CONSOLIDATED NATURA IMPACT STATEMENT

IN SUPPORT OF THE

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

DUBLIN CITY CENTRE TRANSPORT PLAN 2023

(INCORPORATING MODIFICATIONS FOLLOWING PUBLIC DISPLAY)

for: National Transport Authority/Dublin City Council

by: CAAS Ltd.

JULY 2024

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This consolidated Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) for the Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023 (incorporating modifications following public display) in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive"). This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, when the competent authorities finalises the AA at adoption of the Plan.

In carrying out AA and in preparing this consolidated NIS, the National Transport Authority and Dublin City Council are taking into account matters including the following:

- The Natura Impact Statement prepared for the Draft Plan (an earlier version of this consolidated document);
- Screening for AA for minor modifications to the Plan;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Authority's agents.

1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site.

1.3 Approach

The Plan document that accompanies this NIS incorporates the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display and subsequent minor modifications. The original Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a NIS was prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the NIS to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[1] upon application of these measures. The Draft Plan and AA NIS were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions received resulted in minor modifications being made to the original Draft Plan. Most modifications would add clarification or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these would not result in potential for effects on any European site. However, these modifications were subject to screening for AA. Considering the measures that were already integrated into the original Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of European sites, it was determined that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site from any modification. In addition, many modifications would merely add clarification or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these would not result in potential for effects on any European site.

The AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at finalisation of the Plan. All Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by the Authorities in advance of the finalisation of the Plan

[1] 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.

and a final AA Determination will be undertaken by the Authorities at finalisation. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following finalisation, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Plan.

The AA is based on best scientific knowledge and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre[2], the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)[3] and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)[4] mapping websites (including data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

The ecological desktop study completed for this NIS of the Plan, comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary;
- Examination of European sites hydrologically linked (via direct surface water connection or shared groundwater body) or another ecological link (e.g., ex-situ foraging for SCI species) beyond 15 km of the Plan boundary;
- Examination of the NPWS Qualifying Interests (for SACs), Special Conservation Interests (for SPAs) and Conservation Objectives for the above identified sites with potential pathways to the Plan area;
- Examination of available additional information on protected and or designated species as relevant/necessary.

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 3.

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions
The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor[5] model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

[2] Available at: https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/
[3] Available at: https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites and https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba
[4] Available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/
[5] Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

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

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

The evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

The scope of the AA was also informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment[6] (SEA) process being undertaken on the Plan.

[6] 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.

Section 2 Description of the Plan

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Dublin City Centre Transport Plan is to identify and prioritise changes to the current transport arrangements, which are necessary to fulfil the vision for the City as a sustainable, dynamic, and inclusive place, as set out in the Dublin City Development Plan (the "Development Plan"). The Plan also facilitates the implementation of the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-42 (the "Transport Strategy") by providing a more detailed framework for accommodating significantly higher numbers of people travelling into the City Centre, in particular by rail, bus, cycling and walking.

Since 2016, there has been significant investment in transport projects in Dublin City Centre, including Luas Cross City and improvements to the cycle network. This expenditure will increase exponentially as major infrastructure projects are realised over the coming decade.

While in the longer term MetroLink and future expansions to the Luas network will provide significant capacity improvements, the roll out of BusConnects and DART+ over the period of the Plan will provide a major increase in public transport capacity. Investment in active travel schemes is also predicted to significantly improve the offer for pedestrians, wheelers and cyclists.

These projects, some of which are already underway, will fundamentally change the public transport, walking and cycling provision in the city. In line with this, implementing these projects will require a change from the current transportation arrangements in the City Centre, particularly in terms of how traffic is managed.

New opportunities arise out of these proposed changes, and the reconfiguration of the transport networks within the City Centre offers a chance to explore how places can be transformed for the benefit of the city. The Plan identifies some of these new spaces, and offers examples of how they might develop into new focal points for Dublin.

The Plan envisages a new low traffic city centre with more space given over to the sustainable modes and with frequent and efficient public transport links and interchanges.

By reorienting the City Centre towards sustainable transport modes, the Plan will allow Dublin City Council to meet the mode share targets for 2028 set out in the Development Plan, as well as supporting the Council's efforts to achieve the national objective to reduce emissions from transport by 50% by 2030 in accordance with the Climate Action Plan.

The Plan document that accompanies this NIS incorporates the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display and subsequent minor modifications. The original Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a NIS was prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the NIS to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[7]. The Draft Plan and AA NIS were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions received resulted in minor modifications being made to the original Draft Plan. These modifications were subject to screening for AA. Considering the measures that were already integrated into the original Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of European sites, it was determined that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site from any modification. In addition, many modifications would merely add clarification or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these would not result in potential for effects on any European site.

[7] 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.

2.2 Updating the 2016 City Centre Plan

In 2016, Dublin City Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA), published the Dublin City Centre Transport Study, which set out a framework for the managed implementation of transport projects across Dublin City Centre in line with the vision and objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan and the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035.

The current Dublin City Development Plan (2022- 2028) has encompassed the framework set out in the previous study, but the new policies and objectives of the Development Plan have required a corresponding update of the 2016 City Centre Transport Study. In line with this, the Development Plan Objective SMT05 requires Dublin City Council: "To review the City Centre Transport Plan 2016 in collaboration with the NTA in the lifetime of the plan, setting out a clear strategy to prioritise active travel modes and public transport use, whilst ensuring the integration of high quality public realm."

The Transport Plan gives local effect to the following national policies for Dublin City Centre:

- Climate Action Plans 2023 & 2024;
- National Sustainable Mobility Policy; and
- National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland.

2.3 The Plan Area

While the overarching policies and approach of this plan applies to the full study area, the focus of the major physical interventions is on the smaller inner core as it is within this area where the requirement for additional priority for sustainable modes is greatest due to it being the busiest area where the national, regional and metropolitan transport networks converge. This inner core also captures the highest order attractions within the city, notably in terms of retail, employment, nightlife, as well as a concentration of nationally important cultural, educational and governmental institutions.

Analysis of existing travel data also highlighted that while this core is a key destination for people coming into the city, much of the private car traffic is travelling through it. In this regard, 6 out of every 10 cars driving into the Inner Core had a destination outside this core area.

2.4 Implementing the Dublin City Development Plan

The Plan identifies policies and projects that will assist in the implementation of the transport policies and objectives of the Dublin City Development Plan, within the City Centre area. Importantly, the Plan outcomes also support the delivery of a myriad of other Development Plan policies, including improving air quality, reducing the impacts of noise and protecting the built heritage.

In particular, the City Centre Transport Plan frames the implementation of the following Development Plan Sustainable Mobility and Transport policies, and their associated objectives:

SMT1 – Modal Shift and Compact Growth
SMT2 – Decarbonising Transport
SMT3 – Integrated Transport Network
SMT8 – Public Realm Enhancements
SMT11 – Pedestrian Network
SMT12 – Pedestrians and Public Realm
SMT14 – City Centre Road Space
SMT15 – Last Mile Delivery
SMT16 – Walking, Cycling and Active Travel
SMT18 – The Pedestrian Environment
SMT22 – Key Sustainable Transport Projects
SMT25 – On-Street Parking
SMT28 – Repurposing of Multi-Storey Car Parks

The City Centre Transport Plan also provides detail in support of, inter alia, the following Development Plan policies:

SC1 – Consolidation of the Inner City
SC2 – City's Character
SC10 – Urban Density
SC11 – Compact Growth
QHSN4 – Key Regeneration Areas

QHSN6 – Urban Consolidation
QHSN10 – 15-Minute City
CEE26 – Tourism in Dublin
CCUV15 – Premier Shopping Area
CCUV17 – Diversifying the City Centre
CCUV18 – Residential Development
CCUV19 – Parking and the Retail Core
CCUV42 – Public Realm – City Centre
SI34 – Management of Air Quality

Taken together, these policies give clear direction in terms of land use development and management of all transport modes in the City Centre. Notably, there is clear direction from the Development Plan that vehicular traffic in the City Centre needs to be managed. This is accompanied by a renewed emphasis on the need to better provide for higher capacity sustainable modes of travel, active travel and to more efficiently service the diversity of business, commercial and cultural activities within the city.

The Development Plan includes mode share targets for travel into Dublin City Centre. These targets are based on the Canal Cordon Counts undertaken every year and relate to travel into the centre during the peak 3-hour morning period.

The largest change required to the Canal Cordon mode share targets for 2028, as set out in the Development Plan, is in the Car/Taxis/Goods category where a 40% reduction in the existing mode share level is targeted in the Development Plan, with the reduction falling mainly on the private car as the demand for taxis and goods is likely to grow over the next number of years. The achievement of these targets will require a reorientation of the City Centre's streets towards sustainable modes of transport.

2.5 Implementing the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area

The Plan identifies priorities and objectives that will assist in the implementation of a number of key measures from the Transport Strategy. The delivery of these measures is critical to facilitate greater numbers of people travelling into the City Centre by sustainable modes of transport. These include the following:

CYC1 – GDA Cycle Network
BUS1 – Core Bus Corridor Programme
BUS4 – New Dublin Area Bus Service Network
LRT1 – MetroLink
RAIL1 – DART+

By 2030, the combination of major transport projects will facilitate a significant increase in the number of people travelling into the City Centre every day by public transport. The BusConnects service changes will increase capacity across the Metropolitan Area by approximately 25% with the City Centre remaining the focus of this network. DART+ West will increase capacity from 5,000 passengers per hour to 13,500 and DART+ South West from 5,000 to 20,000.

The Plan also facilitates and will be supported by other Transport Strategy measures such as Next Generation Ticketing, Transport Technology and Behavioural Change programmes, which will contribute to the delivery of these significant changes in how people move and live in Dublin City.

In addition to the above, there are numerous other DCC and NTA policies and objectives, such as parking standards, workplace parking charges and other emerging demand management measures, which will have a direct bearing on the transportation system in Dublin City Centre. Although the Plan does not address all of these issues specifically, it provides a context in terms of new transport arrangements, which can underpin the future delivery of these wider reaching policy measures.

While the concentration of public transport investment in the city centre is welcome, these schemes, along with numerous active travel projects, present considerable challenges to ensure that high frequency and high-capacity public transport services can operate efficiently. They also present a real

opportunity for the city to be transformed and to realise the vision as set out by the elected members in the City Development Plan.

The scale and nature of all of these projects, however, cannot be accommodated within the existing road network without radical changes in how the general traffic network operates within the Inner Core.

2.6 Plan Vision

The Vision for the Plan, as shared by Dublin City Council and the NTA is as follows:

> A thriving, active City Centre with sustainability and facilitation of emissions reduction as fundamental goals, where the transport system enhances freedom of movement and meets the environmental, social, cultural and economic needs of the people it serves.

2.7 Objectives

The overarching objectives and sub-objectives of the Plan are as follows:

- To Provide a Significantly Enhanced City Centre Environment
  - Transition to a low traffic City Centre;
  - Remove through private car traffic in order to provide more space for a growing number of City Centre residents, workers, shoppers and visitors;
  - Improve Air Quality;
  - Reduce transport and traffic noise;
  - Enhance the visual environment;
  - Improve the public realm;
  - Increase biodiversity; and
  - Protect and enhance the experience of the city's natural and architectural heritage.

- To Facilitate the Delivery of a Net-Zero City Centre Transport System
  - Transition to Zero Emissions transport;
  - Reduce access for carbon emitting vehicles;
  - Accommodate high-capacity low-emission public transport;
  - Prioritise walking and cycling; and
  - Provide the transport interventions that support compact and consolidated development.

- To Improve the City Centre's Economy and Liveability
  - Increase the opportunities for people to travel to, from, within and through Dublin City Centre efficiently, effectively and sustainably;
  - Increase the capacity of the transport system;
  - Prioritise sustainable transport capacity;
  - Prepare for the introduction of the major public transport projects and take advantage of the opportunities they will create;
  - Support access for deliveries, people with disabilities, emergency services and other essential vehicles;
  - Manage vehicular access to the City Centre;
  - Meet the Dublin City Development Plan mode share targets;
  - Support the night-time economy and cultural sectors; and
  - Ensure that the City Centre is accessible for all.

2.8 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

The Transport Plan has been developed to be consistent with the wider planning framework, including the City Development Plan and the Transport Strategy, as detailed above.

The hierarchy of strategic actions, such as plans and programmes, within which the Plan sits, include those detailed in Appendix II.

The Plan aligns with legislation and documents setting out public policy for land use, transport and climate action and will be incorporated into the review and preparation of these documents. These include Project Ireland 2040, the Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport, the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland, the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the

Eastern and Midland Region and associated Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area and the City Development Plan. Certain transport related proposals already provided for by these documents (and considered by their environmental assessments) are amongst those included within the Plan.

The Plan is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply. Examples of Environmental Protection Objectives include the aim of the EU Habitats Directive – which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States – and the purpose of the Water Framework Directive – which is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which, among other things, prevents deterioration in the status of all water bodies and protects, enhances and restores all waters with the aim of achieving good status.

Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential effects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and assesses whether these potential effects have a likelihood to be significant effects. If a likelihood if significant effects is identified, then the European site in question would proceed to Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Statement would be required.

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 First Order Site-Specific 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[8] or species[9] 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 pathway consideration zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Plan will not impose effects beyond the 15 km zone.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km pathway consideration zone (or beyond if surface or groundwater hydrological pathways or connectivity is identified) of the Plan area are listed in Table 3.1. European sites and surface water bodies in Ireland, as provided by the Environmental Protection Agency's database[10], that have surface hydrological connectivity with the Plan area are also mapped in Figure 3.1[11]. In addition, Figure 3.2 shows the European sites[12] that are within the same groundwater body[13] as the Plan area (these can occur beyond the 15 km pathway consideration zone).

Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has also been considered by both the AA screening assessment (the findings of which are provided under this section) and Stage 2 AA (provided under Section 4). The Conservation Objectives of the European sites that have been considered by the assessment were sourced from the following NPWS documents:

- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.

[8] 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.
[9] 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.
[10] Source: EPA datasets (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/). Accessed: October 2023
[11] For the Plan, the only European sites with surface hydrological connectivity to the Plan area are those within Dublin Bay, which are within the 15 km pathway consideration zone.
[12] Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests
[13] Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/

- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-west Irish Sea SPA [IE0004236] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SAC [IE0000199] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA [IE0004016] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head SAC [IE0000202] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [IE0004113] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [IE0000205] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SPA [IE0004025] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [IE0004117] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SAC [IE0002193] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [IE0001398] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ballynafagh Lake SAC [IE0001387] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Mouds Bog SAC [IE0002331] 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 Plan against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.

3.3 Screening and Potential Significant Effects

The Plan is considered with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified. The sensitivities, threats and pressures of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects identified, and potential pathways for such effects identified above are examined in Table 3.1 (Screening stage). Where sources within the Plan and pathways for potential significant effects are identified, the European sites concerned will proceed to Stage 2 AA. Potential effects will be assessed in relation to the Conservation Objectives of each QI and SCI and the appropriate corresponding mitigation will be (detailed in Section 5) applied to each potential effect in Table 4.1.

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

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to identify and prioritise changes to the current transport arrangements, which are necessary to fulfill the vision for the city as a sustainable, dynamic and inclusive place. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

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

All provisions within the Plan are considered in this assessment with respect to the likelihood for potential significant effects on the QIs and SCIs of each of the European sites identified by the assessment. This is carried out by considering the sensitivities, threats and pressures of each of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Subsequently, where sources and pathways for effects are identified, potential significant effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

The Plan will provide a framework for the sustainable development of the transport sector of Dublin City Centre Plan area. Plan elements that could present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites are:

- In combination with the wider planning framework, changing how traffic is managed for the city centre potentially displacing vehicular traffic to other areas;
- In combination with the wider planning framework, potentially increasing access to ecologically sensitive parts of the Dublin City coastline (such as North Dublin Bay and South Dublin Bay); and,
- Public realm opportunities, such as converting current traffic zones such as Dame Street and Parliament Street to pedestrian zones, and giving public transport priority in other zones such as certain areas along the quays presenting construction and operational phase potential effects such as hydrological interactions (surface and/or groundwater) and disturbance.

For the purposes of this report, the above sources identified as having potential for significant effects to European sites, through identified pathways, can be characterised into the following potential significant effects:

- Arising from both construction and operation of transport reconfiguration and associated infrastructure of the Plan:
    - Potential increase in visitor and noise disturbance causing damage to European sites and their Annex I and II habitats and species; and
    - Construction phase effects via potential interactions with water quality (via surface and/or groundwater hydrological pathways) and dust.

3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is a likelihood of potential for significant effects on European sites, considering: information on potential effects provided above; the Conservation Objectives for each site detailed above; each site's QIs and SCIs; and their threats and pressures – as provided in Appendix I. Sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

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

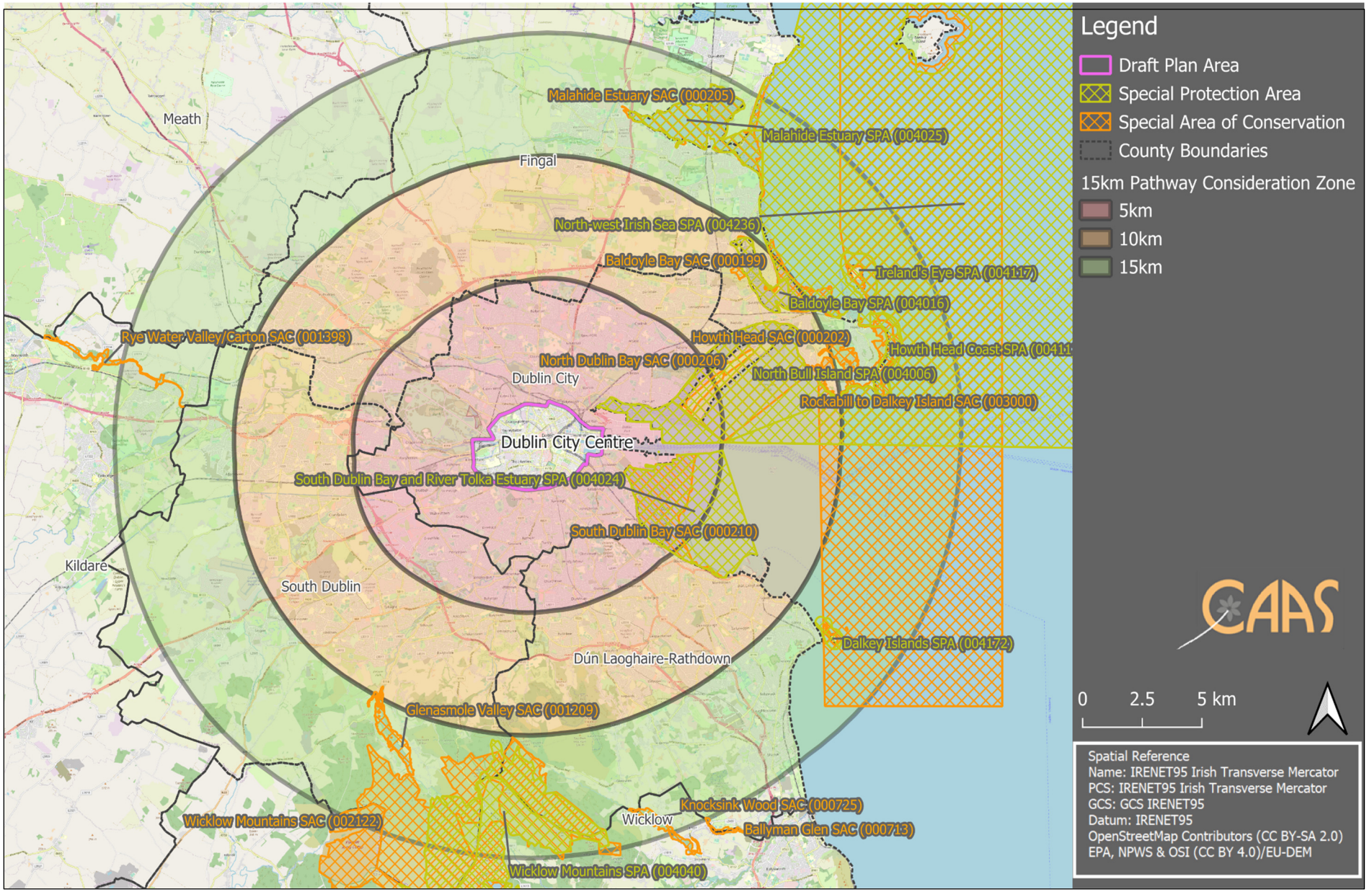

Figure 3.1 European sites and Pathway Consideration Zone up to 15 km from the Plan area[14]

[14] Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded October 2023)

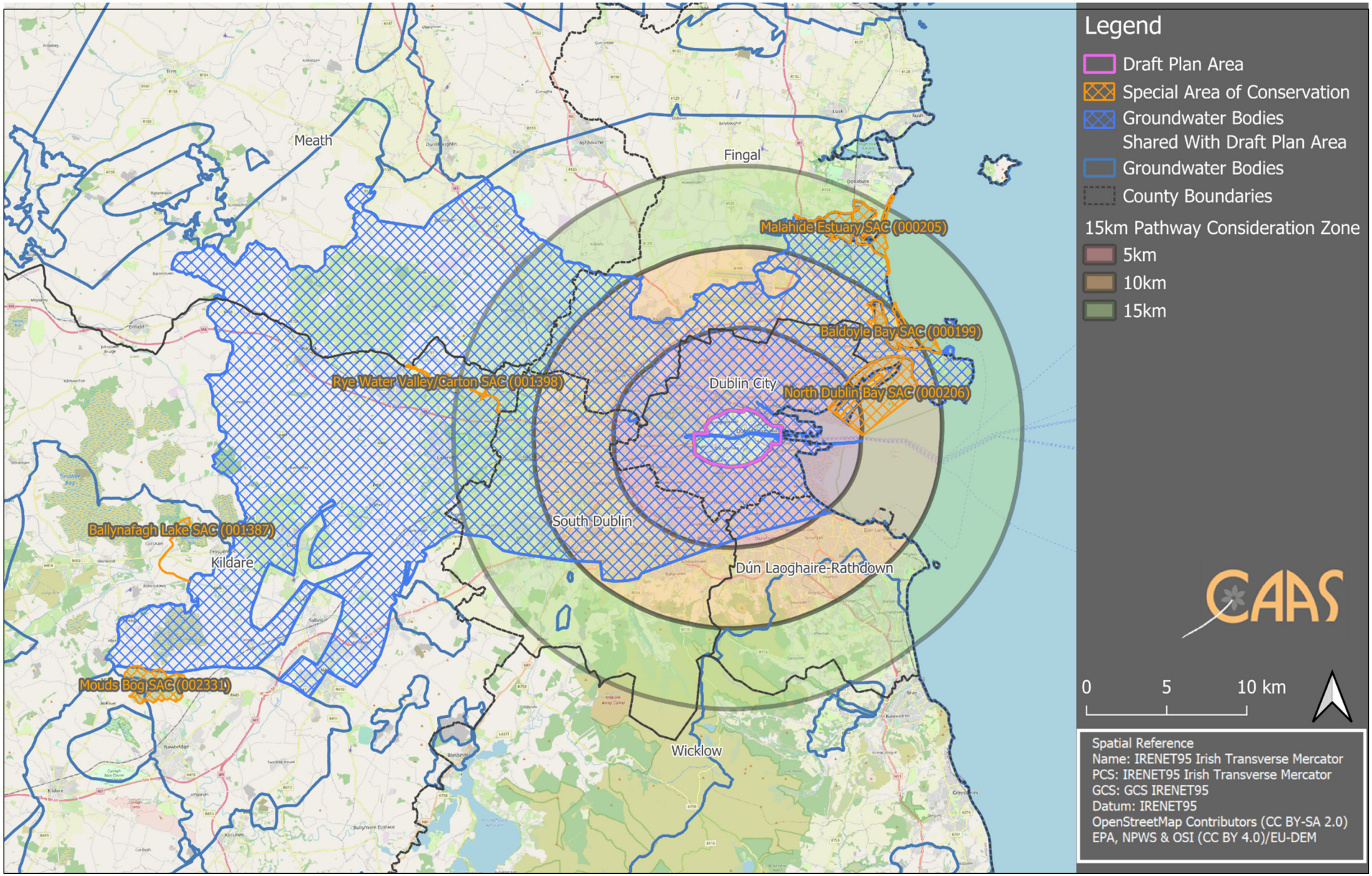

Figure 3.2 European sites[15] that occur within the same groundwater bodies[16] as the Plan area

[15] Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests
[16] Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/

Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	0.79	Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Redshank *(Tringa 14etanus)* [A162], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This European site is hydrologically sensitive and sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists 0.79 km from the Plan boundary, with access from the Plan boundary for disturbance effects, and within a receiving catchment of the Plan area. Therefore, there are sources identified within the Plan that have pathways with a likelihood for potential significant effects to this European site, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Statement is required.	Yes	Yes
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	1.19	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This European site is hydrologically sensitive and sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists 1.19 km from the Plan boundary, with access from the Plan boundary for disturbance effects, and within a receiving catchment of the Plan area. Therefore, there are sources identified within the Plan that have pathways with a likelihood for potential significant effects to this European site, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Statement is required.	Yes	Yes
004006	North Bull Island SPA	3.06	Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Curlew *(Numenius 14etanus)* [A160], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Redshank *(Tringa 14etanus)* [A162], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This European site is hydrologically sensitive and sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists 3.06 km from the Plan boundary, with access from the Plan boundary for disturbance effects, and within a receiving catchment of the Plan area. Therefore, there are sources identified within the Plan that have pathways with a likelihood for potential significant effects to this European site, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Statement is required.	Yes	Yes
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	3.07	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Fixed	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for	Yes	Yes

[17] Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interest

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
			coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation – grey dunes [2130], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia 15etanus15)* [1410], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395], Humid dune slacks [2190], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria – white dunes [2120], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This European site is hydrologically sensitive and sensitive to disturbance effects. It exists 3.07 km from the Plan boundary, with access from the Plan boundary for disturbance effects, and within a receiving catchment of the Plan area. Therefore, there are sources identified within the Plan that have pathways with a likelihood for potential significant effects to this European site, further consideration is required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and a Natura Impact Statement is required.		
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	5.10	Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)* [A195], Red-throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)* [A001], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)* [A018], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)* [A003], Manx Shearwater *(Puffinus puffinus)* [A013], Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Great Black-backed Gull *(Larus marinus)* [A187], Common Scoter *(Melanitta nigra)* [A065], Little Gull *(Larus minutus)* [A177], Puffin *(Fratercula arctica)* [A204], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A184], Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[18,19]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[20,21]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. This SPA is outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. Regarding hydrological interactions; considering the distance between the Plan area and this SPA, there is a considerable dilution effect via the marine environment, and therefore no pathways for likely significant effects to the SCIs, or their supporting habitat, in terms of hydrological interactions have been identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management, hydrological or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	8.30	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia 15etanus15)* [1410], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions, groundwater interactions and direct land use management. This European site exists 8.30 km outside of the Plan area. There is an indirect surface hydrological connection via surface water drainage environment, and groundwater connectivity, via a shared groundwater body (Figure 3.2) between the Plan area and this European site. However, considering the distance between the Plan area and this SAC, there is a	No	No

[18] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[19] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[20] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[21] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				considerable dilution effect and therefore no sources with pathways for likely significant effects to the QIs of this SAC in terms of hydrological interactions have been identified. Considering groundwater interactions: groundwater is reliant on and interacts with a myriad of hydrogeological and landscape characteristics[22], and has been shown to be heavily influenced by the direct management of soil, rivers and streams[23]. It has also been shown that the effects from groundwater contaminants are diluted through volume of water[24]. Considering the distance between the Plan area and this SAC, there is considerable dilution effect, and therefore no sources with pathways for potential significant effects on the QIs has been identified. Considering the QIs of this SAC and given the nature of the Plan and the distances involved, there are no potential pathways for direct land use management effects, surface water or groundwater interactions. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	8.36	Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 8.36 km outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. There is an indirect surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this site via surface water drainage, however, considering the distance between the Plan area and this SPA, there is a considerable dilution effect, and therefore no sources with pathways for likely significant effects to the SCIs in terms of hydrological interactions have been identified. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[25,26]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[27,28]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management, hydrological or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000202	Howth Head SAC	8.81	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the	No	No

[22] Wehncke, E.V. & Mariano, N.A., 2021. Groundwater and Its Role in Maintaining the Ecological Functions of Ecosystems—A Review. *Intensified Land and Water Use: A Holistic Perspective of Local to Regional Integration*, pp.55-86.
[23] Silva, A.C.F. *et al*. 2012. Estuarine biodiversity as an indicator of groundwater discharge. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, *97*, pp.38-43.
[24] Lasagna, M. *et al*. 2013. Effect of the dilution process on the attenuation of contaminants in aquifers. *Environmental earth sciences*, *70*(6), pp.2767-2784.
[25] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[26] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[27] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[28] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. This European site exists 8.81 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	9.04	Reefs [1170], Harbour porpoise *(Phocoena 17etanus17)* [1351]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions. This European site exists 9.04 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	9.52	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)* * important orchid sites [6210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 9.52 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface or groundwater hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site (Figure 3.2). There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	10.08	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Calaminarian grasslands of the	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
			Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], European dry heaths [4030], Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* [8110], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas – and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 10.08 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface or groundwater hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site (Figure 3.2). There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	10.27	Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.27 km outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[29,30]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[31,32]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	11.23	Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.23 km outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be	No	No

[29] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[30] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[31] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[32] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				sufficient to preclude such effects[33,34]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[35,36]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	11.41	Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.41 km outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[37,38]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[39,40]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	11.42	Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria – white dunes [2120], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia 19etanus19)* [1410], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation – grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 11.42 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface or groundwater hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site (Figure 3.2). There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary.	No	No

[33] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[34] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[35] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[36] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.
[37] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[38] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[39] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[40] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	11.56	Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Red-breasted Merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Redshank *(Tringa 20etanus)* [A162], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Great Crested Grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005], Goldeneye *(Bucephala clangula)* [A067], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.56 km outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[41,42]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[43,44]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	11.80	Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A184], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.80 km outside of the Plan area and therefore there are no sources for effect regarding direct land use management activities. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. SCI species are sensitive to disturbance effects; in general distances beyond 2 km are seen to be sufficient to preclude such effects[45,46]. These distances can vary due to factors such as species and/or time of year[47,48]. Given the distance between the Plan area and the SPA there are no sources with pathways for disturbance effects identified. Considering the SCIs of this SPA, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SPA, there are no sources with pathways for significant effect via direct land use management or disturbance effects on the SPA.	No	No

[41] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[42] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[43] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[44] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.
[45] Rudock, M. and Whitfield, D.P., 2007. A review of disturbance distances in selected bird species. A report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage, 181.
[46] Bright, J.A., Langston, R. and Anthony, S., 2009. Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. Sandy: RSPB.
[47] Bötsch, Y., Tablado, Z. and Jenni, L., 2017. Experimental evidence of human recreational disturbance effects on bird-territory establishment. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, 284(1858), p.20170846.
[48] Goss-Custard, J.D., Hoppe, C.H., Hood, M.J. and Stillman, R.A., 2020. Disturbance does not have a significant impact on waders in an estuary close to conurbations: importance of overlap between birds and people in time and space. Ibis, 162(3), pp.845-862.

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	12.00	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 12.00 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
001398	Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC	12.18	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *(Vertigo angustior)* [1014], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Desmoulin`s whorl snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* [1016]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 12.18 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. There is an indirect surface hydrological connection via groundwater connectivity, via a shared groundwater body (Figure 3.2) between the Plan area and this European site. However, considering the distance between the Plan area and this SAC, there is a considerable dilution effect and therefore no sources with pathways for likely significant effects to the QIs of this SAC in terms of groundwater hydrological interactions have been identified. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	13.50	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]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
				This European site exists 13.50 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface or groundwater hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site (Figure 3.2). There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.		
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	14.93	Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 14.93 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface or groundwater hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site (Figure 3.2). There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	31.75	Desmoulin`s whorl snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* [1016], Alkaline fens [7230], Marsh Fritillary *(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 31.75 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface or groundwater hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site (Figure 3.2). There is an indirect surface hydrological connection via groundwater connectivity, via a shared groundwater body (Figure 3.2) between the Plan area and this European site, and this site contains groundwater sensitive QIs. However, considering the distance between the Plan area and this SAC, there is a considerable dilution effect and therefore no sources with pathways for likely significant effects to the QIs of this SAC in terms of groundwater hydrological interactions have been identified. There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature[17]	Analysis of Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood of In-Combination Effects
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	34.74	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110]	The Plan provides measures that will, in combination with the wider planning framework, support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure, provide an enhanced public realm, and facilitate more space to be given over to sustainable transport modes within the City Centre. These measures introduce potential sources that have pathways for significant effects to European sites through the potential increase in visitors or foot/cycle traffic to this European site, via displacement of vehicular traffic and/or introducing an increase in the accessibility of cycle and pedestrian routes with access to the Dublin coastline. The Plan also introduces potential sources for effects in the construction phase of the developments and associated infrastructure proposed via potential interactions with hydrology (surface and/or groundwater) and dust. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and surface hydrological interactions. This European site exists 34.74 km outside of the Plan area. There is no surface hydrological connection between the Plan area and this European site. There is an indirect surface hydrological connection via groundwater connectivity, via a shared groundwater body (Figure 3.2) between the Plan area and this European site, and this site contains groundwater sensitive QIs. However, considering the distance between the Plan area and this SAC, there is a considerable dilution effect and therefore no sources with pathways for likely significant effects to the QIs of this SAC in terms of groundwater hydrological interactions have been identified. There is also no source for direct land use management effects as this European site lies outside of the Plan boundary. Considering the QIs of this SAC, and given the nature of the Plan and the distance involved between the Plan area and the SAC, there are no pathways for effect via direct land use management or hydrological interactions to the SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen to this European site resulting from the implementation of the Plan, and no further assessment is required.	No	No

3.4 In Combination Effects

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 significantly affect European sites. Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to European sites. These plans, programmes, strategies etc. were considered throughout the assessment.

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, transport and other 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 Plan aligns with legislation and documents setting out public policy for land use, transport and climate action and will be incorporated into the review and preparation of these documents. In particular, the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028, the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042 and the Dublin City Council Climate Action Plan 2019-2024. The Plan also aligns with the National Planning Framework (and associated National Development Plan), the Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport, the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland, the Climate Action Plan 2023[49] and emerging Climate Action Plan 2024, the Regional Economic and Spatial Plan for the Eastern and Midland Region and associated the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan, the Dublin Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027 and the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025. Certain transport related proposals already provided for by these documents (and considered by their environmental assessments) are amongst those included within the Plan. The Transport Plan is based on national policies on sustainability as set out in the Climate Action Plan and recent climate action legislation.

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

All projects within the Plan area and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Plan, it is recognised that the identification of project level in-combination effects is limited for this Plan, and that further assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level. The hierarchy of strategic actions, such as plans and programmes, within which the Plan sits include those detailed in Appendix II[50].

3.5 Conclusion

The potential effects that could arise from the Draft Plan have been examined in the context of several factors that could result in likely significant effects to any European site. On the basis of the findings presented above, early on in the process, it was demonstrated that the Draft Plan:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on 4 (no.) European sites.

Therefore, a Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of this Natura Impact Statement) was required for the Draft Plan (see Section 4 of this report). The Screening for AA Determination undertaken by the competent authorities earlier on in the process is provided at Figures 3.3 and 3.4.

[49] Which includes various actions relating to transport planning e.g. Action No. TR/23/71(TF) "Strategic Transport Planning Work Programme" and associated steps relating to "Development & progression of national legislation, continued programme of review, update, appraisal and planning of services in line with MATS".

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

NTA
Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair
National Transport Authority

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination
under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011
(as amended)
for the
Draft Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477), as amended, this determination is being made by the National Transport Authority relating to the potential for the Draft Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023 to have effects on the integrity of European sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, information on the potential effects on the integrity of European Sites (to be reproduced in the Natura Impact Statement that will accompany the Draft Plan on public display) has been taken into account. The screening process assessed whether the Draft Plan would have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process demonstrates that an AA of the Draft Plan is required as, inter alia, the Draft Plan may, if unmitigated, be likely to result in significant effects on 4 (no.) European sites, taking into account Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation interest species and habitats and their associated threats and pressures. These effects arise from both the construction and operation of transport reconfiguration and associated infrastructure provided for by the Draft Plan, in combination with the wider planning framework, specifically:

- Potential increase in visitor and noise disturbance causing damage to European sites and their Annex I and II habitats and species; and
- Construction phase effects via potential interactions with water quality (via surface and or groundwater hydrological pathways) and dust.

The undersigned has carefully considered the information identified above and agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion referred to.

The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that: it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have likely significant effects on a European site; and, therefore, an AA is required.

Signatory: _____
Anne Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Figure 3.3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination (NTA)

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination
under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011
(as amended)
for the
Draft Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477), as amended, this determination is being made by Dublin City Council relating to the potential for the Draft Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023 to have effects on the integrity of European sites.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, information on the potential effects on the integrity of European Sites (to be reproduced in the Natura Impact Statement that will accompany the Draft Plan on public display) has been taken into account. The screening process assessed whether the Draft Plan would have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process demonstrates that an AA of the Draft Plan is required as, inter alia, the Draft Plan may, if unmitigated, be likely to result in significant effects on 4 (no.) European sites, taking into account Qualifying Interest and Special Conservation interest species and habitats and their associated threats and pressures. These effects arise from both the construction and operation of transport reconfiguration and associated infrastructure provided for by the Draft Plan, in combination with the wider planning framework, specifically:

- Potential increase in visitor and noise disturbance causing damage to European sites and their Annex I and II habitats and species; and
- Construction phase effects via potential interactions with water quality (via surface and or groundwater hydrological pathways) and dust.

The undersigned has carefully considered the information identified above and agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion referred to.

The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that: it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Plan, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have likely significant effects on a European site; and, therefore, an AA is required.

Signatory: Deirdre Scully
Deirdre Scully
City Planner

Figure 3.4 Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination (DCC)

Section 4 Informing Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

This Natura Impact Statement is compiled to inform the competent authorities on Stage 2 AA of the AA process, and in assessing whether the Plan, alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes and/or projects, may result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 4 (no.) European sites brought forward from screening (for more information refer to Section 3 above) – i.e. those sites considered in Table 3.1, for which a "Likelihood of Potential Significant Effects" and/or "Likelihood of Significant In-Combination Effects" has been identified, with respect to site structure, function, Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives of each European site considered.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

Screening for AA (for more information refer to Section 3 above) identified 4 (no.) European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Plan. Appendix I characterises each of the 4 (no.) European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each sites' Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives (as listed by the NPWS[51]).

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Adverse Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts[52]:

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 which the impact occurs – this should be predicted in a quantified manner.
Duration - The time that the effect is expected to last prior to recovery or replacement of the resource or feature.

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

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

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

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

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

Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been prepared for a number of European sites. These detailed 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.

[51] Available at https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites .
[52] 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".

> ***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'.*

A First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objective 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.

A First Order Site-Specific 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 2002 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.

Relevant potential changes are considered in Table 4.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites brought forward from Stage 1 of the AA process (see Section 3).

4.3.1.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Plan contributes towards a wider framework for granting consent for sustainable transport initiatives, infrastructural improvements and public realm developments throughout the Plan area (see Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include disturbance effects through increased visitors to European sites and construction phase effects through noise pollution, dust and hydrological interactions which have potential to cause a loss or reduction of habitat area along the ecologically sensitive coastal areas of Dublin Bay.

The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g. public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. These additional measures are provided in Section 5 below. These measures 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.

4.3.1.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

The Plan contributes towards a wider framework for granting consent for sustainable transport initiatives, infrastructural improvements and public realm developments throughout the Plan area (see Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include disturbance effects through increased visitors to European sites and construction phase effects through noise pollution, dust and hydrological interactions which have potential to cause habitat or species fragmentation along the ecologically sensitive coastal areas of Dublin Bay.

The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g. public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. These additional measures are provided in Section 5 below. These measures 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.

4.3.1.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The Plan contributes towards a wider framework for granting consent for sustainable transport initiatives, infrastructural improvements and public realm developments throughout the Plan area (see

Section 2). Potential effects arising from developments and activities include disturbance effects through increased visitors to European sites and construction phase effects through noise pollution, dust and hydrological interactions. These are sources for potential effects to the European sites along Dublin Bay via disturbance to key species. Disturbance effects are cause by any activity that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of recreation/tourism or noise or hydrological pollution.

The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g. public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. These additional measures are provided in Section 5 below. These measures 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.

4.3.1.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Plan introduces potential sources for effects on these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects from a potential increase in visitors to these ecologically sensitive European sites.

The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g. public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. These additional measures are provided in Section 5 below. These measures 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.

4.3.1.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem or 'keystone' species etc.

The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g. public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. These additional measures are provided in Section 5 below. These measures 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.

4.3.1.6 Climate change

The Plan introduces many measures which aim to reduce reliance of visitors to and residents of the Plan area on private vehicles and encourage the use of and increase access to other more sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, walking and cycling. The Plan provides for overall reductions in traffic flows and associated emissions within the Plan area. Therefore, at the Plan level, greenhouse gas emissions arising from the Plan will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to any degree that it would affect the QIs or SCIs of the European sites considered.

Table 4.1 Characterisation of Adverse Effects arising from the Plan

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of adverse effects
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	The known threats to this site are: burning down, golf course, antagonism with domestic animals, discharges, grazing, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, bait digging or collection, nautical sports, other point source pollution to surface water, urbanised areas, human habitation, industrial or commercial areas, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing. These pressures relate to: agriculture, hydrological changes, built environment, pollution, urbanisation, direct land use management, waste, fisheries, amenity and leisure activities, human habituation and invasive species. In the context of the sources for adverse effects identified in this report, the relevant pressures are: hydrological changes, built environment, pollution, waste, amenity and leisure activities and invasive species. The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g., public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will ensure the protection of European sites from any construction effects arising from any intervention under the Plan (see Section 5 below). These measures 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. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from agriculture, urbanisation, direct land use management, fisheries, or human habituation, within the Plan area, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	The known threats to this site are: discharges, marine water pollution, bait digging or collection, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, biocenotic evolution, succession, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, accumulation of organic material, non-motorized nautical sports, industrial or commercial areas, changes in abiotic conditions, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, urbanised areas, human habitation. These pressures relate to: waste, pollution, hydrological changes, fisheries, land take, urbanisation, amenity and leisure activities and human habituation. In the context of the sources for adverse effects identified in this report, the relevant pressures are: hydrological changes, pollution, waste and amenity and leisure activities The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g., public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will ensure the protection of European sites from any construction effects arising from any intervention under the Plan (see Section 5 below). These measures 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. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from fisheries, land take, urbanisation, within the Plan area, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	The known threats to this site are: discharges, interpretative centres, continuous urbanisation, bait digging or collection, golf course, shipping lanes, industrial or commercial areas, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, roads, motorways, nautical sports, bridge, viaduct, other patterns of habitation. These pressures relate to: waste, pollution, urbanisation, fisheries, amenity and leisure activities, human habituation, built environment, and coastal development. In the context of the sources for adverse effects identified in this report, the relevant pressures are: hydrological changes, built environment, waste, pollution and amenity and leisure activities. The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g., public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will ensure the protection of European sites from any construction effects arising from any intervention under the Plan (see Section 5 below). These measures 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. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from urbanisation, fisheries, human habituation, and coastal development, within the Plan area, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of adverse effects
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	The known threats to this are: roads, motorways, urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection, leisure fishing, eutrophication (natural), nautical sports, discharges, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, industrial or commercial areas, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles. These pressures relate to: urbanisation, human habituation, fisheries, pollution, waste, amenity and leisure activities and land take. In the context of the sources for adverse effects identified in this report, the relevant pressures are: hydrological changes and amenity and leisure activities. The Plan introduces measures that ensure that all projects (e.g., public realm opportunities and transport reconfiguration of city centre areas) arising from the Plan will undergo AA and EIA assessments where required, and a staged route selection process where relevant, in consultation with relevant experts and in consideration of the Habitats and Birds Directives. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will ensure the protection of European sites from any construction effects arising from any intervention under the Plan (see Section 5 below). These measures 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. There are no provisions in the Plan which introduce sources for potential effect from urbanisation human habituation, fisheries and land take, within the Plan area, therefore there are no sources for effects in these regards. For further details in relation to mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan please refer to Section 5 below.

Section 5 Mitigation Measures

Table 5.1 and Table 5.2 outline measures that have been incorporated into the Plan, in order to mitigate against adverse effects on the ecological integrity of European sites resulting from the potential sources and pathways identified in Section 3.3 and Table 3.1 of this report. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site from implementation of the Plan upon their application.

The Draft Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other.

Any project level interactions with European sites resulting from the implementation of the Plan will be assessed and determined by subsequent project levels specific AA process, as relevant, when the nature, location, size, layout and operational processes associated with individual and combinations of projects are known.

Table 5.1 Measures that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources integrated into the Plan

Sources for adverse effects[53]	Respective Plan Mitigation Measure(s)
Operational phase increase in visitor disturbance	**21.3 Corridor and Route Selection Process** The following Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for relevant new infrastructure: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and, Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. In both stages, environmental constraints and opportunities will be key factors and the advice of relevant specialists will be sought. Site-specific field data will also be used. The need to consider other planning and transport matters is also recognised. **21.4 Appropriate Assessment** All projects and plans arising from this plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that: The plan or project will not give rise to adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. **21.5 Protection of Natura 2000 Sites** No projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects), except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available; b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place. **21.2 Lower-level Decision Making** Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the environmental sensitivities identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report, including the following: Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g., watercourses and areas of semi-natural habitat, such as linear woodlands); Salmonid Waters; Shellfish Waters; Nature Reserves; Natural Heritage Areas; Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and Zones of Archaeological Potential; Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; Un-designated sites of importance to wintering or breeding bird species of conservation concern; Architectural Conservation Areas; and Special Amenity Area Order sites and other relevant landscape designations. **21.7 Other SEA and AA Recommendations** In implementing the Plan, the City Council will ensure that the measures included in Table 9.2 of the SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Statement are complied with[54].

[53] The measures generally benefit multiple environmental Sources and/or pathways for potential adverse effects i.e., a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.
[54] These measures include those detailed at Table 5.2.

Sources for adverse effects[53]	Respective Plan Mitigation Measure(s)
Construction phase interactions with water quality, noise and dust	**21.4 Appropriate Assessment** All projects and plans arising from this plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that: The plan or project will not give rise to adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. **21.5 Protection of Natura 2000 Sites** No projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects), except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a) no alternative solution available; b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) adequate compensatory measures in place. **21.2 Lower-level Decision Making** Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the environmental sensitivities identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report, including the following: Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g., watercourses and areas of semi-natural habitat, such as linear woodlands); Salmonid Waters; Shellfish Waters; Nature Reserves; Natural Heritage Areas; Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and Zones of Archaeological Potential; Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; Un-designated sites of importance to wintering or breeding bird species of conservation concern; Architectural Conservation Areas; and Special Amenity Area Order sites and other relevant landscape designations. **21.7 Other SEA and AA Recommendations** In implementing the Plan, the City Council will ensure that the measures included in Table 9.2 of the SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Statement are complied with[55].

[55] These measures include those detailed at Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Provisions referred to in the Plan under "21.7 Other SEA and AA Recommendations"

Provisions, including:
Construction and Environmental Management Plans Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) shall be prepared in advance of the construction of relevant projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures which have been integrated into the Plan and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including: a. location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse, b. location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities, c. details of site security fencing and hoardings, d. details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction, e. details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, f. measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network, g. measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris, h. alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works, i. details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels, j. containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained; such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater, k. disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, l. a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains, m. details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan. n. if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan. o. measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed). p. appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases. q. details of appropriate mitigation measures for lighting specifically designed to minimise impacts to biodiversity and ecological functioning. **Protection of Biodiversity including Natura 2000 Network** Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of designated ecological sites. Contribute towards compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines, including the following and any updated/superseding documents): • EU Directives, including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended)[56], the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)[57], the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)[58], the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC), the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). • National legislation, including the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations, Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), the European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 (as amended)[59] and the Flora Protection Order 2015. • National policy guidelines (including any clarifying Circulars or superseding versions of same), including the "Landscape and Landscape Assessment" Draft Guidelines 2000, the Environmental Impact Assessment Sub-Threshold Development Guidelines 2003, Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines 2004 and the Appropriate Assessment Guidance 2010. • Catchment and water resource management Plans, including the relevant River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plan (including any superseding versions of same). • Biodiversity Plans and guidelines, including the 3rd National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2023 (including its measures relating to ecological corridors and any superseding version of same) and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. • Freshwater Pearl Mussel Regulations (S.I. 296 of 2009) (including any associated designated areas or management plans). • Ireland's Environment 2020 - An Assessment (EPA, 2020, including any superseding versions of same), and to make provision where appropriate to address the report's goals and challenges. Where developments, arising from this Plan, do not require Environmental Impact Assessment, a non-statutory Ecological Impact Assessment may be required to assess potential impacts on biodiversity. **NPWS & Integrated Management Plans** Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for European sites involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done. Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared for European sites (or parts thereof), the National Parks and Wildlife Service shall be engaged with in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Strategy and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations, including those of local communities. **Biodiversity and Ecological Networks** Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity including corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

[56] Including Annex I habitats, Annex II species and their habitats and Annex IV species and their breeding sites and resting places (wherever they occur).
[57] Including Annex I species and other regularly occurring migratory species, and their habitats (wherever they occur).
[58] Including protected species and natural habitats.
[59] Including protected species and natural habitats.

Provisions, including:
Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses Help to ensure that waterbodies and watercourses are protected from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include the preservation habitat features/structure, such as treeline density, and protection buffers in riverine areas, as appropriate. **Biodiversity including non-designated biodiversity** Ensure the undertaking of appropriately detailed surveying and assessment at project/EIA level and minimisation of loss of biodiversity, including old trees or tree lines or areas of vegetation, as a result of the development of new or widened infrastructure. Help to ensure the appropriate protection of non-designated habitat features, landscapes and biological diversity. Where possible, to strive to achieve no net loss of these features as a result of new development granted permission under the Plan. Contribute towards the protection and management of fisheries[60] as appropriate and take into account Inland Fisheries Ireland's "Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environments" (2020) for developments along watercourses. **Non-native invasive species** Support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control and manage the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water. Where the presence of non-native invasive species is identified at the site of any proposed development or where the proposed activity has an elevated risk of resulting in the presence of these species, details of how these species will be managed and controlled will be required. **Water Framework Directive and associated legislation** Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). To support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development. **River Basin Management Plan** Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the most up to date River Basin Management Plan, and associated Programme of Measures. Proposed plans, programmes and projects shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands. Also to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) Ensure that new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems as appropriate. Also see requirements under other heading of water above. **Soil Protection and Contamination** Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.

[60] Including with regard to water quality, surface water hydrology, fish spawning and nursery areas, passage of migratory fish, ecosystem structure and functioning and sport and commercial fishing and angling resources.

Section 6 Conclusion

This Natura Impact Statement, compiled to inform the competent authorities on Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the Dublin City Centre Transport Plan 2023 to be adopted (incorporating modifications following public display), demonstrates that the Plan has the potential to result in adverse effects to the ecological integrity of 4 (no.) 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 into the Plan that will prioritise the avoidance of effects and mitigate against the identified potential adverse effects on the integrity of European sites where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects are considered and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan are seen to be robust to ensure that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having incorporated mitigation measures into the Plan, it has been demonstrated that the Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects[61]. This demonstration has been made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

This Natura Impact Statement will, alongside other inputs from the Plan-preparation/AA process, inform the competent authorities, when they undertake the final Appropriate Assessment determination at adoption of the Plan.

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

Appendix I Background information on European sites

List of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000199	Baldoyle Bay 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], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330]	D01.02, I01, G01.01.02, F02.03.01, J02.01.02, E01, K03.06, G01.02, K02.03, X, G02.01, F03.01, E03	Roads, motorways, invasive non-native species, non-motorized nautical sports, bait digging or collection, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, urbanised areas, human habitation, antagonism with domestic animals, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, eutrophication (natural), no threats or pressures, golf course, hunting, discharges
000202	Howth Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	D01.01, I01, X, E01, G05.04, C01.01.01, A04.03, C01, G01.02, J01.01	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, invasive non-native species, no threats or pressures, urbanised areas, human habitation, vandalism, sand and gravel quarries, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, mining and quarrying, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, burning down
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120]	G01.03, I01, G01.02, X, G01.01, F03.01, D01.02, G02.01, D01.05, A08, J02.01.02, E01	Motorised vehicles, invasive non-native species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, no threats or pressures, nautical sports, hunting, roads, motorways, golf course, bridge, viaduct, fertilisation, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, urbanised areas, human habitation
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Humid dune slacks [2190]	K03.06, E01, F02.03.01, E02, H01.03, A04, G01.02, E03, H01.09, F02.03, J01.01, G05.05, I01, G01.01, G02.01	Antagonism with domestic animals, urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection, industrial or commercial areas, other point source pollution to surface water, grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, discharges, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, leisure fishing, burning down, intensive maintenance of public parcs or cleaning of beaches, invasive non-native species, nautical sports, golf course
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	E02, F02.03.01, D01.01, J02.01.02, K02, D01.02, M01, K02.02, E03, H03, G01.02, G01.01, G01.01.02, E01	Industrial or commercial areas, bait digging or collection, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, biocenotic evolution, succession, roads, motorways, changes in abiotic conditions, accumulation of organic material, discharges, marine water pollution, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, non-motorized nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Alkaline fens [7230]	A01, E03.01, A04, C01.01, E01.02, B01, H02.01, A08, D01.02, H01.03, E01.01, A10.01	Cultivation, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, grazing, sand and gravel extraction, discontinuous urbanisation, forest planting on open ground, groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites, fertilisation, roads, motorways, other point source pollution to surface water, continuous urbanisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], 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]	D01.01, G03, E01.02, D01.02, B02.03, G02.08, B01, G01.02, G05.04, A04, B01.02, D05, G05.06, G05.07, E03.01, I01	Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, interpretative centres, discontinuous urbanisation, roads, motorways, removal of forest undergrowth, camping and caravans, forest planting on open ground, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, vandalism, grazing, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), improved access to site, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, invasive non-native species
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410], Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)* * important orchid sites [6210]	H02.07, F02.03, B01.02, A04.02.02, I01, B01.01, D01.03, E01.02, D01, A08, A03, A04, A04.02.01, A03.03, C01.03, J02, H01.08, B02.02, B02.01.02, H01.05, A04.02.03	Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, leisure fishing, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), non-intensive sheep grazing, invasive non-native species, forest planting on open ground (native trees), car parcs and parking areas, discontinuous urbanisation, roads, paths and railroads, fertilisation, mowing or cutting of grassland, grazing, non-intensive cattle grazing, abandonment or lack of mowing , peat extraction, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, forestry clearance, forest replanting (non-native trees), diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, non-intensive horse grazing

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Marsh Fritillary *(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065], Alkaline fens [7230], Desmoulin`s whorl snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* [1016]	F02.03, A04	Leisure fishing, grazing
001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)* [7220], Desmoulin`s whorl snail *(Vertigo moulinsiana)* [1016], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *(Vertigo angustior)* [1014]	A08, A10.01, A04, J02.05.02, D01.02, E01.01, E01.03, B	Fertilisation, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, grazing, modifying structures of inland water courses, roads, motorways, continuous urbanisation, dispersed habitation, sylviculture, forestry
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels *(Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)* [8110], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]	B02.05, F04.02, F03, G04.01, E03.01, A05.02, G05.04, G01.04, B06, G01.03.02, J01.01, G05.06, F03.02.02, C01.03, G05.09, E01, G01.02, A04, D01.01, G05.01, K01.01, I01, G05.07, G01, L05, K04.05, G02.09	Non- intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), military manoeuvres, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, stock feeding, vandalism, mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, grazing in forests or woodland, off-road motorized driving, burning down, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, taking from nest (e.g., falcons), peat extraction, fences, fencing, urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, trampling, overuse, erosion, invasive non-native species, missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, collapse of terrain, landslide, damage by herbivores (including game species), wildlife watching
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	G05.01, J01, X, G02.09, G01.02, G01.01, A04.03	Trampling, overuse, fire and fire suppression, no threats or pressures, wildlife watching, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing
002331	Mouds Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	A01, A04, B, C01.03.02, I01, J01, E02	Cultivation, grazing, sylviculture, forestry, mechanical removal of peat, invasive non-native species, fire and fire suppression, industrial or commercial areas
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	Harbour porpoise *(Phocoena phocoena)* [1351], Reefs [1170]	D03.02, X, E03, H06.01, F02.02, J02.11, J02.02, D02	Shipping lanes, no threats or pressures, discharges, noise nuisance, noise pollution, professional active fishing, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, removal of sediments (mud...), utility and service lines
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Curlew *(Numenius arquata)* [A160], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shoveler *(Anas clypeata)* [A056], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Turnstone *(Arenaria interpres)* [A169], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Teal *(Anas crecca)* [A052], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162]	D01.05, E01.04, F02.03.01, G02.01, D03.02, G01.01, E03, E02, E01.01, G03, D01.02, G01.02	Bridge, viaduct, other patterns of habitation, bait digging or collection, golf course, shipping lanes, nautical sports, discharges, industrial or commercial areas, continuous urbanisation, interpretative centres, roads, motorways, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141]	K02.03, G02.01, E01, F02.03.01, D01.02, F03.01, J02.01.02, I01, A08, G01.02	Eutrophication (natural), golf course, urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection, roads, motorways, hunting, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, invasive non-native species, fertilisation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004024	South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA	Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Sanderling *(Calidris alba)* [A144], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Ringed Plover *(Charadrius hiaticula)* [A137], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162]	J02.01.02, D01.02, E02, E03, G01.01, G01.02, K02.03, F02.03, E01, F02.03.01	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, industrial or commercial areas, discharges, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, eutrophication (natural), leisure fishing, urbanised areas, human habitation, bait digging or collection
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	Oystercatcher *(Haematopus ostralegus)* [A130], Red-breasted Merganser *(Mergus serrator)* [A069], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Goldeneye *(Bucephala clangula)* [A067], Knot *(Calidris canutus)* [A143], Shelduck *(Tadorna tadorna)* [A048], Redshank *(Tringa totanus)* [A162], Bar-tailed Godwit *(Limosa lapponica)* [A157], Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140], Dunlin *(Calidris alpina)* [A149], Great Crested Grebe *(Podiceps cristatus)* [A005], Black-tailed Godwit *(Limosa limosa)* [A156], Light-bellied Brent Goose *(Branta bernicla hrota)* [A674], Pintail *(Anas acuta)* [A054], Grey Plover *(Pluvialis squatarola)* [A141]	D01.04, E02, G01.02, A08, G01.01, J02.01.02, I01, D01.01, D01.05, E01	Railway lines, tgv, industrial or commercial areas, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation, nautical sports, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, invasive non-native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, bridge, viaduct, urbanised areas, human habitation
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103]	G01.02, C01.03, B, A04, D01.01, G03	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, peat extraction, sylviculture, forestry, grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, interpretative centres
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188]	G01.02, J01	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fire and fire suppression

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A184], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200]	G01.02, F02.03	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, leisure fishing
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	Roseate tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Arctic tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Common tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193]	G01.01, E01, A04, G01.02	Nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Great Black-backed Gull *(Larus marinus)* [A187], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)* [A018], Manx Shearwater *(Puffinus puffinus)* [A013], Lesser Black-backed Gull *(Larus fuscus)* [A183], Puffin *(Fratercula arctica)* [A204], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Common Scoter *(Melanitta nigra)* [A065], Little Gull *(Larus minutus)* [A177], Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Roseate Tern *(Sterna dougallii)* [A192], Common Tern *(Sterna hirundo)* [A193], Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)* [A195], Red-throated Diver *(Gavia stellata)* [A001], Black-headed Gull *(Chroicocephalus ridibundus)* [A179], Great Northern Diver *(Gavia immer)* [A003], Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194], Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Herring Gull *(Larus argentatus)* [A184]	Not available to date. The designation of this SPA emerged in 2023 and Conservation Objectives were shared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in September 2023.	Not available to date. The designation of this SPA emerged in 2023 and Conservation Objectives were shared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in September 2023.

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

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1014]	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (*Vertigo angustior)*	Pressures facing this species are associated with land abandonment, under-grazing and the creation of tourism and leisure infrastructure such as caravan sites and golf courses.	A06, A10, F05, F07	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, creation or development of sports, tourism and leisure infrastructure (outside the urban or recreational areas), sports, tourism and leisure activities	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
[1016]	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana)*	The main pressures are associated with natural succession resulting in species composition change and drying out of the habitat.	A07, A10, L01, L02	Abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
[1065]	Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia)*	The pressures facing this species are associated with conversion of land into agricultural land or forestry, under-grazing and abandonment of land.	A01, A07, A10, B01	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster (*Magallana gigas*).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	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.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	(*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*	and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*).		operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1351]	Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena)*	Pressures acting on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal by fisheries.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution.
[1355]	Otter (*Lutra lutra)*	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1395]	Petalwort (*Petalophyllum ralfsii)*	There are no pressures facing this species.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi)*	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes *(Embryonic shifting dunes)*	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes *(Ammophila arenaria)*	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation *(grey dunes)*	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2190]	Humid dune slacks *(Humid dune slacks)*	Pressures on the habitat come from a number of sources. Including agricultural fertilisers, sports and leisure activities (e.g., walking, off-road driving and golf courses) and	A19, A31, F07, I02, L02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, other invasive alien species (other than species of	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
		drainage. Succession to scrub is also a problem, particularly where it is linked to desiccation of the slack.		union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	
[3110]	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae)*	This habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, and from drainage and other damage to peatland. Damage to peatland can result in hydrological changes in lakes, increased organic matter, water colour and turbidity, changes in sediment characteristics, acidification and enrichment.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water	Surface dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3160]	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	The pressures on this habitat are associated with pollution from agricultural and forestry activities and also from drainage.	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D08	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, energy production and transmission activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution
[4010]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution.	A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[6130]	Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa (*Violetalia calaminariae)*	Pressures on this habitat are associated with abiotic natural processes (leaching of metals) and succession, as well as impacts from recreational activities (walking/hiking).	F07, L01, L02	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia)* * important orchid sites)	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6230]	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas *(and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)*	The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession.	I04, L02	Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[6410]	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*	The main pressures on the habitat are associated with agricultural intensification (e.g., land drainage, fertiliser application), under-grazing and forestry.	A02, A06, A10, A14, A31, B01	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, livestock farming (without grazing), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7110]	Active raised bogs	The main pressures on active raised bog are peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning.	A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7120]	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	The main pressure on degraded bogs come from peat extraction, drainage, afforestation and burning.	A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7130]	Blanket bogs *(* if active bog)*	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7150]	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	The main pressures on the habitat are associated with impacts on the supporting bog habitats, especially overgrazing, burning, peat extraction, drainage and conversion to forestry.	A09, A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and ground water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)*	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8110]	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)*	The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession.	A09, A10, L02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8210]	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb *(Epilobium brunnescens)*.	A09, A27, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[8220]	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Pressure on this habitat is associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb *(Epilobium brunnescens)*.	I02	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as *Rhododendron ponticum*, cherry laurel *(Prunus laurocerasus)* and beech *(Fagus sylvatica)* and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash (*Alnus glutinosa, Fraxinus excelsior, Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*, beech *(Fagus sylvatica)*, Indian balsam *(Impatiens glandulifera)* and currant species *(Ribes nigrum* and *R. rubrum)* as well as some native species such as brambles *(Rubus fruticoses agg.)* and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.

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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A003	Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	C03, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A009	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A013	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A017	Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A018	Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water 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
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 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 Redhank	*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
A177	Little Gull	*Larus minutus*	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
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
A182	Common Gull	*Larus canus*	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

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
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
A187	Great Black-Backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A192	Roseate Tern	*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
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
A674	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	*Branta bernicla hrota*	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications

Appendix II Relationship with Other Plans and Programmes

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
International/European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• 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 and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	• Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. • Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	• All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. • For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. • The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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. 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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	• The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities,	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: • an integrated approach • best available techniques, • flexibility; and	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the

	including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	• public participation	Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
2018 EU Renewables Directive (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. On 30 March 2023, a provisional agreement was reached for a binding target of at least 42.5% by 2030, but aiming for 45%. Once this process is completed, the new legislation will be formally adopted and enter into force.	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))	• Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. • The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. • Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.	• Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; • Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; • Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; • Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	• Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. • Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.	• Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures • EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs • The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services • Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy • Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering • National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits • Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it • Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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 burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

		• Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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. • 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.	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. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 $PM_{2.5}$ (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (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.	• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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: o The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive o Sampling Drinking Water Directive o Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive o Shellfish Directive o Freshwater Fish Directive o Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive o Dangerous Substances 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	• Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. • Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	• Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. • Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). • Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. • Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. • Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. • Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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. • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	• 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention 2000	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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 Caucus. • 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

		• 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.	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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention • Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Parliament resolutions, including: **The European Green Deal (EGD) 2020**	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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) Biodiversity Strategy	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 (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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: • Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; • Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; • Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

		goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and • Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.	
National Level			
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	• Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. • Sets out five key goals: o To reduce overall travel demand. o To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. o To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. o To reduce transport emissions. • To improve accessibility to transport.	• Others lower level aims include: o reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment o ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking o improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	• SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	• Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland • Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed	• Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	• 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-fueled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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.	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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

	• 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.	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	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	The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies	The PLUTO seeks to: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	• The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	• 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. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	• These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)	• The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	• Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	• These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	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 • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	• National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: • Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; • Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; • Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and • Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	• €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	• This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	• The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	• The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	• The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. • Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.	This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020: • Increasing on and offshore wind, • Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, • Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, • Growing sustainable transport; and • Building out robust and efficient networks.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation

			and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)	• The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050. • Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.	National climate policy in Ireland: • Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity; • Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future; • Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and • Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Climate Action Plan 2023 and Climate Action Plan 2024	The National 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 emerging Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.	The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	• Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	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 uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Island Grid Study 2008	• The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. • The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: • The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO_2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

		• The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. • Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered. • Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.	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 off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	• 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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 (2014-2020)	Vision: *"Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."*	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): • Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development • Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability • Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	• 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 and standards; and • Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	• The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	• The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 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. 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.	The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics: • Prevention • Collection • Self-sufficiency • Regulation • Legacy issues • North-south cooperation • Guidance and awareness • Implementation	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	• 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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

			regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	• White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. • Outlines strategic Goals for: o Security of Supply o Sustainability of Energy o Competitiveness of Energy Supply	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: • Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand • Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland • Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation • Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks • Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production • Being prepared for energy supply disruptions	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	• 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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
2030 Climate and Energy Framework	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	Key targets for 2030: • At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels). • At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018. • At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	• Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	• This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.	• The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030	Irelands National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 **Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000** **Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023**	• 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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

			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 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. The 4th NBAP strives for a "whole of government, whole of society" approach to the governance and conservation of biodiversity. The aim is to ensure that every citizen, community, business, local authority, semi-state and state agency has an awareness of biodiversity and its importance, and of the implications of its loss, while also understanding how they can act to address the biodiversity emergency as part of a renewed national effort to "act for nature".	This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. 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 Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003) **European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)** **European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)**	• 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.	• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on River Basin Districts (RBDs). • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	• Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. • Sets groundwater quality standards. • Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	• 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. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 **Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012** **Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013**	• Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	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 in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

		• Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • 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.	regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)	• 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 Waste water. • Protect and Enhance the Environment. • Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	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	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan	• The River Basin Management Plan sets 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	• The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the

			regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism 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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: *"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations".*	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. • Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: • To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include: • Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;	This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in

	• Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; • Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; • Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and • Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.		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 Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2019-2031	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: • Bus • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2022-2042	• This Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the Greater Dublin Area, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare. • This Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022- 2042 (Transport Strategy) replaces the previous framework, titled the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016- 2035, which was approved by the then Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2016. • The vision is: "*To provide a sustainable, accessible and effective transport system for the Greater Dublin Area which meets the region's climate change requirements, serves the needs of urban and rural communities, and supports the regional economy.*" • Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy.	Strategy Objectives: • An Enhanced Natural and Built Environment To create a better environment and meet our environmental obligations by transitioning to a clean, low emission transport system, reducing car dependency, and increasing walking, cycling and public transport use, and reducing car dependency. • Connected Communities and Better Quality of Life To enhance the health and quality of life of our society by improving connectivity between people and places, delivering safe and integrated transport options, and increasing opportunities for walking and cycling. • A Strong Sustainable Economy To support sustainable economic activity and growth by improving the opportunity for people to travel for work or business where and when they need to, and facilitating the efficient movement of goods. • An Inclusive Transport System To deliver a high quality, equitable and accessible transport system, which caters for the needs of all members of society.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation

			and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans (including Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Strategic Development Zone Planning Schemes in force within the Plan area and in other adjoining planning authorities), such as such as the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028	• Outline planning objectives for land use development. • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy. • Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area.	• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhances amenities and environment. • Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aim to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) prepared by Local Authorities within the Strategy area and Local Authorities in adjoining counties	• 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Landscape Character Assessments within the Strategy area and in adjoining counties	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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Air Quality Plans prepared by Local Authorities	For the purposes of air quality assessment and management in Ireland, the country is divided into a number of zones, one of which is Agglomeration A - the Dublin Conurbation. This consists of the functional areas of Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council and most of Fingal County Council. These local authorities are obliged to prepare an air quality plan to identify the root causes and formulate measures to address the exceedance of that pollutant for submission to the EU within two years of the exceedance being reported i.e. the end of 2021.	The Dublin Region Air Quality Plan 2021 - Air Quality Plan sets out 14 broad measures and a number of associated actions to address the exceedance of the nitrogen dioxide annual limit value.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Action Plans and Air Quality Plans prepared by Local Authorities	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 Noise Action Plans 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Plans prepared by Local Authorities	Dublin City Council's Climate Action Plan, Climate Neutral Dublin 2030, sets out how the Council can promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the National Climate Action Plan and the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.	Climate Neutral Dublin 2030 sets out the actions that will be taken by the City Council to prepare the city and people living in it for the known impacts of climate change – flooding, sea level rise, extreme weather events, drought.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Adaptation Strategies prepared by Local Authorities	Dublin City Council's Climate Action Plan, Climate Neutral Dublin 2030, sets out how the Council can promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the National Climate Action Plan and the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.	Climate Neutral Dublin 2030 sets out the actions that will be taken by the City Council to prepare the city and people living in it for the known impacts of climate change – flooding, sea level rise, extreme weather events, drought.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in 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 Authority Renewable Energy Strategies (LARES) prepared by Local Authorities	The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.	The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	These plans 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.	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 Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the "Dublin" Brand, Regional Tourism Development Strategies and Destination Experience Development Plans	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes, including those relating to transport infrastructure such as those related to the BusConnects Network, the Core Bus Corridor Programme, the New Dublin Area Bus Service Network, the MetroLink, DART+ and the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network.	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.