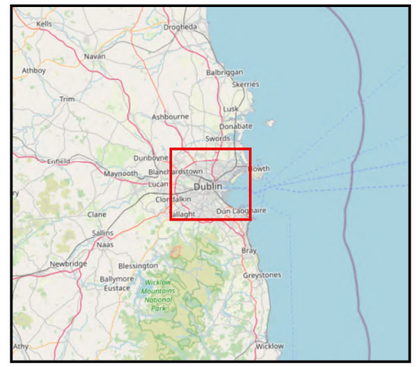
DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL



Legend

- Local Authority Boundaries
- Rivers

WFD Catchments

Catchment Name

- Liffey and Dublin Bay
- Nanny-Delvin
- Ovoca-Vartry

Hydrology

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL
Local Authority Climate Action Plans

FIGURE NO:	3.2
CLIENT: DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL	
DATE: 15/08/2023	**SCALE:** 1:67,500 @ A3

N W E S

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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	0	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	The European Site is within the Dublin City LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	0	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The European Site is within the Dublin City LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004006	North Bull Island SPA	0	Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Sanderling (Calidris	The European Site is within the Dublin City LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			alba) [A144], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]			
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	0	Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]	The European Site is within the Dublin City LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	0.37	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The European Site is within 500m of the Dublin City LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	0.84	Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
000202	Howth Head SAC	1.4	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	There is a separation distance of ca. 1.4 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	1.7	Red-throated (Diver Gavia stellata [A001], Great Northern (Diver Gavia immer [A003], Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis [A009], Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus [A013], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018], Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus) [A187], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200], Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204], Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus) [A862].	The European Site is within/adjacent to the Fingal County LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	2.3	Reefs [1170], Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351]	There is a separation distance of ca. 2.3 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	3.43	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120]	There is a separation distance of ca. 3.43 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	3.56	Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	3.74	Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interest of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	3.76	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	There is a separation distance of ca. 3.76 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	4.11	Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	6.62	Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]	There is a separation distance of ca. 6.62 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	6.72	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	There is a separation distance of ca. 6.72 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	6.74	Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103], Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
				The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.		
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	7.25	Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	There is a separation distance of ca. 7.25 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	7.82	Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Roseate tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	9.74	Estuaries [1130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	There is a separation distance of ca. 9.74 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	9.74	Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	10.78	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	There is a separation distance of ca. 10.78 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential Effects	Pathway for Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects
004069	Lambay Island SPA	11.56	Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]	This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dublin City LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	Yes	Yes
000204	Lambay Island SAC	11.71	Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) [1364], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Reefs [1170]	There is a separation distance of ca. 11.71 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	11.75	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alkaline fens [7230]	There is a separation distance of ca. 11.75 km between this European Site and the area of Dublin City LACAP, and no hydrological connection is present. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.	No	No

3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 13 (no.) European sites.

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

4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 14 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 14 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the LACAP. Appendix 1 characterises each of the qualifying features of the ALL European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website[6].

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts[7]:

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

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

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

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

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

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

> *Favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.'*
>
> *Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.*

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The LACAP provides for action related to climate action and generally seeks to reduce CO_2 emissions through coordination, advocacy, awareness etc. Many of the actions also relate to land use change or the provision of infrastructure developments such as green energy and active travel projects. The exact spatial location of these projects is not fully developed within the plan. The development of all infrastructural have associated construction phase effects which include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution, excessive noise etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

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

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

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

As identified above LACAP boundary has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites through urbanisation and direct habitat loss on foot of the implementation of the LACAP; namely the following list of actions may result in habitat loss: R1[8], R2[9], RF1[10], RF2[11], RF3[12], C3[13], C4[14], S1[15], OS6[16], OS11[17] and OS12[18].

[8] **Social Housing Regeneration:** We are the largest landlord in the country, with a stock of 214 flat complexes and 10,000 houses, this is an opportunity to demonstrate and set the standard for sustainable living. We will build on our experience with energy retrofitting to prepare our housing for climate change. Our flagship project will be Dominick Street Lower. This project will demonstrate climate resilient housing retrofit that enables and encourages residents to live sustainably with ease through the provision of, for example: green spaces to grow, play and create; shared spaces to meet and innovate; segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging). All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.

[9] **Public Buildings Regeneration:** Our social housing will serve as the exemplar for domestic buildings, our public buildings will demonstrate how heritage buildings can be adapted and retrofitted for a climate resilient future. As with our social housing, our buildings – 2 galleries, 22 libraries, 12 community centres, 17 sports and recreation centres, and operations depots – will demonstrate what is possible. All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

[10] **A Nature Full City:** Nature provides us with resources to live and thrive. Delivering on our parks and greening strategies will increase the green cover of the city and improve air quality, water quality, and health and well-being. Prioritising green infrastructure that connects existing parks will not only improve the look and atmosphere of our streets making your commute more enjoyable, but will also provide pollinators, birds, and other animals with food and places to live. Ensure connectivity projects priorities ecological connectivity through complex hedgerow development and maintenance, while ensuring barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting are avoided. Providing the public with the opportunity to learn about biodiversity is essential to insuring that the nature based solutions we implement thrive. The Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Discovery Centre and the Liffey Vale Biodiversity Centre, will provide people with the opportunity to learn about our natural heritage and how we can all take steps to conserve our environment. Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.

[11] **Restoring the City's Rivers:** Growing around the River Liffey and its tributaries, residents of the city flourished, harvesting vegetables in the hinterlands, trading livestock at marts in the city, and bringing spices in from the port. Our city's rivers and canals have defined Dublin. Their restoration plays a vital role in the city's future. In our development plan we have committed to de-culverting and giving our vital rivers space. Measures will also see our rivers provide people with places for recreation and connection with nature. Our restoration plans for the River Santry demonstrate what is possible, and we will re-imagine how we celebrate the River Liffey. All recreational activities being promoted or developed under the action will have due regard to all environmental constraints such as Biodiversity and European sites, where required appropriate visitor management plans and appropriate signage will be developed to ensure appropriate management processes are put in place to avoid significant adverse effects. Similarly, infrastructure works will have integrated environmental considerations within the feasibility assessment.

[12] **Re-Use of Buildings:** We know that the lowest carbon building is one that is already built. Re-using existing buildings provides an opportunity to build on existing programmes, for example adaptive re-use which is converting vacant commercial buildings into housing. This also aligns with the EU Performance of Buildings Directive. We will also use vacant buildings to support enterprises by identifying buildings suitable for incubation hubs and community spaces. All reuse projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.

However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site:

- All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.
- All recreational activities being promoted or developed under the action will have due regard to all environmental constraints such as Biodiversity and European sites, where required appropriate visitor management plans and appropriate signage will be developed to ensure appropriate management processes are put in place to avoid significant adverse effects. Similarly, infrastructure works will have integrated environmental considerations within the feasibility assessment.

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[13] **Innovation Districts:** Our Smart City programme is developing innovation districts that bring together diverse SMEs to create solutions that improve the city. Smart Districts are strategically selected locations across Dublin where innovation projects are fast-tracked. Smart Districts are designed in partnership with citizens, industry, and academia. Each Smart District is unique, with projects designed to meet the specific needs of those who live and work there. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.

[14] **Decarbonisation Zones:** We will build on this knowledge and experience gained from our smart districts, and develop our two decarbonisation zones in Ringsend and Poolbeg, and Ballymun. The development of the decarbonisation plans for Ringsend and Poolbeg, and Ballymun, will be a collaborative effort to insure that the unique strengths of each zone come to the fore and permits ownership of the challenges and solutions. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.

[15] **A Connected Active Travel Network:** Moving people through the city to meet friends and family, to go to work or school, or to simply explore must be easy and safe. We will bring together 95% of the population of the City within 400 metres of the active travel network; making it easier for people to walk, cycle, wheel or scoot to their destination or for leisure, day or night. Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

[16] Increase number of school zones, where feasible.

[17] Coordinate Emergency Response Plans aligned with Sendai Framework and revise based on learnings from management of response to events; having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as European sites, Biodiversity, Archaeology and amenity value etc.

[18] Update DLA urban drainage and flooding policies promoting natural flood measures as a priority to inform new development plan.

- All reuse projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the ecological integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition, Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent habitat loss (see Table 5-2).

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

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

The LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The LACAP contains the following list of actions may result in potential fragmentation and adverse effects to ecological corridors such as hedgerows: R1[8], RF1[10], RF3[12], S1[15]. However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in potential fragmentation and adverse effects to ecological corridors:

- All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.
- All reuse projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no potential fragmentation and adverse effects to ecological corridors throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will minimise potential fragmentation and adverse effects to ecological corridors (see Table 5-2).

Lighting is a particular issue for biodiversity - particularly with regard to linear projects, the following list of actions may result in adverse effects due to lighting: R1[8], R3[19], RF1[10], C3[13], C4[14], S4[20], OS6[16]. However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in adverse effects due to lighting:

- All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.
- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- All lighting projects will have low lumens directional lighting designed with regard to ecological sensitivities. All works will due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

[19] **Climate Resilient Critical Infrastructure:** The city's infrastructure that enables us to live, work and play needs to be resilient. Ensuring that our drainage system, utilities, roads, public lighting and communications networks are maintained and upgraded is essential. This requires working in partnership with Irish Water, the OPW, ESB, Eirgrid, NTA, and DECC. Together we will insure that these critical systems are prepared for the future. Our flagship energy project, the Dublin District Heating System (DDHS) will contribute to our energy security by providing an alternative to electricity based heating systems. This will be further supported by geothermal. DCC is also facilitating the delivery of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in collaboration with key partners including ZEVI and ESB Networks. Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

[20] **A Re-imagined Public Realm:** Public squares and the spaces in between are where life's stories are born. In a time of climate change our public realm has a lot to do. Not only will public spaces need to bring people together to play, chat, and create, they must be resilient to climate change impacts – providing shade as temperatures rise and water storage when the rainfall is intense or absent. Aligning our plans for a vibrant night time economy, providing public lighting, street furniture, waste segregation, active travel and greening will be a critical part of re-imagining public spaces that define our city. All lighting projects will have low lumens directional lighting designed with regard to ecological sensitivities. All works will due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no adverse effects due to lighting throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent adverse effects due to lighting (see Table 5-2).

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

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

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

The LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Dublin City Council Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. The following list of actions may result in disturbance effects from noise: R1[8], R2[9], R3[19], RF1[10], C3[13], C4[14], S1[15], OS6[16].

However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in disturbance effects from noise:

- All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.

- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no disturbance effects from noise throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent disturbance effects from noise (see Table 5-2).

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

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

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

The following list of actions may result in adverse effects to biodiversity, landscape the environment, ecological resources and habitats: R1[8], R2[9], RF1[10], RF2[11], RF3[12], C3[13], C4[14], S1[15], OS6[16], OS11[17], OS12[18]. However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in adverse effects to biodiversity, landscape the environment, ecological resources and habitats:

- All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.
- All reuse projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.

- All recreational activities being promoted or developed under the action will have due regard to all environmental constraints such as Biodiversity and European sites, where required appropriate visitor management plans and appropriate signage will be developed to ensure appropriate management processes are put in place to avoid significant adverse effects. Similarly, infrastructure works will have integrated environmental considerations within the feasibility assessment.
- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no adverse effects to biodiversity, landscape the environment, ecological resources and habitats throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent adverse effects to biodiversity, landscape the environment, ecological resources and habitats (see Table 5-2).

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

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The LACAP contains many robust actions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant effect on the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. The following list of actions may result in adverse effects on water quality: R2[9], R3[19], RF1[10], RF2[11], C3[13], C4[14], S1[15], S4[20], OS6[16], OS12[18]. However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in adverse effects on water quality:

- All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.
- All recreational activities being promoted or developed under the action will have due regard to all environmental constraints such as Biodiversity and European sites, where required appropriate visitor management plans and appropriate signage will be developed to ensure appropriate management processes are put in place to avoid significant adverse effects. Similarly, infrastructure works will have integrated environmental considerations within the feasibility assessment.
- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- All lighting projects will have low lumens directional lighting designed with regard to ecological sensitivity. All works will due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no adverse effects on water quality throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent adverse effects on water quality (see Table 5-2).

Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites. The following list of actions may result in adverse effects on air quality: R1[8], R2[9], R3[19], RF1[10], C3[13], C4[14], S1[15], S4[20], OS6[16]. However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in adverse effects on air quality:

- All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
- All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.
- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- All lighting projects will have low lumens directional lighting designed with regard to ecological sensitivity. All works will due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no adverse effects on air quality throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent adverse effects on air quality (see Table 5-2).

Additionally, the actions provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions. The following list of actions may result in adverse effects to the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions: R2[9], R3[19], RF1[10], RF2[11], C3[13], C4[14], S1[15], S4[20], OS6[16], OS12[18]. However, these actions have been amended which have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in adverse effects to the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions:

- All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.

- All recreational activities being promoted or developed under the action will have due regard to all environmental constraints such as Biodiversity and European sites, where required appropriate visitor management plans and appropriate signage will be developed to ensure appropriate management processes are put in place to avoid significant adverse effects. Similarly, infrastructure works will have integrated environmental considerations within the feasibility assessment.
- Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
- Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
- All lighting projects will have low lumens directional lighting designed with regard to ecological sensitivity. All works will due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

These policies ensure that there will be no adverse effects to the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions throughout the lifetime of the plan. In addition Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan will prevent adverse effects to the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions (see Table 5-2).

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; R1[8], R3[19], R4[21], RF3[12], RF4[22], C1[23], C2[24] and C3[13] etc.

[21] **Edible Dublin: Food Strategy**: Feeding a city in a time of climate change is not easy. Our food strategy sets out how we are working to ensure all residents of Dublin City will have access to healthy and affordable food; by addressing the impacts of climate change on our food system from production and distribution to consumption and disposal. The implementation of this strategy requires partnerships to deliver on the four pillars: 1. Healthy Citizens, Healthy City; 2. Growing Food at Home; 3. Cooking and Creating; 4. Farm to Fork and Back.

[22] **Ecosystem of Social and Circular Enterprises:** We continue to nurture a healthy ecosystem of social and circular small and medium enterprises by providing supports to entrepreneurs through initiatives like MODOS, Micro for Green, and SoCircular. Through our partnership with Belfast City Council we are developing physical and regulatory infrastructure components essential to support SMEs to innovate and create a Connected Circular Economy on the Island of Ireland.

[23] **Community Hubs:** Our Libraries are community hubs where people of all ages meet, and share ideas. Expanding the services of our libraries can support climate action through maker spaces, workshops, and libraries of things. We know from the work of our Culture Company that there are artists and makers who are active across the city and ready to share their knowledge and draw communities together.

[24] **Networks for Knowledge Exchange:** Dublin city is home to world class third level institutions nurturing Ireland's next generation of leaders. We are establishing a partnership programme that brings academics, students and the city together to develop creative solutions to the challenges we face. Together, we will be at the cutting edge of research and innovation driving systems change.

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

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

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to agricultural practices, antagonism with domestic animals, waste management, invasive species, hydrological interactions, invasives, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to burning, agricultural practices, invasive species, transportation, hydrological interactions, waste management, antagonism with domestic animals, Intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, direct interaction with species and populations through fishing, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SAC relate to hydrological interactions, waste management, transportation, accumulation of organic material, biocenotic evolution, succession, changes in abiotic conditions, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, transportation, waste management, hydrological interactions, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, waste management, invasive species, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, invasive species, transportation, hydrological interaction, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to transportation, hydrological interaction, waste management, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, invasive species, transportation, hydrological interaction, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, forestry, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004069	Lambay Island SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, direct interaction with species and populations through hunting, transportation, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to recreation and direct interaction with species and populations through fishing. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to burning and recreation. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agricultural practices, recreation and other direct land use practices. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc. The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.

5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below.[25] Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

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

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

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

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

Due to the inter-relationship between various environmental components, environmental mitigation measures defined for one component can also serve to benefit another environmental component.

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

Table 5-1: Mitigation measures most relevant to European sites - text amendments to each of these actions were made throughout the SEA & AA processes

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
R1	**Social Housing Regeneration:** We are the largest landlord in the country, with a stock of 214 flat complexes and 10,000 houses, this is an opportunity to demonstrate and set the standard for sustainable living. We will build on our experience with energy retrofitting to prepare our housing for climate change. Our flagship project will be Dominick Street Lower. This project will demonstrate climate resilient housing retrofit that enables and encourages residents to live sustainably with ease through the provision of, for example: green spaces to grow, play and create; shared spaces to meet and innovate; segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging).	This action will support retrofitting aimed at regenerative action with energy efficiency at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. Given the urban nature of the works, there are no significant impacts identified to be likely. However, due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed, and protected structure conservation.	**Social Housing Regeneration:** We are the largest landlord in the country, with a stock of 214 flat complexes and 10,000 houses, this is an opportunity to demonstrate and set the standard for sustainable living. We will build on our experience with energy retrofitting to prepare our housing for climate change. Our flagship project will be Dominick Street Lower. This project will demonstrate climate resilient housing retrofit that enables and encourages residents to live sustainably with ease through the provision of, for example: green spaces to grow, play and create; shared spaces to meet and innovate; segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging). All social housing regenerations projects will have due regard to protected species such as Annex IV species and where appropriate bat roost surveys will be undertaken to inform such works. All regeneration projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.
R2	**Public Buildings Regeneration:** Our social housing will serve as the exemplar for domestic buildings, our public buildings will demonstrate how heritage buildings can be adapted and retrofitted for a climate resilient future. As with our social housing, our buildings – 2 galleries, 22 libraries, 12 community centres, 17 sports and recreation centres, and operations depots – will demonstrate what is possible.	This action will support the implementation of infrastructures projects defined in the Pathfinder programme for the local authority functional area. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (though the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion).	**Public Buildings Regeneration:** Our social housing will serve as the exemplar for domestic buildings, our public buildings will demonstrate how heritage buildings can be adapted and retrofitted for a climate resilient future. As with our social housing, our buildings – 2 galleries, 22 libraries, 12 community centres, 17 sports and recreation centres, and operations depots – will demonstrate what is possible. All retrofitting and maintenance works will prioritise energy efficiencies, segregated waste facilities, renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible), and mobility options (shared bikes, micro mobility and EV charging); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		The ongoing operation of new facilities may have a slight to significant effect on aspects such as traffic networks for other modes of transport, in absence of proper design of such networks the outset and additional mitigation as may be required. The delivery of this action has the potential to have a significant positive effect on population and human health through the promotion of modes of travel that benefit human health and community strengthening. This action is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	
R3	**Climate Resilient Critical Infrastructure:** The city's infrastructure that enables us to live, work and play needs to be resilient. Ensuring that our drainage system, utilities, roads, public lighting and communications networks are maintained and upgraded is essential. This requires working in partnership with Irish Water, the OPW, ESB, Eirgrid, NTA, and DECC. Together we will insure that these critical systems are prepared for the future. Our flagship energy project, the Dublin District Heating System (DDHS) will contribute to our energy security by providing an alternative to electricity based heating systems. This will be further supported by geothermal. DCC is also facilitating the delivery of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in collaboration with key partners including ZEVI and ESB Networks.	This action will support the development of new projects aimed at regenerative action with energy efficiency at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption in new buildings and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. This action will support the implementation of geothermal heating projects within the local authority functional area. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (though the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion).	**Climate Resilient Critical Infrastructure:** The city's infrastructure that enables us to live, work and play needs to be resilient. Ensuring that our drainage system, utilities, roads, public lighting and communications networks are maintained and upgraded is essential. This requires working in partnership with Irish Water, the OPW, ESB, Eirgrid, NTA, and DECC. Together we will insure that these critical systems are prepared for the future. Our flagship energy project, the Dublin District Heating System (DDHS) will contribute to our energy security by providing an alternative to electricity based heating systems. This will be further supported by geothermal. DCC is also facilitating the delivery of public electric vehicle charging infrastructure in collaboration with key partners including ZEVI and ESB Networks. Public Lighting Upgrades will prioritise energy efficient systems while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		The delivery this action has the potential to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	
RF1	**A Nature Full City:** Nature provides us with resources to live and thrive. Delivering on our parks and greening strategies will increase the green cover of the city and improve air quality, water quality, and health and well-being. Prioritising green infrastructure that connects existing parks will not only improve the look and atmosphere of our streets, making your commute more enjoyable, but will also provide pollinators, birds, and other animals with food and places to live. Ensure connectivity projects priorities ecological connectivity through complex hedgerow development and maintenance, while ensuring barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting are avoided. Providing the public with the opportunity to learn about biodiversity is essential ensuring that the nature based solutions we implement thrive. The Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Discovery Centre and the Liffey Vale Biodiversity Centre, will provide people with the opportunity to learn about our natural heritage and how we can all take steps to conserve our environment.	It is important to note that green infrastructure has potential to be misrepresented. Efforts are required to ensure integrated thinking is brought into this action to ensure connectivity pathways are developed and maintained that focus on ecological connectivity and not just functional connectivity for people. The proposed location of this Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Discovery Centre is within protected habitats such as Marram Dunes. The construction phase elements of this project is likely to have significant impacts on the receiving environment if incorrectly designed and managed. There should be no external lighting around this structure. Moreover, it is well documented that bull Island and the protected habitats are under severe threat from visitor movements and associated damage. There is a clear need for improved management processes. A visitor management plan for the centre and surrounding environs is required to minimise operational phase impacts. Actions OS25 and EP29 address these issues in a robust manner. The proposed location for the Liffey Vale Biodiversity Centre has high potential for roosting bats. Appropriate roost investigation surveys must be completed in advance of any works and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.	**A Nature Full City:** Nature provides us with resources to live and thrive. Delivering on our parks and greening strategies will increase the green cover of the city and improve air quality, water quality, and health and well-being. Prioritising green infrastructure that connects existing parks will not only improve the look and atmosphere of our streets, making your commute more enjoyable, but will also provide pollinators, birds, and other animals with food and places to live. Ensure connectivity projects priorities ecological connectivity through complex hedgerow development and maintenance, while ensuring barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting are avoided. Providing the public with the opportunity to learn about biodiversity is essential to ensure that the nature based solutions we implement thrive. The Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Discovery Centre and the Liffey Vale Biodiversity Centre, will provide people with the opportunity to learn about our natural heritage and how we can all take steps to conserve our environment. Natural heritage education will focus on challenging environmental perceptions to foster environmental stewardship through appropriately managed engagement with nature. All infrastructure projects under this action will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc. Furthermore, works ensure appropriate bat roost investigation surveys and appropriate measures taken to ensure no significant impacts occur to any Annex IV species.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
RF2	**Restoring the City's Rivers:** Growing around the River Liffey and its tributaries, residents of the city flourished, harvesting vegetables in the hinterlands, trading livestock at marts in the city, and bringing spices in from the port. Our city's rivers and canals have defined Dublin. Their restoration plays a vital role in the city's future. In our development plan we have committed to de-culverting and giving our vital rivers space. Measures will also see our rivers provide people with places for recreation and connection with nature. Our restoration plans for the River Santry demonstrate what is possible, and we will re-imagine how we celebrate the River Liffey.	Recreational activity in natural spaces such as rivers and beaches are not inherently damaging. However, there are known impacts associated with inappropriately managed activities in sensitive habitats such as Dune systems. Therefore, the promotion of access and engagement with waterways and natural spaces needs to be carefully considered. Similarly, infrastructure works such as culverting could have unintended consequences on water quality and associated aquatic habitats and species. If implemented correctly this action is likely to have moderate positive environmental effect in terms of water quality improvements, engagement with nature and biodiversity enhancements.	**Restoring the City's Rivers:** Growing around the River Liffey and its tributaries, residents of the city flourished, harvesting vegetables in the hinterlands, trading livestock at marts in the city, and bringing spices in from the port. Our city's rivers and canals have defined Dublin. Their restoration plays a vital role in the city's future. In our development plan we have committed to de-culverting and giving our vital rivers space. Measures will also see our rivers provide people with places for recreation and connection with nature. Our restoration plans for the River Santry demonstrate what is possible, and we will re-imagine how we celebrate the River Liffey. All recreational activities being promoted or developed under the action will have due regard to all environmental constraints such as Biodiversity and European sites, where required appropriate visitor management plans and appropriate signage will be developed to ensure appropriate management processes are put in place to avoid significant adverse effects. Similarly, infrastructure works will have integrated environmental considerations within the feasibility assessment.
RF3	**Re-Use of Buildings:** We know that the lowest carbon building is one that is already built. Re-using existing buildings provides an opportunity to build on existing programmes, for example adaptive re-use which is converting vacant commercial buildings into housing. This also aligns with the EU Performance of Buildings Directive. We will also use vacant buildings to support enterprises by identifying buildings suitable for incubation hubs and community spaces.	This action will support retrofitting aimed at regenerative action with energy efficiency at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. Given the urban nature of the works, there are no significant impacts identified to be likely. However, due regard should be given to Annex IV species which may be roosting in any structures which are to be developed, and protected structure conservation.	**Re-Use of Buildings:** We know that the lowest carbon building is one that is already built. Re-using existing buildings provides an opportunity to build on existing programmes, for example adaptive re-use which is converting vacant commercial buildings into housing. This also aligns with the EU Performance of Buildings Directive. We will also use vacant buildings to support enterprises by identifying buildings suitable for incubation hubs and community spaces. All reuse projects will have due regard to the need to appropriately protect, conserve and enhance protected structures in accordance with protected structures legislation.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
C3	**Innovation Districts:** Our Smart City programme is developing innovation districts that bring together diverse SMEs to create solutions that improve the city. Smart Districts are strategically selected locations across Dublin where innovation projects are fast-tracked. Smart Districts are designed in partnership with citizens, industry, and academia. Each Smart District is unique, with projects designed to meet the specific needs of those who live and work there.	This action will support the development of new projects aimed at regenerative action with energy efficiency at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption in new buildings and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. This action will support the implementation of geothermal heating projects within the local authority functional area. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (though the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion). The delivery this action has the potential to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	**Innovation Districts:** Our Smart City programme is developing innovation districts that bring together diverse SMEs to create solutions that improve the city. Smart Districts are strategically selected locations across Dublin where innovation projects are fast-tracked. Smart Districts are designed in partnership with citizens, industry, and academia. Each Smart District is unique, with projects designed to meet the specific needs of those who live and work there. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriate protect and conserve protected structures.
C4	**Decarbonisation Zones:** We will build on this knowledge and experience gained from our smart districts, and develop our two decarbonisation zones in Ringsend and Poolbeg, and Ballymun. The development of the decarbonisation plans for Ringsend and Poolbeg, and Ballymun, will be a collaborative effort to insure that the unique strengths of each zone come to the fore and permits ownership of the challenges and solutions.	This action will support the development of new projects aimed at regenerative action with energy efficiency at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption in new buildings and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. This action will support the implementation of geothermal heating projects within the local authority functional area.	**Decarbonisation Zones:** We will build on this knowledge and experience gained from our smart districts, and develop our two decarbonisation zones in Ringsend and Poolbeg, and Ballymun. The development of the decarbonisation plans for Ringsend and Poolbeg, and Ballymun, will be a collaborative effort to insure that the unique strengths of each zone come to the fore and permits ownership of the challenges and solutions. Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (though the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion). The delivery this action has the potential to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	
S1	**A Connected Active Travel Network:** Moving people through the city to meet friends and family, to go to work or school, or to simply explore must be easy and safe. We will bring together 95% of the population of the City within 400 metres of the active travel network; making it easier for people to walk, cycle, wheel or scoot to their destination or for leisure, day or night.	This action supports the development of additional cycling infrastructure. In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (through the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion). The ongoing operation of a cycle network may have a slight to significant effect on traffic flows associated with other modes of transport, in absence of proper design of such networks the outset and additional mitigation as may be required. The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to have a significant positive effect on population and human health through the promotion of modes of travel that benefit human health.	**A Connected Active Travel Network:** Moving people through the city to meet friends and family, to go to work or school, or to simply explore must be easy and safe. We will bring together 95% of the population of the City within 400 metres of the active travel network; making it easier for people to walk, cycle, wheel or scoot to their destination or for leisure, day or night. Community Participation Events to celebrate new active travel routes as they open and encourage use in a responsible manner to avoid/minimise impacts to biodiversity and the environment. Ecological connectivity will be considered with regard to hedgerow development and maintenance as well as the avoidance of barrier effects such as inappropriate lighting. All active travel projects will have due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		Events and active travel usage has associated environmental impacts such as noise, disturbance, littering etc. Therefore, these events should have a focus on responsible site usage. The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	
S2	**Neighbourhoods are the Heart:** Dublin is said to be a city of villages and these villages have strong identities. This is a strength. Nurturing our neighbourhoods to ensure that they continue to thrive and support strong social networks is vital in preparing for climate change and preventing adverse impacts on our health and well-being, during and in the aftermath of an extreme event. We will build on our existing initiatives such as quiet zones and sustainable energy communities, pride of place, and tidy towns to increase our social, and economic resilience.	This action is focused on behavioural change awareness initiatives, which have no inherent environmental impacts associated with them. It is imperative the biodiversity is included in the educational aspects of climate action discussions to ensure biodiversity is not sacrificed for climate action.	**Neighbourhoods are the Heart:** Dublin is said to be a city of villages and these villages have strong identities. This is a strength. Nurturing our neighbourhoods to ensure that they continue to thrive and support strong social networks is vital in preparing for climate change and preventing adverse impacts on our health and well-being, during and in the aftermath of an extreme event. We will build on our existing initiatives such as quiet zones and sustainable energy communities, pride of place, and tidy towns to increase our social, and economic resilience. A focus shall be placed on integrating climate action with considerations relating to pollinator friendly biodiversity to ensure a win-win scenario are achieved.
S4	**A Re-imagined Public Realm:** Public squares and the spaces in between are where life's stories are born. In a time of climate change our public realm has a lot to do. Not only will public spaces need to bring people together to play, chat, and create, they must be resilient to climate change impacts – providing shade as temperatures rise and water storage when the rainfall is intense or	This action aims to bring about infrastructure related to lighting, public access, connecting people in functional spaces etc. This has potential for impacts related to noise, light pollution, constructure phase impacts such as surface water drainage, dust etc. There are potential benefits of this action with regard to community engagement and awareness development which could have slight positive effects on emissions -	**A Re-imagined Public Realm:** Public squares and the spaces in between are where life's stories are born. In a time of climate change our public realm has a lot to do. Not only will public spaces need to bring people together to play, chat, and create, they must be resilient to climate change impacts – providing shade as temperatures rise and water storage when the rainfall is intense or absent. Aligning our plans for a vibrant night time economy, providing public lighting, street furniture, waste segregation, active travel and greening will

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	absent. Aligning our plans for a vibrant night time economy, providing public lighting, street furniture, waste segregation, active travel and greening will be a critical part of re-imagining public spaces that define our city.	particularly with regard to the increased waste facilities which could be supported. However, mitigation measures are required in this regard.	be a critical part of re-imagining public spaces that define our city. All lighting projects will have low lumens directional lighting designed with regard to ecological sensitivities. All works will due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
OS10	Monitor implementation of flood risk management guidelines in planning applications.	This is a monitoring related action that will not have any real environmental effect when considered in isolation. The implementation of at the action will support tracking the adoption of implementation of flood resilience and SuDS related action and better inform decision making relating to flood resilience action.	Monitor implementation of flood risk management guidelines in planning applications, having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as European sites, Biodiversity, Archaeology and amenity value etc.
OS11	Coordinate Emergency Response Plans aligned with Sendai Framework and revise based on learnings from management of response to events.	Emergency response plans may result in unintended consequences for protected features such as sensitive habitats etc. There needs to be integrated considerations with regard to emergency responses and the councils' obligations to protected features.	Coordinate Emergency Response Plans aligned with Sendai Framework and revise based on learnings from management of response to events; having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as European sites, Biodiversity, Archaeology and amenity value etc.
OS13	Environmental surveys of all City rivers and estuaries as baseline surveys from which to monitor ecosystem health.	Monitoring programme which is not likely to have adverse environmental consequences.	Develop and complete environmental surveys of all City rivers and estuaries as baseline surveys from which to monitor ecosystem health.
OS17	Identify opportunities of introducing circular economy principles in Bring Centre Depots.	This action will support circular economy action with sustainability improvements at the core. The adoption of this action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and prevent GHG emissions. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	Identify opportunities of introducing circular economy principles in Bring Centre Depots and implement where appropriate.
OS18	Expand Depot collection of WEEE products to all Depots.	This action is likely to support proper management of waste and reduce the risk of improper disposal of waste - which may lead to the occurrence of environmental pollution. The inappropriate or improper management of WEEE could potentially lead to negative environmental effects, including impacts on the water and soils environment.	Expand Depot collection of WEEE products to all Depots, whilst ensuring such sites are operated in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Act and in a manner that does not result in environmental nuisance or pollution.

Action Reference	Original Action	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including:	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
OS21	Review terms and conditions for all events approved by DCC to incorporate possible sustainability conditions.	Sustainability has environmental considerations as a key feature therefore there are no likely significant impacts on foot of this action.	Review terms and conditions for all events approved by DCC to incorporate possible sustainability conditions and integrated considerations for biodiversity and other environmental sensitivities.
OS22	Develop strategy to convert fleet to low emission vehicles; and ensure end of life plans are in place for vehicles.	Increasing the level of local authority vehicles that use sustainable sources of energy/fuel will have a slight positive effect on climate. The scalable adoption of vehicles based on certain alternative fuels may contribute to the expansion of alternative fuel production sectors. These sectors may indirectly cause environmental effects (including uncertain and potentially negative effects) as a result of fuel sourcing, production and supply processes.	Develop strategy to convert fleet to low emission vehicles based on sustainable energy/fuel sources; and ensure end of life plans are in place for vehicles.
EP8	The Council will work with the Local Authority Waters Programme in its support of communities and stakeholders in the delivery of local water quality projects and initiatives.	This action is focused on water quality projects which have no inherent environmental impacts associated with them; however, they could result in inappropriate infrastructure or management practices if incorrectly implemented thus careful considerations are required.	The Council will work with the Local Authority Waters Programme in its support of communities and stakeholders in the delivery of local water quality projects and initiatives have due regard for environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
EP19	Support and promote Tidy Towns / City Neighbourhoods initiatives.	This action is focused on town improvement projects which have no inherent environmental impacts associated with them; however, they could result in inappropriate infrastructure or management practices if incorrectly implemented thus careful considerations are required.	Support and promote Tidy Towns / City Neighbourhoods initiatives which have due regard for environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.
EP28	Build partnerships with cities internationally to exchange best practice for climate action.	This will build on the resource pool and knowledge base from which plans and actions will be further refined. The action is likely to have a slight positive effect on climate - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.	Build partnerships with cities internationally to exchange best practice for climate action and implement learnings into all future plans and projects.
EP32	Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS in existing developments.	Retrofitting could affect protected features if incorrectly implemented.	Promote and encourage community involvement in the retrofit of SuDS in existing developments: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as Archaeology, European sites, biodiversity and amenity value etc.

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

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

6. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Dublin City Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[26]. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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

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APPENDIX 1

Background Information to European Sites

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

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	A typical eastern estuary with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats. Quality variable owing to pollution from a number of sources especially a large landfill site which was built on the mudflats. The salt marshes which fringe the estuary are of moderate importance and quality and include both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows as well as Salicornia flats. The sand dune element at site is limited in its distribution and quality. Has three Red Data Book plant species. Of high importance for wintering waterfowl with an internationally important population of Branta bernicla horta and nationally important populations of a further 16 species including Pluvialis apricaria. Sterna albifrons has bred.	The site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin. Receives the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers both of which flow through an agricultural catchment. It is a funnel shaped estuary extending for about 6 km from east to west and up to 2 km at its widest. Has a wide salinity range from near full sea water to near full fresh water. The estuary is bisected by a causeway and bridge which carries the Dublin-Belfast railway line. A sandy peninsula stretches across the outer part of the estuary restricting water flow to a channel of c.200 m. In addition to salt marsh and sand dune habitats some agricultural fields which adjoin the estuary are included in site - some of these have botanical or ornithological interests. .
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species - harbour porpoise within the Irish Sea. Population survey data show that porpoise occurrence within the site boundary meets suitable reference values for other designated sites in Ireland. The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded. Porpoises with young (i.e., calves) are observed at favourable typical reference values for the species. Casual and effort-related sighting rates from coastal observation stations are significant for the east coast of Ireland and the latter appear to be relatively stable across all seasons. The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow. The site also contains two Annex II seal species – Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina vitulina) Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) has also occasionally been recorded in the area.	The selected site forms a strip of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea extending approximately 40 km in length and encompassing a range of comparatively shallow marine habitats including diverse seabed structures reefs islets and islands. It borders existing designated sites for Annexed species and habitats and is adjacent to a wide array of coastal features e.g., mudflats lagoons estuaries coastal cliffs sea caves several of which are also designated. Extending east from Dublin Bay towards the offshore Kish Bank the site contains the entire Burford Bank, a sedimentary seabed structure (i.e., fine sand) at the mouth of Dublin Bay that on its north side is flanked by gravel and coarse sand deposits. The site also contains the northern segment of the Frazer Bank (i.e., fine sand) off Dalkey Island and Killiney Bay. Reef habitats within the site occur at Dalkey Island Maiden Rock and Muglins in the southern portion off Howth Head Ireland's Eye and Lambay Island in the central portion and Rockabill in North Dublin.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		Along the eastern seaboard the habitat type Reef is uncommon due to prevailing geology and hydrographical conditions. Expansive surveys of the Irish coast have indicated that the greatest resource of this habitat within the Irish Sea is found fringing offshore islands which are concentrated along the Dublin coast. A detailed survey of selected suitable islands has shown areas with typical biodiversity for this habitat both intertidally and subtidally. These Reefs are subject to strong tidal currents with an abundant supply of suspended matter resulting in good representation of filter feeding fauna such as sponges anemones and echinoderms.	
004006	North Bull Island SPA	The site is among the top ten sites for wintering waterfowl in the country. It supports internationally important populations of Branta bernicila hrota and Limosa lapponica and is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance with particular notable numbers of Tadorna tadorna (8.5% of national total) Anas acuta (11.6% of national total) Pluvialis squatarola (6.9% of national total) Calidris canutus (10.5% of national total). North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders such as Philomachus pugnax Calidris ferruginea and Tringa erythropus. The site supports Asio flammeus in winter. Formerly the site had an important colony of Sterna albifrons, but breeding has not occurred in recent years. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. The site has a population of the rare Petalophyllum ralfsii which is the only known station away from the western seaboard as well as five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four bryophyte species. It is nationally important for three insect species. Wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s and the other scientific interests of the site have also been well documented. Future prospects are good owing to various designations assigned to site.	The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. A well-developed dune system runs the length of the island with good examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Extensive salt marshes also occur. Between the island and the mainland occur two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	Rogerstown Estuary is a typical eastern estuary with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats. Of high importance for wintering waterfowl with an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota that accounts for 5.9% of the national total. It supports nationally important populations of a further 15 species and notably Calidris canutus (8.6% of national total) Tadorna tadorna (5.3% of national total) and Pluvialis squatarola (4.5% of national total). It is an important and regular site for a range of autumn passage migrants especially Calidris minuta Calidris ferruginea Philomachus pugnax and Tringa ochropus. Sterna albifrons was bred in the past but not recently. It includes populations of three Red Data Book plant species. Wintering birds are well monitored.	The site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin. It receives freshwater from the Ballyboghil and Ballough Rivers both of which flow through an intensive agricultural catchment. It is a funnel shaped estuary extending for about 6 km from east to west and up to 2 km at its widest. It has a wide salinity range from full sea water to near full fresh water. The estuary is bisected by a causeway and bridge which carries the Dublin-Belfast railway line. A sandy peninsula stretches across the outer part of the estuary restricting water flow to a channel of c.200 m. In addition to salt marsh and sand dune habitats some agricultural fields which adjoin the estuary are included in the site as these have ornithological or botanical interests. A section of shallow marine water is included in the site.
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Baldoyle Bay is a typical eastern estuarine system with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats which have Zostera spp. It also has good salt marsh fringes where birds roost. The quality of habitats present is variable but generally good. The site supports a good diversity of wintering waterfowl and notably an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota. It has nationally important populations of Tadorna tadorna Anas acuta Charadrius hiaticula Pluvialis apricaria Pluvialis squatarola and Limosa lapponica. At high tide, the shallow waters regularly attract species such as Podiceps cristatus and Mergus serrator. Sterna albifrons formerly bred at the site but not since the early 1990s.	The site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin. It receives the flows of the Mayne and Sluice rivers both of which drain an agricultural / suburban catchment. Much of the estuary is sheltered from the sea by a large sand dune peninsula (now mostly a golf course). Sediments in the inner sheltered areas are mostly mud or muddy sands often with a high organic content. Towards Portmarnock Point the sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. In addition to the intertidal flats and salt marsh habitats a small area of sand hills and sandy beach at Portmarnock Point is included in the site.
004024	Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA	The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota which feeds on Zostera noltii in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species: Haematopus ostralegus Charadrius hiaticula Calidris canutus Calidris alba Calidris	This site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. A portion of the shallow bay waters is also included. In the south bay the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. The sands

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		alpina and Limosa lapponica. It is an important site for wintering gulls, especially Larus ridibundus and Larus canus. South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for Larus melanocephalus with up to 20 birds present at times. Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns including Sterna dougallii S. hirundo and S. paradisaea.	support the largest stand of Zostera noltii on the East Coast. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotrophic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed well aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	The site supports good examples of both upland and woodland bird communities. It has breeding Falco columbarius and Falco peregrinus as well as Turdus torquatus and Lagopus lagopus both of the latter being Red listed in Ireland. It is the only site in Ireland where Mergus merganser breeds regularly. It is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably Phoenicurus phoenicurus and Phylloscopus sibilatrix. It also has Sylvia borin and Sylvia atricapilla.	This is an extensive upland site comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes, deep valleys and moraines. Most of the site is over 300 m with much ground over 600 m and the highest peak of Lugnaquillia at 925 m. The substrate over much of site is peat with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The dominant habitats present are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. Fine examples of native Oak woodlands are found in the Glendalough area. The site which is within the Wicklow Mountains National Park is fragmented into about 20 separate parcels of land.
000202	Howth Head SAC	The climate and landforms of Howth combined with proximity to Dublin have resulted in a site of great scientific and educational interest. The flora is very diverse with several Red data book species and species of very restricted Irish distribution. The dry heath and sea cliff vegetation is extensive and well developed. A wide variety	Howth is a peninsula of Cambrian quartzite and slate linked to the mainland by a raised beach. Most of the coast is sheer with many 30m or higher cliffs. Its climate is dry and warm by Irish standards, and this is reflected in its flora and fauna. The proposed SAC occupies the eastern portion and summit of Howth. Much of the

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		of seabirds nest on the marine cliffs. Many important scientific studies of the area have been published.	remaining area is urbanized or used for amenities. The greater part of the site consists of heathland and cliff.
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	The site possesses an excellent diversity of coastal habitats. The North Bull Island dune system is one of the most important systems on the east coast and is one of the few in Ireland that is actively accreting. It possesses extensive and mostly good quality examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt marshes are well represented, and a particularly good marsh zonation is shown. The salt marshes grade into mudflats and sandflats some of which are dominated by annual Salicornia species. Petalophyllum ralfsii occurs at its only known station away from the western seaboard. The site has five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four Red Data Book bryophyte species. This is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland with internationally important populations of Branta bernicla horta Calidris canutus and Limosa lapponica plus nationally important numbers of a further 14 species. 20% of the national total of Pluvialis squatarola occurs here. Formerly it had an important colony of Sterna albifrons. North Dublin Bay is nationally important for three insect species. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented and future prospects are good owing to the various designations assigned to site.	The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. Between the island and the mainland there are two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. The interior of the island is excluded from the site as it has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main landuse within the site.
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	The site possesses a fine and fairly extensive example of intertidal flats. The sediment type is predominantly sand with muddy sands in the more sheltered areas. A typical macro-invertebrate fauna exists. Has the largest stand of Zostera on the east coast. Supports part of the important wintering waterfowl populations of Dublin Bay. Regularly has an internationally population of Branta bernicila horta plus nationally important numbers of at least a further 6 species including Limosa lapponica. Regular autumn roosting ground for	This intertidal site extends from the South Wall at Dublin Port to the West Pier at Dun Laoghaire, a distance of c. 5 km. At their widest the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km. The seaward boundary is marked by the low tide mark while the landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. A number of small streams and drains

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		significant numbers of Sterna terns including S. dougallii. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented.	flow into the site. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	A small but extremely species-rich site with a high diversity of habitats in a predominantly agricultural area. The site is notable for the presence of many petrifying springs for alkaline fen and for wet woodland.	A small glen cut through calcareous sands and gravels with a tributary stream of the Dargle river flowing west to east through it. The site supports a strip of wet woodland a small area of alkaline fen fed by petrifying springs and grades to scrub and dry calcareous grassland on the upper edges of the valley sides.
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	A relatively small but diverse wooded valley notable for the occurrence of good examples of tufa-forming springs and associated alluvial forest. The site is also important for a number of rare plants including Erigeron acer Lamiastrum galeobdolon and Wahlenbergia hederacea and a particularly diverse woodland invertebrate fauna. Its proximity to Dublin adds to its value as an educational and amenity resource.	A wooded valley cut through calcareous glacial drift with the fast-flowing Glencullen river flowing west to east through it. Vegetation types include broadleaf deciduous woods including wet woodland near the river heath and a number of tufa-forming springs and seepage areas.
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	The importance of the site lies in the presence of a number of rare plant and animal species and a rare habitat i.e., thermal mineral petrifying spring. Spring gives rise to a calcareous marsh, the habitat for Vertigo angustior and Vertigo moulinsiana. This marsh is species-rich and holds a number of plant and insect species which are rare or locally uncommon in Ireland. Four Red Data Book plant species have been recorded from the site, two of which Hypericum hirsutum and Viola hirta are legally protected. The woods at the eastern end of the site have some ornithological interest.	A river valley site which includes at its western end a large area of estate woodland and an artificial lake. The eastern section of the site includes a section of railway canal and aquaduct; it continues as far as Leixlip town. The site is underlain by carboniferous limestone over which has been laid a layer of glacial drift.
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	The site comprises the largest complex of upland habitats in eastern Ireland with important examples of blanket bog wet heath and dry heath extensive in area and mostly of good quality. Alpine heath occurs at high levels along with calcareous and siliceous rocky habitats harbouring an arctic-alpine flora. A fine series of	An extensive upland site comprising much of the Wicklow Mountains and extending into Co. Dublin. The solid geology is mainly Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area has been glaciated and features fine examples of high corrie lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		oligotrophic lakes occur, and some have Salvelinus alpinus. Several oakwoods of moderate quality typical of the dry acidic woods of eastern Ireland are found. Seven Red Data Book plant species occur including the rare Alchemilla alpina and Nitella gracilis at its only Irish station. The site supports significant populations of breeding Falco columbarius and Falco peregrinus. The site is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably Phoenicurus phoenicurus and Phylloscopus sibilatrix. The site also has breeding Turdus torquatus and Lagopus lagopus. Lutra lutra occurs on several of the riverine systems.	the site is over 300m with much ground over 600m and the highest peak of Lugnaquillia at 925m. The site includes the headwaters of several major rivers including the Liffey the Dargle and the Slaney. The substrate over much of the site is peat with poor mineral soil on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree is a feature. The dominant habitats on the site are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland.
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	Howth Head has important colonies of breeding seabirds with nationally important populations of Rissa tridactyla Alca torda and Cepphus grylle and a regionally important population of Uria aalge the colony has been monitored at intervals since the Operation Seafarer project in 1969/70 and most populations have increased since then. The cliffs also support a breeding pair of Falco peregrinus, a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site is easily accessible and has important amenity and educational value due to its proximity to Dublin City.	Howth Head is a rocky headland situated on the northern side of Dublin Bay. The peninsula is composed of Cambrian rock of the Bray Group, the most conspicuous component being quartzite. The site comprises approximately 3 km of sea cliff which vary between about 60 m and 90 m in height. A typical maritime cliff flora occurs. Where the gradient allows shallow glacial drift supports a typical maritime flora and there is a fringe of coastal heath on the cliff tops. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base where seabirds bathe socialise, and feed is included within the site.
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	Ireland's Eye is an important seabird colony with 11 species breeding regularly. It has nationally important populations of Phalacrocorax carbo Larus argentatus Larus marinus Rissa tridactyla Uria aalge and Alca torda. In addition, the island has a recently established colony of Sula bassana which is one of only five in the country and the only one on the East coast. It also has regionally important populations of Fulmarus glacialis Phalacrocorax aristotelis Cepphus grylle and a small colony of Fratercula arctica. It is a traditional site for Falco peregrinus though this species only breeds in some years. It supports two Red Data Book plant species Crambe maritima and Hyoscyamus niger. The seabird colony is monitored annually.	Situated c.1.5 km north of Howth Ireland's Eye is a small uninhabited island. The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive cliffs along the northern and eastern sides of the island reaching up to 69 m. A tall stack which is completely cut off from the main island at mid and high tide occurs at the eastern side of the cliffs. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift. A sandy beach backed by shingle and low sand hills occurs at Carrigeen Bay on the western shore. A low-lying sparsely vegetated islet known as Thulla occurs a little south of the main island and an extensive area of bedrock shore is exposed at low tide to the south of the island. The main habitat on the island is

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			a mix of dry grassland and bracken. The seas to the north and east of the island (to a distance of 500 m) where seabirds feed bathe and socialise are included in the site. Owing to its proximity to the mainland, the island is popular with day-trippers and also has educational value.
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	A typical eastern estuarine system with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats. Good diversity in sediment types. Has Zostera spp. Quality variable but generally good. Salt marshes are well represented and are at least of moderate quality. Has two Red Data Book plant species. Of importance for wintering waterfowl with an internationally important population of Branta bernicla horta and nationally important populations of a further 6 species including Pluvialis apricaria and Limosa lapponica. Sterna albifrons formerly bred.	The site comprises a relatively small estuarine and bay system in north County Dublin. Receives the flows of the Mayne and Sluice rivers both of which drain an agricultural / suburban catchment. The inner part of the site is sheltered from the sea by a large sand dune peninsula though most of the dunes are now used as a golf course. Sediments in the inner sheltered areas are mostly mud or muddy sands often with a high organic content. Part of the tidal section of the Mayne River and adjoining brackish marshes are included in the site. The outer part of the site is exposed to the open sea and the sediments here are predominantly well-aerated sands. In addition to the intertidal and salt marsh habitats small areas of sand dunes and sandy beaches are included.
000204	Lambay Island SAC	Lambay is the largest and most isolated island on the east coast. Extensive heath formerly existed but this has been eliminated at the expense of improved pasture. Vegetated cliff is the most notable habitat - these are quite representative of eastern cliffs with diversity in height slope and aspect. The cliffs hold internationally important populations of seabirds especially Uria aalge. Anser anser winter in significant numbers. The island was the subject of an intensive natural history study in 1905-06 and again in the early 1990's. This site provides year-round haul-out habitat for the Annex II seal species Halichoerus grypus and Phoch Vitulina and includes regionally significant breeding and moulting sites. The foreshore surrounding the island holds examples of Reef habitat with typical biodiversity for the east coast.	Lambay, the largest east coast island lies 4 km off the Dublin coast. The underlying geology is dominated by igneous rocks (of andesitic type) and ash. Also present are shales and limestones of Silurian origin as well as some massive beds of Old Red Sandstone. The bedrock is exposed on the fringing cliffs and in rocky outcrops; elsewhere it is overlain by varying depths of glacial drift. The island is surrounded by steep cliffs on the north east and south sides. The west shore is low-lying and the land slopes gently eastwards to the summit in the centre of the island. Most of the western third of the island is intensively farmed while the rest is a mixture of less intensively grazed land rock outcrops scrub and bracken. There are small areas of woodland around Lambay castle and farm. Indications are that the waters close to Lambay are very important

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			for marine life. The main component of this importance is the prevalence of both intertidal and subtidal reef habitat.
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	The site has an important example of intertidal sand and mud flats with Zostera spp. Their quality is variable but generally good. Salt marshes are well represented, particularly Atlantic salt meadows and Salicornia flats. Most of the sand dune system is managed for a golf course but significant areas of fixed dunes and shifting white dunes remain. The site has Viola hirta, a Red Data Book plant species. It is of high importance for wintering waterfowl with an internationally important population of Branta bernicla horta and nationally important populations of a further 14 species including Pluvialis apricaria. It also supports a regionally important population of Limosa lapponica. this site has educational value and has been the subject of a number of research projects.	The site is situated in north Co. Dublin between the towns of Malahide and Swords. It comprises the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. A railway viaduct built in the 1800s crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. Much of the outer part of the estuary is well sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit known as the island. This spit is now mostly converted to a golf course though some sand dunes and salt marshes remain. A section of bedrock shore extending towards Portmarnock is included as it represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral.
004025	Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	The site is of high importance for wintering waterfowl and supports a particularly good diversity of species. It has an internationally important population of Branta bernicla hrota (4.8% of national total) and nationally important populations of a further 12 species. Of particular note are the populations of Tadorna tadorna (3.0% of national total) Anas acuta (2.9% of national total) Mergus serrator (2.8% of national total) Pluvialis squatarola (2.7% of national total) and Calidris canutus (3.7% of national total). The site is one of the few in eastern Ireland where substantial numbers of Bucephala clangula occur. It has a regionally important population of Limosa lapponica. The site is an important and regular site for a range of autumn passage migrants especially Calidris ferruginea and Philomachus pugnax. It supports a regular flock of non-breeding Cygnus olor.	The site is situated in north Co. Dublin between the towns of Malahide and Swords. It comprises the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. A railway viaduct built in the 1800s crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. Much of the outer part of the estuary is well-sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit known as "the island". This spit is now mostly converted to a golf-course. The outer part empties almost completely at low tide and there are extensive intertidal flats. Salt marshes occur in parts of the outer estuary and in the extreme inner part of the inner estuary.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	The site has important examples of petrifying springs. The physical and chemical properties of the springs have been studied. Good examples of orchid rich calcareous grassland including Pseudorchis albida (legally protected) and Orchis morio (Red Data Book species) are found. The quality of grassland is variable owing to agricultural improvement. Molinia meadows are also represented. Several other Red Data Book plant species occur along with a host of rare or scarce plant species for Co. Dublin. The botany of this site has been well studied since the 19th century. The site has Alcedo atthis and is important for bats with four Red Data Book species present (Pipistrellus pipistrellus Nyctalus leisleri Myotis daubentoni Plecotus auritus).	Glenasmole Valley lies at the northern foothills of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. It is a glaciated valley with drift deposits consisting of fluvioglacial sands and gravels of varying thickness and rich in Carboniferous limestone occurring on the slopes. Spring lines occur along both sides of the northern part of the valley. The River Dodder flows through the valley and within the site the river has been impounded to form two reservoirs. Associated with the reservoirs are areas of swamp and marsh vegetation. The valley is heavily wooded mostly with mixed woodland of both deciduous and coniferous species but also some native woodland. Dry calcareous pasture grassland improved to varying degrees is a main habitat of the valley sides and occurs in association with wet grassland and in places of seepage fen or marsh type vegetation.
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	Island has a small though significant example of vegetated stony or shingle habitat of the type which fringes sandy beaches. It also contains an example of vegetated sea cliffs and has two Red Data Book species Crambe maritima and Hyoscyamus niger. Excellent diversity of breeding seabirds (up to 12 species) with four species in numbers of national importance and also a recently established gannet (Sula bassana) colony, the only one on the east coast. Traditional site for Falco peregrinus.	Situated c. 1.5 km north of Howth Ireland's Eye is a small uninhabited island. The underlying geology is Cambrian greywhackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive cliffs along the northern and eastern sides of the island reaching up to 69 m. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift. A sandy beach backed by shingle and low sand hills occurs at Carrigeen Bay on the western shore. An extensive area of bedrock shore is exposed at low tide to the south of the island. The main habitat on the island is a mix of dry grassland and bracken. Owing to its proximity to the mainland the island is popular with day-trippers and also has educational value.
004069	Lambay Island SPA	Lambay is one of the most important seabird colonies in Ireland with 12 species breeding regularly. It supports internationally important populations of Phalacrocorax carbo Phalacrocorax aristotelis Uria aalge and Alca torda and nationally important populations of Fulmarus glacialis Larus argentatus Larus fuscus Larus marinus and Rissa tridactyla. Cliff habitat for nesting seabirds is very extensive	Lambay Island lies approximately 4 km off the north Dublin coastline and is separated by a channel of 10-13 m in depth. East of Lambay the water deepens rapidly into the Irish Sea basin. The island has an area of 250 ha above the high tide mark. The island is the remains of a volcanic island. Most rocks are divisible into two groups - those formed by igneous activity and those of sedimentary

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		and of high quality. Other notable breeding birds are Haematopus ostralegus (largest concentration in the region) Tadorna tadorna and Falco peregrinus. The island supports a nationally important wintering flock of Anser anser and a range of other wintering waterfowl though in relatively low numbers. Lambay is an important breeding site for Halichoerus grypus. The island was the subject of an intensive natural history study in 1905/06. Breeding and wintering birds are now well-monitored.	origin. Soils are generally shallow and are derived from glacial tills of Irish Sea origin. The shallow soils are peaty on high exposed ground and above the cliffs. The island is well raised above sea-level with about two-thirds above the 50 m contour. On the western side of the island the land rises gently from a bedrock shoreline. Cobble storm beaches are associated with this shore and at low tide sandflats are exposed within the harbour and below a section of the rocky shore. The northern eastern and most of the southern shorelines consist of steep cliffs varying from about 15 m to 50 m in height. These are backed by vegetated slopes along most of their length. Several small streams occur. The predominant land use on the island nowadays is grazing for cattle. Most of the central and eastern part of the island was improved for grazing in the 1950s and is now semi-improved pasture interspersed with outcropping rock Bramble (Rubus sp.) and occasional Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) and scrub. The low-lying western third is more fertile and is used for grazing and silage or hay production. The habitations which comprise a castle cottages and farm complex occur in the western sector. A herd of Dama dama roams the island.
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	The site is of importance for both breeding and staging Sterna terns. There is a well-established colony of Sterna hirundo and smaller numbers of Sterna paradisaea. Sterna dougallii bred in 2003 and 2004 one of only three known sites in the country - this came about after several years of conservation management aimed at attracting the species. The site along with other parts of south Dublin Bay is used by the three Sterna tern species as a major post-breeding/pre-migration autumn roost area. The origin of the birds is likely to be the Co. Dublin breeding sites though numbers also suggest birds from other sites perhaps outside the state. The site also has breeding Larus marinus Tadorna tadorna and Haematopus ostralegus. The site	Site comprises Dalkey Island Lamb Island Maiden Rock the intervening rocks and reefs between Dalkey Island Lamb Island and Clare Rock and the sea area around Maiden Rock to a distance of 100 m. Dalkey Island which is the largest in the group lies ca.400m off Sorrento Point and is separated by a deep channel. The island is low-lying the highest point at c.15m is marked by a Martello Tower. Soil cover consists mainly of thin peaty layers though in a few places there are boulder clay deposits. Vegetation cover is low consisting mainly of grasses. Lamb Island lies to the north of Dalkey Island attached at low-tided by a rocky reef. It has thin soil cover and a sparse vegetation cover. Further north lies Maidens Rock a bare

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		is known to be frequented in winter by significant numbers of Arenaria interpres and Calidris maritima, but recent count data is unavailable.	angular granite rock up to 5m high. There is no vegetation cover. Dalkey Island is grazed by a herd of feral goats.
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	The North-west Irish Sea SPA constitutes an important resource for marine birds. The estuaries and bays that open into it along with connecting coastal stretches of intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats, provide safe feeding and roosting habitats for waterbirds throughout the winter and migration periods. These areas, along with more pelagic marine waters further offshore, provide additional supporting habitats (for foraging and other maintenance behaviours) for those seabirds that breed at colonies on the north-west Irish Sea's islands and coastal headlands. These marine areas are also important for seabirds outside the breeding period.	This SPA extends offshore along the coasts of counties Louth, Meath and Dublin, and is approximately 2,333km2 in area. This SPA is ecologically connected to several existing SPAs in this area. The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Common Scoter, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Shag, Cormorant, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot.

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

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	X, I01, G01.01.02, E01, K03.06, F03.01, G02.01, E03, F02.03.01, J02.01.02, K02.03, G01.02, D01.02	No threats or pressures, Invasive non-native species, non-motorized nautical sports, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Antagonism with domestic animals, Hunting, Golf course, Discharges, Bait digging or collection, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Eutrophication (natural), Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways
000202	Howth Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	D01.01, A04.03, G05.04, G01.02, C01, E01, C01.01.01, I01, J01.01, X	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Vandalism, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Mining and quarrying, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Sand and gravel quarries, Invasive non-native species, Burning down, No threats or pressures
000204	Lambay Island SAC	Reefs [1170], Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) [1364], Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina) [1365], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	F03.01, E02, A03, G01.01, E01, F02.03, A04, X	Hunting, Industrial or commercial areas, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Nautical sports, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Leisure fishing, Grazing, No threats or pressures
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	A08, G02.01, G01.01, D01.02, F03.01, I01, D01.05, J02.01.02, E01, X, G01.02, G01.03	Fertilisation, Golf course, Nautical sports, Roads, motorways, Hunting, Invasive non-native species, Bridge, viaduct, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Urbanised areas, human habitation, No threats or pressures, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Motorised vehicles

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Humid dune slacks [2190], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]	K03.06, F02.03.01, G05.05, A04, E01, J01.01, E02, F02.03, G01.01, G01.02, H01.09, H01.03, I01, E03, G02.01	Antagonism with domestic animals, Bait digging or collection, Intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Burning down, Industrial or commercial areas, Leisure fishing, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, Other point source pollution to surface water, Invasive non-native species, Discharges, Golf course
000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Estuaries [1130], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	E01.03, A04, J02.01.02, G01.01, A08, F02.03.01, A07, I01, E03, G02.01, K01.01, J02.12.01, D01.02, G01.02, X	Dispersed habitation, Grazing, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Nautical sports, Fertilisation, Bait digging or collection, Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, Invasive non-native species, Discharges, Golf course, Erosion, Sea defense or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Roads, motorways, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, No threats or pressures
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	G01.01, E03, D01.01, G01.01.02, G01.02, K02.02, E01, J02.01.02, K02, H03, F02.03.01, M01, D01.02, E02	Nautical sports, Discharges, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Non-motorized nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Accumulation of organic material, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Marine water pollution, Bait digging or collection, Changes in abiotic conditions, Roads, motorways, Industrial or commercial areas.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	A01, H01.03, C01.01, D01.02, E01.01, A10.01, A08, A04, E03.01, B01, H02.01, E01.02	Cultivation, Other point source pollution to surface water, Sand and gravel extraction, Roads, motorways, Continuous urbanisation, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Fertilisation, Grazing, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Forest planting on open ground, Groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, Discontinuous urbanisation
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	G05.06, E01.02, I01, B02.03, B01, D01.02, E03.01, G02.08, D01.01, G05.07, B01.02, A04, G05.04, G01.02, D05, G03	Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Discontinuous urbanisation, Invasive non-native species, Removal of forest undergrowth, Forest planting on open ground, Roads, motorways, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Camping and caravans, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Grazing, Vandalism, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Improved access to site, Interpretative centres
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]	B01.01, D01, A04, C01.03, A04.02.01, B02.01.02, J02, E01.02, D01.03, H02.07, A03.03, B01.02, I01, H01.08, B02.02, A03, F02.03, H01.05, A08, A04.02.03, A04.02.02	Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Roads, paths and railroads, Grazing, Peat extraction, Non intensive cattle grazing, Forest replanting (non native trees), Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Discontinuous urbanisation, Car parcs and parking areas, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Abandonment or lack of mowing , Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Invasive non-native species, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, Forestry clearance, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Leisure fishing, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
				activities, Fertilisation, Non intensive horse grazing, Non intensive sheep grazing
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	Desmoulin`s whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana) [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (Vertigo angustior) [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	E01.01, A04, J02.05.02, D01.02, A08, E01.03, A10.01, B	Continuous urbanisation, Grazing, Modifying structures of inland water courses, Roads, motorways, Fertilisation, Dispersed habitation, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Sylviculture, forestry
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]	G01.03.02, J01.01, D01.01, F03.02.02, A05.02, G04.01, G01, E01, E03.01, G01.02, B02.05, G05.07, G05.04, G05.06, K04.05, G02.09, F03, G05.01, G05.09, A04, I01, C01.03, B06, L05, F04.02, G01.04, K01.01	Off-road motorized driving, Burning down, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Stock feeding, Military manouvres, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Non- intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Vandalism, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Damage by herbivores (including game species), Wildlife watching, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Trampling, overuse, Fences, fencing, Grazing, Invasive non-native species, Peat extraction, Grazing in forests or woodland, Collapse of terrain, landslide, Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Erosion
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	A04.03, G02.09, G05.01, X, J01, G01.01, G01.02	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Wildlife watching, Trampling, overuse, No threats or pressures, Fire and fire suppression, Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena) [1351], Reefs [1170]	H06.01, D03.02, E03, J02.11, J02.02, F02.02, X, D02	Noise nuisance, noise pollution, Shipping lanes, Discharges, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Removal of sediments (mud...), Professional active fishing, No threats or pressures, Utility and service lines
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Teal (Anas crecca) [A052], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]	G02.01, G03, E01.01, E01.04, G01.01, D01.02, E03, D01.05, G01.02, E02, D03.02, F02.03.01	Golf course, Interpretative centres, Continuous urbanisation, other patterns of habitation, Nautical sports, Roads, motorways, Discharges, Bridge, viaduct, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Industrial or commercial areas, Shipping lanes, Bait digging or collection
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Shoveler (Anas clypeata) [A056], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048]	E01.03, A04, F03.01, G02.01, E03.02, G01.01, A08, I01, E03.01, F02.03.01, J02.01	Dispersed habitation, Grazing, Hunting, Golf course, Disposal of industrial waste, Nautical sports, Fertilisation, Invasive non-native species, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Bait digging or collection, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]	A08, F02.03.01, D01.02, K02.03, J02.01.02, F03.01, E01, G02.01, I01, G01.02	Fertilisation, Bait digging or collection, Roads, motorways, Eutrophication (natural), Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Hunting, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]	E01, F02.03.01, F02.03, G01.01, E02, G01.02, J02.01.02, K02.03, D01.02, E03	Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging or collection, Leisure fishing, Nautical sports, Industrial or commercial areas, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Eutrophication (natural), Roads, motorways, Discharges
004025	Broadmeadow/Swords Estuary SPA	Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141], Pintail (Anas acuta) [A054], Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156], Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Knot (Calidris canutus) [A143], Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130], Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048], Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula) [A067], Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005], Red-breasted Merganser (Mergus serrator) [A069], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]	A08, J02.01.02, I01, G01.02, D01.04, E02, E01, D01.01, G01.01, D01.05	Fertilisation, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Invasive non-native species, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Railway lines, TGV, Industrial or commercial areas, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Nautical sports, Bridge, viaduct

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098], Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus) [A103]	G03, G01.02, D01.01, B, A04, C01.03	Interpretative centres, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Sylviculture, forestry, Grazing, Peat extraction
004069	Lambay Island SPA	Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043], Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184], Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009]	A03, G01.01, D03.02, E01.03, A04, F03.01	Mowing or cutting of grassland, Nautical sports, Shipping lanes, Dispersed habitation, Grazing, Hunting
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	J01, G01.02	Fire and fire suppression, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184]	F02.03, G01.02	Leisure fishing, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Arctic tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Common tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Roseate tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192]	G01.01, G01.02, A04, E01	Nautical sports, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	Red-throated (Diver Gavia stellata [A001], Great Northern (Diver Gavia immer [A003], Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis [A009], Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus [A013], Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017], Shag (Phalacrocorax aristotelis) [A018], Common Scoter (Melanitta nigra) [A065], Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179], Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182], Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183], Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184],	A09, C05, F07, F22, F23, G01, G06, A09, A11, B01, D01, E02, G10, G12, I02, I04, I05, J02, L06, M08, N03, N05, N06, N07	Agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus) [A187], Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188], Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192], Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193], Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194], Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195], Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199], Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200], Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204], Little Gull (Hydrocoloeus minutus) [A862],		

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

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (Vertigo angustior)	[1014]	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.
Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo moulinsiana)	[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.
Estuaries	[1130]	Pollution, fishing /aquaculture and habitat quality.	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	[1140]	Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
Reefs	[1170]	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Annual vegetation of drift lines	[1210]	Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works.	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	[1220]	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	[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.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	[1310]	Invasive Species; erosion and accretion.	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	[1330]	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (Spartina anglica); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Harbour Porpoise(Phocoena phocoena)	[1351]	Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries.	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.
Otter (Lutra lutra)	[1355]	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
Grey Seal(Halichoerus grypus)	[1364]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Harbour Seal(Phoca vitulina)	[1365]	Distance to human activities, accidental entanglement in fishing gear competition for prey resources, illegal killing, pollution and habitat degradation.	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
Petalwort(Petalophyllum ralfsii)	[1395]	There are no significant impacts affecting this species.	None identified.
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)	[1410]	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
			salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Embryonic shifting dunes	[2110]	Natural erosion processes are exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes(Ammophila arenaria)	[2120]	Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	[2130]	Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (Hippophae rhamnoides).	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Humid dune slacks	[2190]	Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	[3110]	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	[3160]	Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	[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.
European dry heaths	[4030]	Afforestation, over burning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Alpine and Boreal heaths	[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.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa(Violetalia calaminariae)	[6130]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)* important orchid sites	[6210]	Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	[6230]	Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	[6410]	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems.	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	[7130]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	[7220]	Ground water interactions, on site management activities.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Alkaline fens	[7230]	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia	[8110]	Overgrazing, undergrazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.

Qualifying Interests	EU Code	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)		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.	
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8210]	Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access.	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	[8220]	Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens).	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	[91A0]	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A009	Northern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialis	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources.
A043	Greylag Goose	Anser anser	A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other forms of pollution.
A048	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A054	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.
A056	Northern Shoveler	Anas clypeata	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution.
A067	Common Goldeneye	Bucephala clangula	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, Changes in biotic conditions.
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	Mergus serrator	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution.

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A098	Merlin	Falco columbarius	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Renewable abiotic energy use, Changes in biotic conditions.
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.
A137	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A140	European Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions.
A141	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A143	Red Knot	Calidris canutus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A144	Sanderling	Calidris alba	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A149	Dunlin	Calidris alpina	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
				water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A162	Common Redshank	Tringa totanus	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A169	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A179	Black-Headed Gull	Larus ridibundus	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A184	European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications.
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	Rissa tridactyla	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution.
A193	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species.
A194	Arctic Tern	Sterna paradisaea	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions.
A200	Razorbill	Alca torda	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution.
A204	Atlantic Puffin	Fratercula arctica	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species.

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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• 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.	• Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	• Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	• All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	• 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.	• 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.	bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	• 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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	• 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.	• Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. • Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). • Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. • Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC]	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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		Each Member State's NAP must include: • 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	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	• 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).	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
			regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001)	• This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy communities. • It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)	This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States.	The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.	The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.	
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	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.	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the "energy efficiency first" principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	• Establishing an EU legally binding target to reduce the EU's final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That's an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.	
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	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.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burdens. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)	This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.	• Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning. • In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions. • The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans. • Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8. • When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions. • Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UK Marine Policy Statement	• Achieving a sustainable marine economy • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Living within environmental limits • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: • Promote sustainable economic development;	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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		• Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	• Aims to provide the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	The Marine Act comprises eight key elements: • Marine Management Organisation (MMO) • Strategic Marine Planning System • Streamlined Marine Licensing System • Marine Nature Conservation • Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement • Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries • Coastal Access • Coastal and Estuarine Management	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013	• Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes.	The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below: • Marine Planning • Nature Conservation	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	This Act may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	• Marine Licensing	
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making. • Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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			bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	• links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and • recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	• sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; • each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; • encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: • 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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	• The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. • Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	• Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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	• 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.	• 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.	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	• 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.	• To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: • A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). • New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. • First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) **Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)**	• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	• Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM_{10}) or up to five years (NO_2, 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.	• 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.	
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.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • 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. 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	• 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	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	• 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: • The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive • Sampling Drinking Water Directive • Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive • Shellfish Directive • Freshwater Fish Directive	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	• Groundwater Directive • Dangerous Substances Directive		
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	• 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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	• The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to, and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. • The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: • reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations • tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics • a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach • measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups • measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption • harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	• 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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• 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 that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe.	The Directive provides various requirements, including: • Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. Implementation of the Directive is contributed towards by a set of detailed criteria and methodological standards that were revised in 2017 leading to a Commission Decision on "laying down criteria and	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU". Annex III "Indicative lists of characteristics, pressures and impacts" of the Directive was amended in 2017.	
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	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.	• (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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	• 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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Landscape Convention 2000	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.	• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	It identifies three key objectives: • 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	Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): • 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. Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: • 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	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: • 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.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Cancun Agreements (2010)	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: • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	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.	• The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Common Agricultural Policy	• 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.	• Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; • Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; • Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	• 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• 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	
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy • Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: • 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.	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: 1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; 3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); 4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	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.	• 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	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package	The main objectives of the measures defined in this communication are to promote the use of cleaner energy sources and reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in line with one of the ambitions of the European Green Deal to reach climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.	The communication defines various measures to support the sector in accelerating its energy transition, by improving fuel efficiency and switching to renewable, low-carbon power sources. A summary of the measures broadly proposed by the communication is presented below: • Creation of an Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of promoting collaboration and stakeholder engagement • Promotion of new innovative technologies and ways of operating • Improving energy efficiency Moving to renewable and zero or low-carbon energy sources (e.g., use of alternative fuels).	The communication noted the current dependency of the sector on fossil fuel based energy (e.g., marine diesel). It defines a vision for climate-neutral fisheries and aquaculture.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	• 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.	The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation]	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: • Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; • Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,	In preparation.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	• Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.		
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principle objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004),	• 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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011		• 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).	protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	• They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C- 418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: • 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).	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• 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	
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	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.	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. • 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters)	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of	The Regulations include measures such as: • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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Regulations 2022	livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality.	• Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National legislation transport the Industrial Emissions Directive: • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provision of the Directive	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013			
Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)	These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	• The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications "poor", "sufficient", "good" and "excellent" and generally require that a classification of at least "sufficient" be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as "poor" and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as "good" or "excellent".	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as "poor" for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. • Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011)	This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.	Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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			protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions prepared by the Agency.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action Plan 2023	The Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute

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			towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	• National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: • To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; • To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; • Greater partnerships for the Goals; • To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and • Strong reporting mechanisms	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	• Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022	• EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. • "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	• 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.	• A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; • Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism • to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, • domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Water Resources Plan (2021)	• 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.	The key objectives of the plan are to: • Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions • Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry • Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources • Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events • Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water • Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies • Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030	This multi-annual National Strategic Plan Sustainable Aquaculture Development (2022 – 2030) (NSPSA) overlaps with the EU's new 'Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030', as well as the programming period (2021 to 2027) of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). As such, this plan provides the strategic vision and framework for funding under EMFAF, as well as other EU and national initiatives.	• Develop 'Designated Marine Area Plans' (DMAPs) for aquaculture to ensure that the sector is championed in Ireland's Marine Spatial Plan to facilitate investment in different forms of sustainable aquaculture. • More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks. • Develop a comprehensive human capacity plan for Irish aquaculture to promote the sector as an attractive career option, develop leadership, management and business capacity in the sector and provide the necessary skills required over the strategy time period.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue.	
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	• 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: • 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 standards; and • Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and **National Landscape Character Assessment**	• 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: • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027	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.	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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	In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.		
National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Aviation Policy 2015	Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are: • To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Ireland's economic growth and development.	The National Aviation Policy commits to: • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: "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."	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • 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 may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply

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			with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan	• This Strategy will be published in 2024. • The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. • Vision is to "Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core." This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are: • Innovative • Inclusive • Sustainable • Attractive • Collaborative The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for growth.	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.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	• NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. • The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: • Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. • Protection and renewal. • Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. • Decarbonisation.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	• Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental

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			protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 **Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000**	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	• 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	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	• 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 ecosystem services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. • To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	• Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	
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)(as amended)**	• 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.	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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		• 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.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 **Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012** **Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013** **Water Services Act 2017**	• Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 31 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		• 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 (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	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.	Six strategic objectives as follows: • Meet Customer Expectations. • Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. • Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. • Protect and Enhance the Environment. • Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	• 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Food Harvest 2020	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.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) **Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)** **Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment**	• 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. • ACRES is Ireland's new agri-environment climate scheme under Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan. This new €1.5 billion flagship agri-environment scheme is a farmer-friendly scheme to help address biodiversity decline while delivering an income support for up to 50,000 farm families in Ireland.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Scheme (GLAS) **Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)**			
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
River Basin Management Plan	River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.	• Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	Objectives of the Strategy: • 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 responsible. • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		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.	
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: • 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.	Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
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 2018/2001: 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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: • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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: • 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.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.	The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	• 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.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Coastal Change Management Strategy	The Government has adopted a policy to assess and manage coastal flood risk with regard to both existing risk and the potential impacts of climate change. This strategy will: • Provide a framework to determine the key decisions to be taken on how Ireland could best manage its coast, being aware of the future risks and the associated planning	Recommendations: • Enhancing governance and capacity building (a dual approach of both mitigation and adaptation measures) • Understanding the risk and identifying potential risk management options	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.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	requirements. • Provide a framework to best inform both where and how decisions regarding appropriate development / projects along the coast should be taken in the future, in coordination with investment in flood risk management.	Developing management (a dual approach of both mitigation (tackling the cause) and adaptation measures) to coastal change	
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	• Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. • This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: • Build adaptive capacity within the sector • Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change • Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: 1. To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change 2. To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage 3. To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations 4. To communicate and transfer knowledge 5. To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	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.
Heritage related legislation: • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural	• Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018.			regulatory framework for environmental protection.
All-Island Strategic Rail Review	The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to: • contribute to decarbonisation; • improve All Island connectivity between major cities; • enhance regional accessibility; • stimulate economic activity; • encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: • Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity • Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs • Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People • Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives	
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council. The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	• Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.	Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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	This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.		bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)	It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form. • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.	
Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040	The Strategy addresses all transport modes, and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	• Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland • including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	Aims to identify and determine: • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports • The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan	• Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. • This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.	To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	• Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	• To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development. • To encourage modal shift.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Quality Management Plans	• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	• Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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			achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2040 and 2017 Review, Rosslare Europort Masterplan)	• The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. • The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • 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.	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

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			regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes	• Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.	• Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protects and enhances amenities and environment. • Guides planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aims to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	• Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. • Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	• Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. • Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. • Aims to increase awareness.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage Plans	Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level.	• Manage and promote heritage as well as increased awareness. • Aim to conserve and protect heritage.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	• Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	• Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. • Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	• Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. • Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and

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			bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	• Produced by Local Authorities. • Outlines areas local flood risk. • Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	• Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. • Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. • Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Waste Management Plans	These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Noise Action Plans	The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to: • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems • Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects • Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.

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APPENDIX 3

Appropriate Assessment Screening of Plan Revisions

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

SEA Screening Report For Modifications To The Dublin City Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

Prepared for:

Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Date: **February 2024**

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SEA Screening Report For Modifications To The Dublin City Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Keywords: Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA, Environmental Report, Local Authority Climate Action Plan, LACAP.

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for Modifications to the Dublin City Council (DCC) Local Authority Climate Action Plan (referred to as either the 'LACAP' or the 'Plan') 2024 - 2029.

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

1.2 SEA Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on the environmental baseline and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimize identified environmental effects. This SEA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive[1] and transposing national legislation.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the Habitats Directive[2] and transposing national legislation. A Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites was therefore prepared also. This report suitably informed the SEA process.

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

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

1.3 Purpose of this Assessment

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

[1] Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment
[2] Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

This report documents the SEA Screening undertaken to identify the need for full SEA in this case. This report will accompany the documented Plan Action modifications.

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

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

1.4 Draft SEA Environmental Report

A Draft SEA Environmental Report has been produced for the Draft LACAP. This report contains the information specified in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 and 2B of S.I. 435 and 436 of 2004. A checklist of information included in this SEA Environmental Report under the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation is provided in Table 1-1. This checklist cross-references the sections in the report where information can be found.

The information contained in this Draft SEA Environmental Report has been referred to during the carrying out of the SEA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

Table 1-1: SEA Environmental Report Checklist

Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans.	Section 2.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan.	Section 4.
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 4.
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive.	Section 4.
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 5.
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.

Information Required	Relevant Section of the SEA Environmental Report
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan.	Section 8.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 6.
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan.	Section 9.
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Front Section
Interrelationships between each Environmental Component.	Section 7 and Appendix 3.

2. SEA SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overview of the SEA Process

The SEA Directive – Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is '*to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans….with a view to promoting sustainable development*'[3]

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental consequences of implementing Plan or Programme (P/P) initiatives prepared by authorities at a national, regional or local level or which have been prepared for adoption through legislative means.

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'.*

The SEA process comprises the following steps:

- Screening – the process whereby a decision is made on whether a particular P/P (or Plan Action modifications in this case), other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would require SEA.

If SEA is required following the Screening Determination, the following steps are necessary:

- Scoping – Scope and level of detail in the environmental assessment is decided upon, in consultation with the identified statutory bodies;
- Environmental Assessment – An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the relevant P/P;
- Preparation of an Environmental Report;
- Consultation of the P/P and associated Environmental Report;
- Evaluation of the submission and observations made on the P/P and environmental report; and
- Provision of an SEA Statement, identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the Final P/P.

SEA is intended to provide the framework for influencing decision-making at an earlier stage when P/Ps – which give rise to individual projects – are being developed. It is noted that SEA should result in more sustainable development through the systematic appraisal of policy options.

[3] Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)

2.2 Overview of the SEA Screening Process

The first step of the SEA process is to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of a P/P (or Plan Action modifications in this case).

The first stage in determining whether a P/P requires SEA is the carrying out of a 'Pre-screening Check' (also known as a 'Stage 1 Applicability'). This allows rapid screening-out of P/P that are clearly not going to have any environmental impact and screening-in of those that do require SEA. The second stage in determining whether a P/P requires SEA is known as 'Stage 2 Screening.' The purpose of this stage is to determine whether a P/P is likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out in conjunction with a P/P. The application of environmental significance criteria is important in determining whether an SEA is required. Annex II of Directive 2001/42/EC sets out the 'statutory' criteria that should be addressed when undertaking this stage. This process is typically undertaken following an 8-step approach Figure 2-1.

The first environmental significance criterion relates to the characteristics of the P/P, having regard to: the degree to which the P/P sets out a framework for other projects and activities; the influence of the P/P on other projects, plans or activities; the role of the plan for integrating environmental considerations to promote sustainable development; environmental issues of relevance to the P/P and the relevance of the P/P for the implementation of EU legislation on the environment.

The second environmental significance criterion refers to the characteristics of the effects and area likely to be affected, having regard to; the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects; the cumulative nature of the effects; the transboundary nature of the effects; the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values or intensive use; the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European or international protection status.

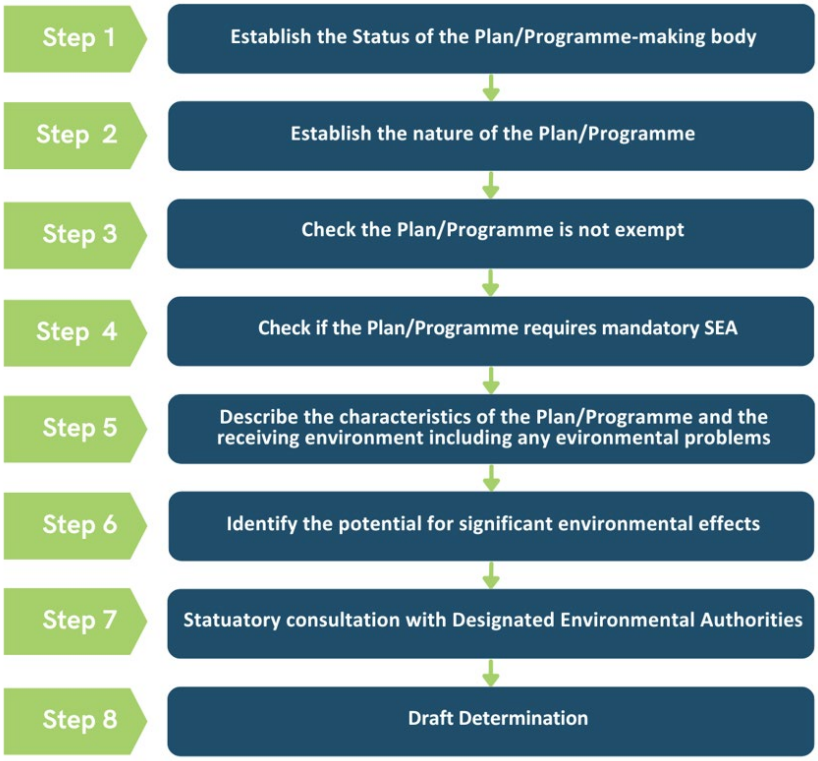

Figure 2-1: SEA Screening steps as per the EPAs Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening

2.3 Legislative Context

The screening stage of SEA is primarily addressed through Article 2 and Article 3 of the SEA Directive and Annex II which sets out the considerations in relation to determining significant environmental effects.

Article 2(a) of the SEA Directive establishes two cumulative conditions which P/P must satisfy in order for the further elements of the SEA Directive to be applicable to them:

- They must have been prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure, by a parliament or government; and
- They must be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

If these conditions are not satisfied, the measure is not regarded as a P/P which comes within the scope of the SEA Directive.

Once a P/P has been determined to be within the scope of the SEA Directive, Article 3 sets out the criteria for determining which P/P require environmental assessment. Again, several conditions must be met. A P/P must (a) belong to the list of sectors and (b) set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive, or (c) require an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Annex II of the SEA Directive presents the criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of the Directive. The significance of effects is determined with reference to the type and nature of the P/P, its position in the planning hierarchy and its influence on other P/P. It also has regard to the nature of the effects and the sensitivity of the receiving environment as well as the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects. Cumulative and transboundary issues must also be considered.

The SEA Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the following:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations (S.I. 435/2004)
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations (S.I. 436/2004). Both pieces of legislation were amended in 2011 through the following amendment regulations:
- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Amendment Regulations (S.I. 200/2011)
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Amendment Regulations (S.I. 01/2011).

The criteria defined in Annex II of the SEA Directive has been transposed into national legislation via Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004.

This SEA Screening, which considers the modifications to the DCC Draft LACAP, has been carried out in accordance with above legislation.

2.4 Relevant SEA Guidance

This SEA Screening has been carried out in accordance with and having appropriate regard to the following guidance documents:

- Good Practice Guidance on SEA Screening (EPA, 2021).
- Synthesis Report on Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies For Plans And Programmes In Ireland (EPA, 2013).
- Synthesis Report on Developing A Strategic Environmental Assessment (Sea) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland (EPA, 2003).
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities
- Implementation of Directive 2001/43 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (European Commission, ND).

2.5 Appropriate Assessment and relationship to SEA Screening

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) to be carried out where a plan or project is likely to have a significant impact on a European site. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The first step in the process is to establish whether AA is required for the particular plan or project. This first step is referred to as 'AA Screening' and the purpose is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans or projects, could have significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Article 3(c) of the SEA Directive requires that an SEA is carried out on a P/P wherever such a P/P requires an AA under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

An AA Screening Report has also been prepared for the Plan Action modifications in this case in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Report concludes the following:

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

This AA Screening Report will also accompany the documented Plan Action modifications.

3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Modification
C1.1	Addition of text to action C1.1 ''Explore inclusion of community kitchen within libraries to support food strategy.''
S2	Change 'quiet zones' to 'quiet areas' to align with noise action plan terminology
S4	Addition of text to S4 - 'Inclusion of Playful streets.'
N/A	Addition of indicators: 1. Doing temperature comparisons across the city to better assess the urban heat island effect 2. Measuring ground level Ozone 3. Aero allergens 4. Monitoring of disease vectors – mosquitos, flies, ticks, and invasive species.

3.1 SEA Screening Assessment of Plan Modifications

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

- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Draft LACAP.
- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Plan Action modifications.
- The Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) defined in Section 5 of the Draft SEA Environmental Report for the DCC Draft LACAP that the Plan modifications must accord with and support.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 8 of Draft SEA Environmental Report and Section 5 of the Draft NIR.

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

4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING

This section of the report documents the SEA Screening undertaken.

Stage 1 Applicability Analysis was undertaken initially. This analysis is detailed in Section 4.1 of this report (Table 4-1 and Table 4-2).

Stage 2 Screening Analysis was then undertaken. This analysis is detailed in Section 4.2 of this report (Table 4-3, Table 4-4 and Table 4-5).

4.1 Stage 1 - SEA Applicability Analysis

Table 4-1: SEA Applicability Analysis

SEA Applicability Analysis	
Status of Plan/Programme Maker	
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	The LACAP has been prepared by a local authority in accordance with Section 16 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	The LACAP is required under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
Nature of the Plan/Programme	
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	The LACAP is a cross-sectoral plan that targets a variety of sectors, including the energy, industry, transport, waste management and water management sectors.
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	Neither LACAP nor the Plan Action Modifications to the LACAP provide a framework for development consent.
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	An NIR has been completed for the Draft LACAP. An AA Screening Report has been completed for the Plan Action modifications arising following the Plan/SEA consultation period. These documents have concluded that the neither the Draft LACAP nor Plan Action modifications will not give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with the adoption of defined mitigation measures.

SEA Applicability Analysis	
Exemptions	
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No, for all questions.

Table 4-2: Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis

Summary of SEA Applicability Analysis	
Applicability Analysis Criterion	**Outcome (Yes or No)**
Is the P/P prepared and/or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level or prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?	Yes
Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative provisions?	Yes
Is the P/P prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	Yes
Does the P/P provide a framework for the development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive?	No
Is the P/P likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site which leads to a requirement for Article 6 or 7 assessments?	No
Is the sole purpose of the P/P to serve national defence or civil emergency or is it a financial/budget P/P or is it co-financed by the current SF/RDF programme?	No
Conclusion	
Having regard to the SEA Screening steps identified by the EPA guidance in Figure 1-1, Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis is required to whether the Plan Action modifications to the Draft LACAP in this case are likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out on such Plan Action modifications.	

4.2 Stage 2 - SEA Screening Analysis

To inform the Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis, an evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each Plan Action modification has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 4-3.

Table 4-3: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification

Action	Summary of Modification	Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification
C1.1	Addition of text to action C1.1 ''Explore inclusion of community kitchen within libraries to support food strategy.''	This addition will support the creation of local community kitchens at existing Council premises open and accessible to public. It does not introduce any additional sources of signficant environmental effects.
S2	Change 'quiet zones' to 'quiet areas' to align with noise action plan terminology	This amendment clarifies the wording of designated quiet areas defined under the Dublin City Noise Action Plan. It does not introduce any additional sources of signficant environmental effects.
S4	Addition of text to S4 - 'Inclusion of Playful streets.'	This amendment clarifies the focus and intent of this action. It does not support any development. It does not introduce any additional sources of signficant environmental effects.
N/A	Addition of indicators: 1. Doing temperature comparisons across the city to better assess the urban heat island effect 2. Measuring ground level Ozone 3. Aero allergens 4. Monitoring of disease vectors – mosquitos, flies, ticks, and invasive species.	The addition of these indicators will serve to improve monitoring of climate change impacts in the city and better inform the implementation of defined plan action. It does not introduce any additional sources of signficant environmental effects.

Stage 2 SEA Screening Analysis has been carried out to determine whether a P/P is likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether SEA must be carried out in conjunction with a P/P. This analysis is presented in Table 4-4 and Table 4-5.

Table 4-4: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects - Characteristics of the Plan

Potential Signficant Effects	
Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:	
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	The Plan Action modifications do not set out a development control related framework for projects or activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. The Plan Action modifications will not result in the occurrence of any significant environmental effects in this regard.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	Section 18, Part 3 of the Climate Acts 2015-2021 and Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) require that local authorities take account of their LACAPs when preparing a County Development Plan (CDP). The Plan Action modifications will not however influence the County Development Plan (CDP) to a degree that results in the occurrence of additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA and AA processes.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	The Plan Actions defined in the LACAP are broadly supportive of climate action (mitigation and adaptation) and sustainability. The Plan Actions will support the achievement of GHG emission reduction requirements. The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP. The Plan Action modifications will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA and AA processes.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP. They do not give rise to any environmental problems not previously considered. The Plan Action modifications will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA and AA processes.

Potential Signficant Effects	
Characteristics of the plan or programme having regard, in particular to:	
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g., plans linked to waste-management or water protection).	The LACAP will support the achievement of European Climate Law (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999) at local level. The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP and do not materially alter the LACAP however.

Table 4-5: Criteria for Determining Potential for Significant Effects - Characteristics of the Effects

Potential for Signficant Effects	
Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, havng regard in particular to:	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The Plan Action modifications will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA and AA processes. The Plan Action modification will not create any material cumulative or transboundary environmental impacts. They will not create any risks to human health or the environment. They will not result in any environmental effect that will affect the sensitivity of the receiving environment or result in the exceedance of any prescribed Environmental Quality Standards. They will not result in an intensive land use not previously considered.
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g., due to accidents)	
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:	
• Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	

Potential for Signficant Effects	
Characteristics of the Effects and the Area likely to be affected, havng regard in particular to:	
• Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;	They will not give risk to any significant landscape related impacts not previously considered during the SEA process.
• Intensive land-use	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status	

Table 4-6: Summary of SEA Screening Analysis

Summary of SEA Screening Analysis
Having regard to the Stage 2 Screening Analysis undertaken in Table 4-5, it is concluded that the Plan Action modifications to the Draft LACAP in this case will not result in the occurrence of any additional environmental impacts not previously considered or mitigated against in the Draft LACAP.

5. CONCLUSIONS

SEA Screening was carried out to determine the need for a SEA for the Plan modifications to the Draft LACAP in this case. It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment.

The principal reasons the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment are as follows:

- The modifications are only intended to provide clarification on existing Climate Actions defined in the Draft LACAP and make the LACAP more operative and focussed.
- The modification are not material and will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects not already considered in the SEA Environmental Report for the Draft LACAP.

It is concluded that the Modifications to the Draft LACAP will not give rise to likely significant effects on the environment. Consequently, a full SEA is not required for the Plan modifications.

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