

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

NATURA IMPACT REPORT

Climate Action Plan 2024-2029





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ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
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DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024-2029

Natura Impact Report

Prepared for:
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

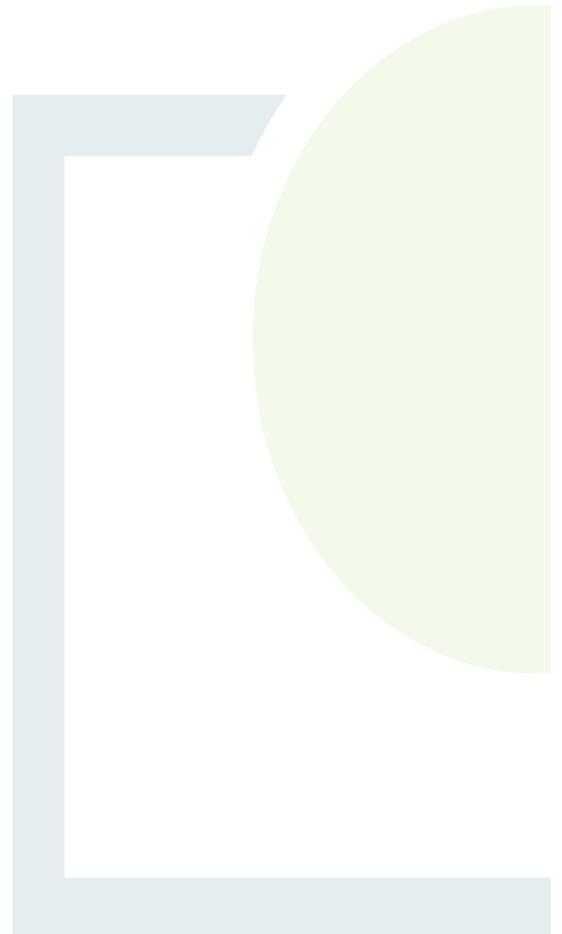


Date: February 2024

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Natura Impact Report for the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

| Rev. No. | Description of Changes | Prepared by: | Checked by: | Approved by: | Date: |
|----------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | For Issue | SOD/MG/BF/NSC | AT | BG | 19/02/2024 |

Client: Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Keywords: Appropriate Assessment, AA, Natura Impact Report, LACAP, Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2028 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”).

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

1.2 Post Draft Plan Consultation Revisions

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

The Plan modifications arising from the consultation process, the CE Report, and the post consultation plan-making process were screened for AA. The AA Screening Reports for the post consultation Plan modifications are presented in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4. All amended actions and additional actions added subsequent to the consultation period are documented, considered and evaluated in the AA Screening Reports. Where original actions have been modified after consultation, the text of the actions have been appropriately updated in this NIR. The Plan modifications were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental/ecological effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

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

1.3 Legislative Context

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

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



1.4 Approach

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stage One: Screening

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

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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



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

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

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

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model², where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

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

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

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

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



The scope of the AA was informed by the submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment³ (SEA) process being undertaken on the LACAP, including a submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that provided various information and suggestions relevant to the AA.

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



2. DESCRIPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2.1 Overview

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 Context

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

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

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

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

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



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

2.3 Plan Content

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

Table 2-1: LACAP Theme Area and Main Objectives

| Theme Area | Main Objective |
|--|---|
| Energy and Buildings | Facilitate and advocate for improved energy efficiency and carbon reduction in our County. |
| | Leading by example by reducing Council energy use. |
| | Protect and adapt our Heritage Resource. |
| Flood Resilience | Adaptation to increased Flood Events (Flood Defence, Monitoring, Flood Response). |
| | Implementation of Urban Greening / Nature Based Surface Water Management in the County. |
| | Improved Maintenance of Stormwater, Surface Water, and Road Gully Networks. |
| | Ensure Coastal Protection Measures are undertaken to adapt to Climate Change. |
| | Ensure flood resilience is adequately resourced in the County. |
| Circular Economy and Resource Management | Ensure waste management and regulation activities are monitored to facilitate the implementation of local and national climate action policies. |
| | Support businesses and people who visit, live and work in the County to adopt circular practices and reduce their climate impact. |
| | To reduce litter and pollution incidents that may impair the environment and contribute to Green House Gas emissions. |
| Nature Based Solutions | Mitigate the effects of climate change to our County's Biodiversity. |
| | Increase nature-based carbon offsetting opportunities. |
| Community Engagement | Support communities to deliver climate projects. |
| | Engage with communities through awareness programmes to empower all within the county to take climate action. |
| Transport | Promote Active Travel in the County for People of All Ages and Abilities. |
| | Embed Low Carbon Transport Modes, Road Safety and Accessibility in Our Communities. |
| | Climate Proof the Council's Road and Bridge Infrastructure. |



2.4 Overall Vision and Strategic Outcomes

The overall vision of the LACAP is as follows:

- 'A climate resilient county with an ambition to be climate neutral by 2050.'

The following mission has been defined for the LACAP.

- 'To deliver measurable climate actions across our county and within the Council through leadership, example and mobilising action at local level.'

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

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



3. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

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

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat⁴ or species⁵ at that site have been considered.

3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

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

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

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



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

- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SAC [IE0000199] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head SAC [IE0000202] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [IE0000205] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Bray Head SAC [IE0000714] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Glen of the Downs SAC [IE0000719] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SAC [IE0002193] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for The Murrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA [IE0004016] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [IE0004063] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [IE0004113] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [IE0004117] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 9.
- NPWS (2022) Generic Conservation Objectives for The Murrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 9.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA [004236] Version 1.

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



3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

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

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

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

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

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

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

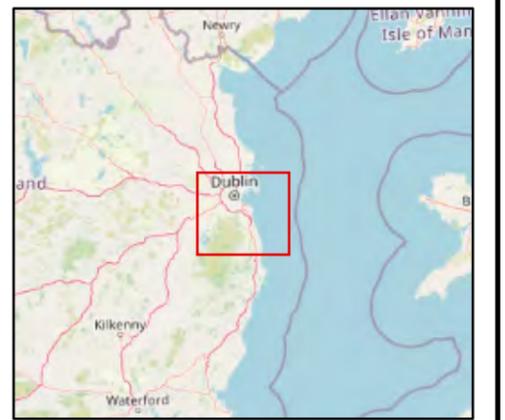
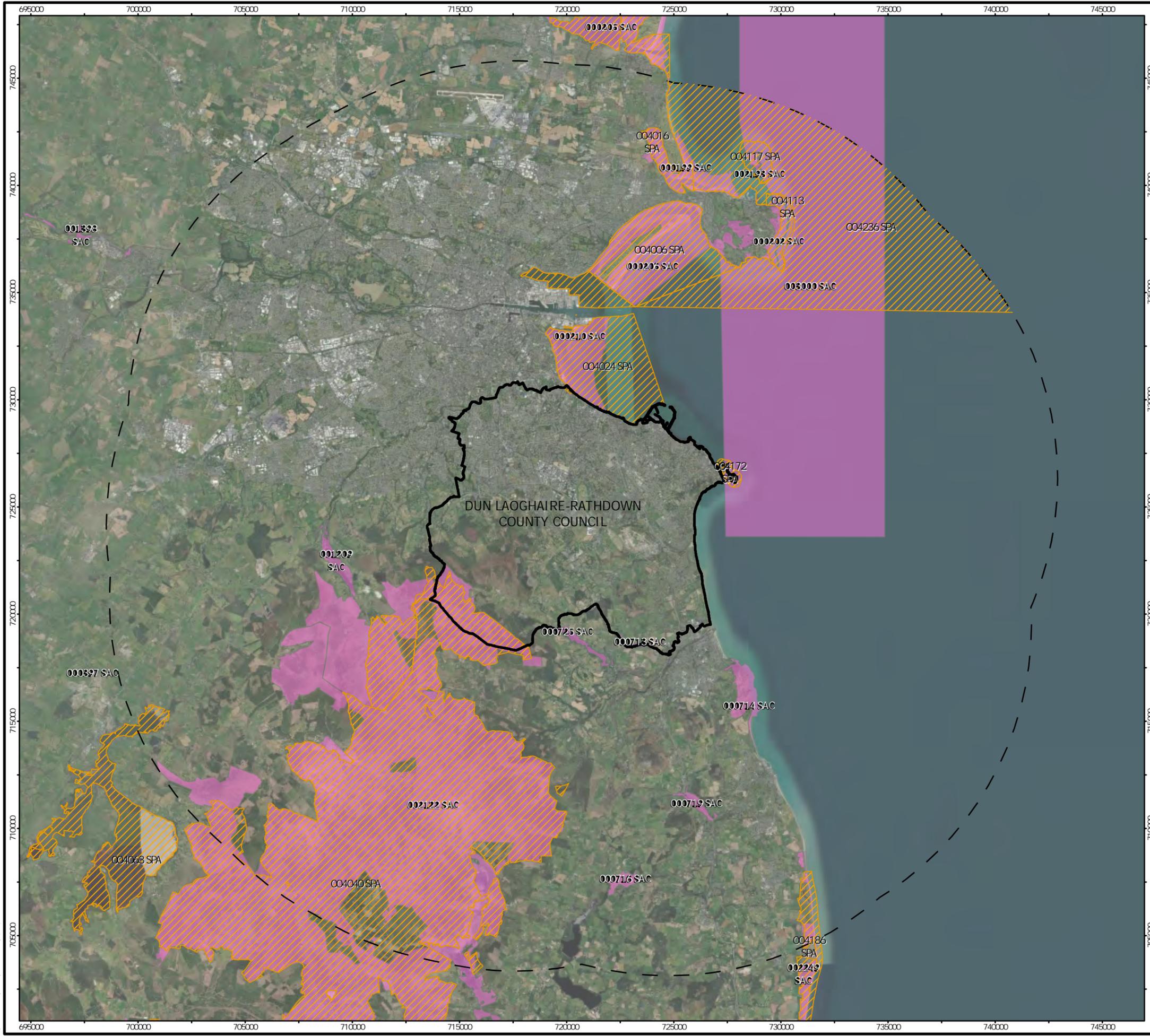


3.3.3 Screening of Sites

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

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

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

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protected Areas | |
| DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL Local Authority Climate Act on Plans | |
| FIGURE NO: | 3.1 |
| CLIENT: DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL | |
| DATE: 02/11/2023 | SCALE: 1:175,000 @ A3 |
|  | |


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

| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | 0 | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] | <p>This European Site is located immediately adjacent to the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | 0 | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Alkaline fens [7230] | <p>This European Site overlaps with the area of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | 0 | Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Old sessile oak | <p>This European Site overlaps with the area of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological</p> | Yes | Yes |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|--|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | 0 | Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia Calaminarian [6130] | This European Site overlaps with the area of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA | 0 | Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162], Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144], Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149], Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157], Black-headed | This European Site overlaps with the area of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological | Yes | Yes |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] | interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | 0 | Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] | This European Site overlaps with the area of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Special Conservation Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | 0.03 | Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] | This European Site is located within 500 m from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area. The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites. Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | Yes | Yes |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | 0.04 | Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351], Reefs [1170] | <p>This European Site is located within 500 m from the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP area.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>Thus, there is the potential for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | 1.82 | European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 1.82 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | No | No |
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | 3.47 | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 3.47 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP, and no surface water or groundwater connections (no karst features mapped within the plan area) are present.</p> | No | No |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] | <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | | |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | 4.64 | Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] | <p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | 4.68 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Annual | There is a separation distance of approximately 4.86 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present. | No | No |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Humid dune slacks [2190], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] | <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | | |
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | 6.16 | Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 6.16 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | No | No |
| 000202 | Howth Head SAC | 7.13 | European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 7.13 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc.</p> | No | No |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | <p>Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | | |
| 004113 | Howth Head Coast SPA | 8.12 | Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] | <p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000199 | Baldoyle Bay SAC | 9.86 | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 9.86 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> | No | No |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 004016 | Baldoyle Bay SPA | 9.86 | Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] | <p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | 10.17 | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 10.17 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP, and no surface water or groundwater connections (no karst features mapped within the plan area) are present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> | No | No |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 002249 | The Murrrough Wetlands SAC | 10.98 | Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> [7210], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 10.98 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP, and no surface water or groundwater connections (no karst features mapped within the plan area) are present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | No | No |
| 004117 | Ireland's Eye SPA | 11.21 | Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] | <p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> | Yes | Yes |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP. | | |
| 002193 | Ireland's Eye SAC | 11.59 | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 11.59 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | No | No |
| 004186 | The Murrrough SPA | 11.92 | Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] | <p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |



| Site Code | Site Name | Distance (km) | Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests) | Potential Effects | Pathway for Significant Effects | Potential for In-Combination Effects |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | 13.22 | Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] | <p>This European Site is within 15km of the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown LACAP which is within the known foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is a pathway for potential effects.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>There is the potential for significant effects to the Special Conservation Interests of this European site as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | Yes | Yes |
| 000205 | Malahide Estuary SAC | 14.39 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] | <p>There is a separation distance of approximately 9.86 km between this European Site and the area of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County LACAP and no hydrological connection is present.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions which may result in land use change and infrastructure development etc. Therefore, there is potential for effects such as hydrological interactions, land take, disturbance etc. Which could affect European Sites.</p> <p>At this distance, there are no pathways for significant effects to this European Site and its Qualifying Interests as a result of activities proposed under the LACAP.</p> | No | No |



3.4 In-combination effects with Other Plans and Programmes

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 AA Screening Conclusion

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

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site; and
- May, if unmitigated, have significant adverse effects on 14 (no.) European sites.

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



4. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction

The Stage 2 AA assesses whether the LACAP alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the 14 European sites brought forward from screening (those considered on Table 3-1 for which there is “Potential Pathway for Significant Effects” and/or “Potential for In-Combination Effects”), with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives.

4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified 14 European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the LACAP. Appendix 1 characterises each of the qualifying features of the ALL European sites brought forward from Stage 1 in context of each of the sites’ vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website⁶.

4.3 Identifying and Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters can be used when characterising impacts⁷:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

Generic Conservation Objective for SACs:

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

One generic Conservation Objective for SPAs:

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

4.3.1 Types of Potential Effects

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



4.3.1.1 *Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area*

The LACAP provides for action related to climate action and generally seeks to reduce CO2 emissions through coordination, advocacy, awareness etc. Many of the actions also relate to land use change or the provision of infrastructure developments such as green energy and active travel projects. The exact spatial location of these projects is not fully developed within the plan. The development of all infrastructural have associated construction phase effects which include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, hydrological interactions, airborne pollution, excessive noise etc. Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects due to construction on the ecological integrity of any European site.

As identified above LACAP boundary has several European sites within it; therefore, there is potential for effects to European sites through urbanisation and direct habitat loss on foot of the implementation of the LACAP; however, several mitigation measures have been integrated into the LACAP to ensure that its implementation will not result in the loss of any habitat necessary for the ecological integrity of any European site; namely list of actions to avoid habitat loss N1, N3, N5, N6, N7, N19, N21, N24 etc. (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Additionally, the environmental governance section of the LACAP sets out a number of measures which will ensure the protection of biodiversity throughout the implementation of the plan such as:

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

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



4.3.1.2 *Habitat or species Fragmentation*

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

The LACAP recognises the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. The LACAP provides actions to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as hedgerows; mitigation measures such as F8, F16, N4, N8, N13 etc. (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report).

Lighting is a particular issue for biodiversity – particularly with regard to linear projects, therefore the following action was required to ensure there would be no significant impacts in this regard: EB19 (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report).

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

4.3.1.3 *Disturbance to Key Species*

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

The LACAP accounts for noise pollution effects through its policies and objectives affording protection to European sites by ensuring any projects that arise from the implementation of the LACAP avoid or minimise noise in compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive and associated National Regulations through the Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2018 - 2023. Actions to ensure the protection of habitat quality with respect to disturbance effects from noise and other sources have been built into the LACAP (further details see Section 5).

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



4.3.1.4 *Reduction in species density*

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The LACAP introduces potential sources for effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, visitor movements/access, hydrological interaction or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment, trampling etc. However, the LACAP contains provisions to enhance biodiversity, landscape and the environment within Council boundary F8, F16, N4, N8, N13 and N15 etc. (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). Similarly, the LACAP the role of non-designated sites for the maintenance and enhancement of European sites due to the connectivity and accessibility of ecological resources. Further to these provisions there are actions related to specific ecological resources and/or habitats such as F8, F16, N4, N8, N13 etc. (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report). These actions apply to all plans, programmes and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the plan. Measures relating to light pollution, noise pollution, habitat loss and fragmentation are addressed above (further detailed in Section 5).

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

4.3.1.5 *Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value*

Water quality is the primary macro indicator of conservation value. The LACAP contains many robust actions to ensure the protection of both surface and ground water quality. Development within the vicinity of groundwater or surface water dependant European sites will not be permitted where there is potential for a likely significant effect on the groundwater or surface water supply to the European sites. Action that specifically relate to the protection of water quality which account for potential effects to European sites include F4, F6, F7, F12, F15, N13 and R20 etc. Similarly, emissions to air have potential to adversely affect the conservation status of European sites; however, the LACAP contains actions – such as T7, T12, T13, T15, and T18 etc. – which account for this. (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report).

Additionally, the actions provide broader scope to ensure the protection of the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions; F4, F6, F7, F12, F15, N13 and R20 etc. (further detailed in Section 5).

4.3.1.6 *Climate change*

The LACAP is specifically focused on climate action and most of the actions within the plan are aimed at reducing carbon emissions and move towards renewable energy sources; EB6, EB7, EB9, EB18 and R7 etc. (see full list of measures reproduced at Section 5 of this report).

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



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

| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|-----------|----------------------|--|
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | <p>The known threats and pressures for this this SAC relate to infrastructure, recreation, hydrological interactions, land-use management, direct interaction with species and populations, and waste management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, mining/ resource extraction, hydrological interactions, land use management, land use change, and waste management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to forestry, land use change, waste management, infrastructure, agriculture, poor conservation management, unsocial behaviour, recreation, land use change, and invasive species.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |



| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|-----------|--|---|
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to agriculture, infrastructure, recreation, unsocial behaviour, forestry, mining/ resource extraction, land use management, direct interaction with species and populations, invasive species, abiotic changes, military manoeuvres, waste management, and poor conservation management.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to waste management, noise, infrastructure, recreation, direct interaction with species or populations, and commercial shipping.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to recreation, waste management, land use change, infrastructure, land use management, and direct interaction with species and populations.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |



| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to recreation, poor conservation management, forestry, mining/ resource extraction, and infrastructure.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to recreation, land use management, and agriculture.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to waste management, infrastructure, recreation, poor conservation management, direct interaction with species and populations, land use management, land use change, and commercial shipping.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |



| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| 004113 | Howth Head Coast SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to burning, land use management, and recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004016 | Baldoyle Bay SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to recreation, infrastructure, waste management, direct interaction with species and populations, agriculture, land use management, land use change, and invasive species.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004117 | Ireland's Eye SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to recreation.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |



| Site Code | Site Name | Characterisation of Potential Effects |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to recreation, transport, and agriculture.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | <p>The known threats and pressures for this SAC relate to direct interaction with species and populations, recreation, forestry, and infrastructure.</p> <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |
| 004236 | North-west Irish Sea SPA | <p>The LACAP provides for actions related to climate action which seek to coordinate and facilitate a reduction in carbon emissions. Some of the actions support the development of infrastructure which could result in effect to European sites such as land take, hydrological interactions, alterations to land use etc.</p> <p>The known threats and pressures for the SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation measures are required to ensure no such impacts will affect the ecological integrity of the Europeans site. These measures are detailed in section 5 below.</p> |



5. MITIGATION MEASURES

This section outlines measures that have been incorporated into the LACAP in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as identified above. The LACAP was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the LACAP. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2 below.⁸ Some of these measures, many of which were integrated into the current Plan through the SEA and AA processes for that Plan, have been retained and/or updated.

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

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

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan (as seen in Table 5-1 and Table 5-2). This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects (as seen in Table 5-3). These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan.

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

⁸ For a complete assessment of the Plan, against all environmental components (These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors), refer to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report.



Table 5-1: Recommendations integrated into the Plan

| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|--|--|--|
| EB3 | Facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy projects. | This is an action that serves to promote the development of offshore renewable energy projects. The implementation of the action when considered alone (i.e., the meetings/public engagements) will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. However, the supporting of such developments could result in environmental conflicts such as collision risk and vibration effects, particularly with regard to marine life, thus further consideration and mitigation measures are required. | Facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy projects; whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits, support homeowners, schools, businesses, community and club facilities in their endeavours to reduce their carbon footprint and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. |
| EB19 | Increase the proportion of public lighting using high-energy efficiency/LED lighting. | This action will support the local authority reducing its organizational GHG emissions in line with climate policy and legislation and emission reduction targets. The action is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect in terms of GHG emissions, however, the spectrum of light from LED sources has potential to impact nocturnal species. Therefore, there is also scope for there to be a slight negative effects if unmitigated. At high-level, such effects could potentially negatively impact protected sites (and their qualifying interests) that are in close proximity or that are ecologically linked to upgrade site locations. | Increase the proportion of public lighting using high-energy efficiency/LED lighting while ensuring the lumen levels and spectral range are maintained or reduced/controlled to avoid effects to biodiversity. |
| EB22 | Develop projects to promote adaptive reuse/increased use of historic structures/traditional buildings. | This action has the potential to support the use of historic structures and traditional buildings which could result in significant negative effects if unmitigated. Any use should ensure correct restoration of historic structures and traditional buildings. Such restoration can significantly increase the amenity and heritage value associated with such buildings. This action has the potential to have adverse effects on Bats which are Annex IV species, as many roosts are located within old unused buildings. This action has the potential to have significant positive effects on cultural heritage and architectural assets and the amenity value attained by people from these assets. | Develop projects to promote adaptive reuse/increased use of historic structures/traditional buildings; having appropriate regard to protected species and structures regulations. |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| F1 | Progress Flood Alleviation schemes in the county in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW). | <p>The progression of flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality and the hydrology of water bodies; biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic eco-systems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust), the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise).</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature-based solutions and SuDS as part of a flood resilience scheme has the potential to have slight to significant, positive effects on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of a particular water body.</p> <p>The delivery of flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors.</p> | Progress Flood Alleviation schemes in the county in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW); having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value. |
| F7 | Identify and progress minor works schemes to resolve recurring flood issues, where possible, ensuring the schemes are designed and implemented to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) / nature-based solutions. | <p>The progression of minor flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to minor development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>Such minor works have the potential to have an adverse effect on the water environment and biodiversity, including flora and fauna.</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects also. The possible development of nature-based solutions and SuDS as part of such minor works has the potential to have slight to moderate, positive effects</p> | Identify and progress minor works schemes to resolve recurring flood issues, where possible, ensuring the schemes are designed and implemented to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) / nature-based solutions/ protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation. |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| | | <p>on biodiversity and water quality at or downstream of particular water body.</p> <p>The delivery of a flood resilience action also has the potential to reduce flood risk and prevent flood events. Reducing flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.</p> | |
| F12 | Develop a maintenance plan for SuDS assets that are taken in charge by the Council, ensuring their continued operation. | <p>The progression of minor flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to minor development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>Such minor works have the potential to have an adverse effect on the water environment and biodiversity, including flora and fauna.</p> <p>This action will promote good flood risk management and flood risk reduction. Proper SuDS maintenance will generate a positive effect for environmental receptors that are at risk of being negatively impacted by flood events - by reducing the risk of such flood events.</p> | Develop a maintenance plan for SuDS assets that are taken in charge by the Council, ensuring their continued operation; ensuring the plan takes nature-based solutions/ protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation into consideration. |
| F17 | Update the Coastal Defence Strategy report to advise future protection measures and implement as necessary. | <p>The progression of coastal flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to significant development taking place at and in the vicinity of the coast</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, such development could potentially have a variety of significant, negative environmental effects, including effects on: water quality, biodiversity, including flora and fauna reliant on aquatic ecosystems; the receiving air environment (due to the generation of construction dust) and the receiving noise environment (due to the generation of construction phase noise).</p> <p>Coastal flood resilience action has the potential to have positive environmental effects. The possible development of nature-based solutions and SuDS as part of a coastal defence strategy has the potential to have slight to significant,</p> | Update the Coastal Defence Strategy report to advise future protection measures and implement as necessary; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity. |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| | | <p>positive effects on biodiversity and water quality.</p> <p>The delivery of coastal flood resilience action has the potential to reduce coastal flood risk and prevent future coastal flood events. Reducing coastal flood risk can generate significant, positive effects for a variety of environmental receptors that could be negatively impacted by flood events; including human receptors, ecological receptors and cultural heritage assets.</p> <p>The implementation of a coastal defence strategy is likely to have slight to significant positive effects on the receiving soils environment - through the prevention of coastal erosion. This may have also a beneficial impact on inter-related environmental components that could potentially be impacted by coastal erosion.</p> | |
| R19 | Carry out deep Cleans of Towns and Villages | This action is broad and non-specific in nature. While this action will support the reduction of litter nuisance, there is the potential for cleaning agents to be used, which may cause damage to local water quality. | Carry out deep Cleans of Towns and Villages; in a manner which does not adversely impact air or water quality, or native biodiversity. |
| N26 | Expand the community garden model developed at Fernhill Park to other locations in the County. | This action has the potential to have wide ranging slight to moderate positive effects on local biodiversity. Promoting greenspace vegetative growth may result in an additional degree of carbon sequestration, marginally offsetting the effects of GHG emissions. | Expand the community garden model developed at Fernhill Park to other locations in the County; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity. |
| C10 | Design an innovative and creative project to use a heritage site to creatively engage local communities with climate change, climate mitigation and heritage. | This promotional action will support the effective delivery of climate action in the community. The adoption of this action will support the full realization of the vision and main objectives of the plan in the community. There is the potential for adverse ecological effects if these heritage sites are supported protected species or habitats, e.g., old buildings supporting bat roosts | Design an innovative and creative project to use a heritage site to creatively engage local communities with climate change, climate mitigation and heritage; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity. |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| C16 | Support the Council Sports Partnership in coordinating and delivering Walking Programmes in the County. | This action has the potential to lead to adversely effect habitats and flora populations via trampling if specific routes for walking are not encouraged. | Support the Council Sports Partnership in coordinating and delivering Walking Programmes in the County; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity. |
| T4 | Deliver a safe active travel network for people of all ages and abilities by implementing the County and Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network. | <p>This action supports the development of additional cycling infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The ongoing operation of a cycle network may have a slight to significant effect on traffic flows associated with other modes of transport, in absence of proper design of such networks the outset and additional mitigation as may be required.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> | Deliver a safe active travel network for people of all ages and abilities by implementing the County and Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc. |
| T6 | Support the implementation of Department of Transport Pathfinder Projects. | This action will support the implementation of active travel projects defined in the Department of Transport Pathfinder programme for the local authority functional area. | Support the implementation of Department of Transport Pathfinder Projects, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| | | <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional active travel infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), biodiversity impacts, cultural heritage asset impacts and impacts on traffic and transport (though the temporary creation of traffic diversions and congestion).</p> <p>The ongoing operation of a active travel network may have a slight to significant effect on traffic networks for other modes of transport, in absence of proper design of such networks the outset and additional mitigation as may be required.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to have a significant positive effect on population and human health through the promotion of modes of travel that benefit human health.</p> <p>The delivery of an expanded safe active travel network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. The is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> | <p>water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.</p> |
| T7 | Expand the EV / ebike / eScooter charging networks in the County, including disabled access for EV charging. | The expansion of the EV charging network will lead to the development of multiple charging points and ancillary electrical infrastructure including grid connection routes across the extent of the local authority's functional area. | Expand the EV / ebike / eScooter charging networks in the County, including disabled access for EV charging, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional charging point infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of good network of charging infrastructure has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. This is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> | <p>environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc.</p> |
| T8 | <p>Reallocate road space to provide for sustainable travel alternatives.</p> | <p>This action will support the adoption of sustainable and active travel projects.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the updating of road space have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The delivery of expanded sustainable/active travel networks has the potential to promote the use of sustainable and active travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions. The is likely to have a slight to moderate positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.</p> | <p>Reallocate road space to provide for sustainable travel alternatives; having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.</p> |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| T11 | Implement the 'Safe Routes to School' Programme in the County. | <p>This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel networks. This action supports the development of additional cycling infrastructure.</p> <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of additional cycling infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to significant environmental effects, including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction) and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>This action also has the potential to have generate some degree of positive environmental effect due to a reduction in vehicle use.</p> | Implement the 'Safe Routes to School' Programme in the County, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage etc. |
| T13 | Expand the network of secure, public cycle and scooter parking to accommodate a variety of transportation modes. | <p>This action has the potential to cause habitat fragmentation, habitat loss, and disturbance through the construction of new parking spaces.</p> <p>This action has the potential to encourage modal shift and the use of active travel modes and networks. It will help fully realize the potential positive environmental effects associated with sustainable/active travel.</p> | Expand the network of secure, public cycle and scooter parking to accommodate a variety of transportation modes, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage. |
| T14 | Facilitate public transport development in the County. | <p>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved in the construction of public transport infrastructure have the potential to generate a range of slight to profound significant environmental effects (depending the scale, extent and character of the development), including noise impacts, local air quality impacts (through the generation of construction dust), impacts on water quality (through the run-off of silt and cement based products during construction), and biodiversity impacts.</p> <p>The expansion of the public transport network has the potential to promote the use of sustainable travel modes in the community, encourage modal shift and support the reduction of vehicle related emissions.</p> | Facilitate public transport development in the County, whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects. |



| Action Reference | Original Action | Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated, including: | Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in: |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| | | The is likely to have a slight to significant positive environmental effect - having regard to the share of GHG emission reductions that can be supported via this action relative to national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements. | |
| T21 | Identify opportunities and upgrade existing road network drainage systems. | <p>The progression of minor flood resilience related action has the potential to lead to minor development taking place at and in the vicinity of water bodies.</p> <p>Such minor works have the potential to have slight to moderate, negative effects on the water environment and biodiversity, including flora and fauna.</p> <p>It is unlikely such minor works will have a significant effect on the local air quality AND noise given the likely scale, extent and duration of such works.</p> <p>Flood resilience action has the potential to have positive effects on water quality and hydrology.</p> | Identify opportunities and upgrade existing road network drainage systems, having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage. |
| T22 | Develop and implement an annual Bridge Inspection and Maintenance Programme and increase the number of bridge structures on which maintenance works are carried out annually. | This activity has the potential to adversely effect Annex II and IV species such as Daubenton's Bat through disturbance and habitat loss. | Develop and implement an annual Bridge Inspection and Maintenance Programme and increase the number of bridge structures on which maintenance works are carried out annually - having appropriate regard to protected species and structures regulations. |



Table 5-2: Mitigation measures incorporated into the Local Authority Climate Action Plan which are most relevant to European sites

| Mitigation Measure Code | Mitigation Measures Text |
|-------------------------|---|
| F4 | Ensure recording of flood events (fluvial and pluvial) and major climate events, utilising a Geographic Information System (G.I.S.) based system, to consistently capture locations, impacts, response resources, costs etc., to facilitate the development of climate adaptation measures. |
| F6 | Engage with neighbouring Local Authorities and other relevant organisations on regional flood management issues and support the implementation of flood forecasting systems. |
| F7 | Identify and progress minor works schemes to resolve recurring flood issues, where possible, ensuring the schemes are designed and implemented to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) / nature-based solutions. |
| F8 | Develop, protect, and conserve riparian corridors , in line with the County Development Plan. |
| F9 | Ensure Urban Greening opportunities are implemented in Council Capital projects, including new builds and retrofits. |
| F10 | Ensure new Local Area Plans feature Urban Greening Proposals. |
| F11 | Ensure significant developments shall include urban greening as a fundamental element of the site and building design. |
| F12 | Develop a maintenance plan for SuDS assets that are taken in charge by the Council, ensuring their continued operation. |
| F15 | Review gully maintenance plan and operations for improvements, considering areas with recurring issues and smart technology opportunities. |
| F16 | Maintenance of key lakes and wetlands, existing flood storage facilities to maintain storage capacity during severe weather events. |
| F20 | Implement the 'Biosphere[1] Conservation and Research Strategy 2022 – 2026' within the County. |
| R7 | Promote and deliver Climate Action supports to help businesses reduce their Greenhouse Gas Emissions and transition to net zero, circular enterprises. |
| R15 | Roll out successful rainwater harvesting project, as implemented in Loughlinstown, to Council owned buildings where the design is adaptable. |
| R20 | Bathing Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting |
| N1 | Implement the current County Biodiversity Action and Invasive Species Action Plans. |
| N3 | Expansion of pollinator areas and Bee friendly estates across the County and continued support of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. |



| Mitigation Measure Code | Mitigation Measures Text |
|-------------------------|--|
| N4 | Implement the recommendations of the County Hedgerow Evaluation Project. |
| N6 | Map wildlife corridors across the County and evaluate their ecosystem services including climate change resilience. |
| N7 | Assessment and remediation options of the impacts on important ecosystems, habitats, and species from the protection/management measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change. |
| N9 | Prepare and implement a Habitat and Species Management Plan for Killiney and Roches Hill pNHA in the face of climate change and wildfires. |
| N10 | Prepare a Habitat and Species Management Plan for Booterstown Marsh proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA), a Protected Plant Species Site and part of the South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA subject to the agreement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. |
| N11 | Develop guidance on biodiversity inclusive design for housing development including social housing with green roofs, wetland & pond SuDS, green carparking, nest boxes, local soil and seed for landscaping, and wildlife friendly shrubs and native trees. |
| N12 | Develop guidance on biodiversity and cycleways/pathways to ensure that the location and design of greenways is not at the loss of biodiversity and to provide guidance on biodiversity enhancements. |
| N13 | Implement the Council's Tree Strategy 2023-2029 (A Climate for Trees). |
| N14 | The Council has abolished the use of glyphosphate since 2017 and will seek to promote the elimination in glyphosphate use in the community. |
| N15 | Finalize and Implement Wildfire Strategy for Killiney Hill and Roches Hill. |
| N16 | Create the Public Open Space and Parks Strategy. |
| N18 | Carry out ecology surveys of dlr owned Heritage assets and develop management plans for biodiversity. |
| N19 | Agree joint action plans to protect important native habitats and species of the County. |
| N20 | Co-ordinate action on biodiversity across the four Dublin Local Authorities. |
| N21 | Protect and conserve floodplains, wetlands, and coastal areas including those subject to flooding. |
| N24 | Develop demonstration sites to show how to combine nature conservation with existing land uses. |



| Mitigation Measure Code | Mitigation Measures Text |
|-------------------------|--|
| N25 | Expand the community garden model developed at Fernhill Park to other locations in the County. |
| C13 | Facilitate the roll out of the S.E.A.I. Sustainable Energy Communities (S.E.C.s) programme. |
| T7 | Expand the EV / ebike / eScooter charging networks in the County, including disabled access for EV charging. |
| T9 | Identify opportunities to implement permeability and connectivity in the planning process. |
| T12 | Expand car sharing schemes in the County, with a focus on the provision of electric vehicles. |
| T13 | Expand the network of secure, public cycle and scooter parking to accommodate a variety of transportation modes. |
| T15 | Facilitate public transport development in the County. |
| T18 | Increase the number of vehicles and machinery in the Council fleet that are electric or using renewable fuels. |
| EB6 | Increase share of renewables in Council's energy consumption. |
| EB7 | Continued Energy Performance improvement within an Energy Performance Contract (E.P.C.) and decarbonisation in Council owned Leisure Centres. |
| EB9 | Undertake energy upgrades on Council-owned housing stock through the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme. |
| EB18 | Implement identified DeliveREE / Pathfinder projects across Council premises to include the decarbonisation of Significant Energy User (S.E.U.) buildings. |



Table 5-3: Environmental Mitigation Measures related Environmental Governance Principles suggested for inclusion in the plan - specifically the plan implementation section

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



6. CONCLUSION

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

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

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

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁹. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

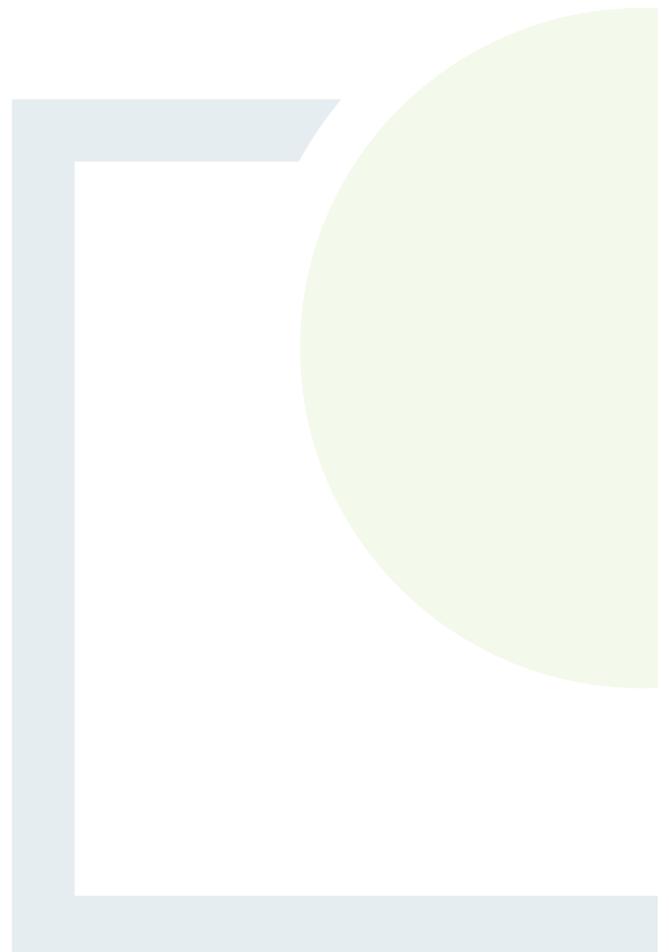
⁹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



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APPENDIX 1

Background Information to
European Sites



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

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | Site supports a fine diversity of maritime habitats and is particularly important for vegetated sea cliffs and dry heath. Both of these are good representatives of the types which occur in eastern Ireland and are generally of good quality. Four Red Data Book plant species occur within site. Has breeding Falco peregrinus and a significant seabird colony especially for Rissa tridactyla and Cepphus grylle (both nationally important). Site is noted for the presence of the fossil Oldhamia radiata which is of Cambrian age. Owing to its proximity to urban areas site has important educational potential. | Site is situated in the north-east of Co. Wicklow between the towns of Bray and Greystones. Bedrock geology is Cambrian quartzites and shales (with mudstones and greywackes). Bray Head consists of a plateau of high ground with five prominent quartzite knolls and a maximum height of 241 m. The more exposed higher ground has a covering of shallow acidic soils with protruding bedrock and scree. Elsewhere deeper soils are formed by drift deposits calcareous in character. In addition to heath and cliff habitats the site supports calcareous grassland some native woodland and scrub and a sandy/shingle beach. An area of shallow marine water is included for ornithological reasons. Main land use within site is recreation especially walking. |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | The area selected for designation represents a key habitat for the Annex II species - harbour porpoise within the Irish Sea. Population survey data show that porpoise occurrence within the site boundary meets suitable reference values for other designated sites in Ireland. The species occurs year-round within the site and comparatively high group sizes have been recorded. Porpoises with young (i.e. calves) are observed at favourable typical reference values for the species. Casual and effort-related sighting rates from coastal observation stations are significant for the east coast of Ireland and the latter appear to be relatively stable across all seasons. The selected site contains a wide array of habitats believed to be important for harbour porpoise including inshore shallow sand and mud-banks and rocky reefs scoured by strong current flow. The site also contains two Annex II seal species – Harbour seal (Phoca vitulina vitulina) Grey seal (Halichoerus grypus) for which terrestrial haul-out sites occur in immediate proximity to the site. Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus) has also occasionally been | The selected site forms a strip of dynamic inshore and coastal waters in the western Irish Sea extending approximately 40 km in length and encompassing a range of comparatively shallow marine habitats including diverse seabed structures reefs islets and islands. It borders existing designated sites for Annexed species and habitats and is adjacent to a wide array of coastal features e.g., mudflats lagoons estuaries coastal cliffs sea caves several of which are also designated. Extending east from Dublin Bay towards the offshore Kish Bank the site contains the entire Burford Bank a sedimentary seabed structure (i.e., fine sand) at the mouth of Dublin Bay that on its north side is flanked by gravel and coarse sand deposits. The site also contains the northern segment of the Frazer Bank (i.e., fine sand) off Dalkey Island and Killiney Bay. Reef habitats within the site occur at Dalkey Island Maiden Rock and Muglins in the southern portion off Howth Head Ireland's Eye and Lambay Island in the central portion and Rockabill in North Dublin. |

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

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 004016 | Baldoyle Bay SPA | Baldoyle Bay is a typical eastern estuarine system with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats which have <i>Zostera</i> spp. It also has good salt marsh fringes where birds roost. The quality of habitats present is variable but generally good. The site supports a good diversity of wintering waterfowl and notably an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> . It has nationally important populations of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , <i>Anas acuta</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . At high tide the shallow waters regularly attract species such as <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> and <i>Mergus serrator</i> . <i>Sterna albifrons</i> formerly bred at the site but not since the early 1990s. | The site comprises a relatively small estuarine system in north County Dublin. It receives the flows of the Mayne and Sluice rivers both of which drain an agricultural / suburban catchment. Much of the estuary is sheltered from the sea by a large sand dune peninsula (now mostly a golf course). Sediments in the inner sheltered areas are mostly muds or muddy sands often with a high organic content. Towards Portmarnock Point the sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. In addition to the intertidal flats and salt marsh habitats a small area of sand hills and sandy beach at Portmarnock Point is included in the site. |
| 004024 | Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA | The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> which feeds on <i>Zostera noltii</i> in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species: <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , <i>Calidris canutus</i> , <i>Calidris alba</i> , <i>Calidris alpina</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . It is an important site for wintering gulls especially <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>Larus canus</i> . South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> with up to 20 birds present at times. Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns including <i>Sterna dougallii</i> , <i>S. hirundo</i> and <i>S. paradisaea</i> . | This site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. A portion of the shallow bay waters is also included. In the south bay the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. The sands support the largest stand of <i>Zostera noltii</i> on the East Coast. Several permanent channels exist the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotropic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed well aerated sands off the Bull Wall. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes. |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | The site supports good examples of both upland and woodland bird communities. It has breeding <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> as well as <i>Turdus torquatus</i> and <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> both of the latter being Red listed in Ireland. It is the only site in Ireland where <i>Mergus merganser</i> breeds regularly. It is important for rare breeding passerines | This is an extensive upland site comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes deep valleys and moraines. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|----------------------|--|--|
| | | of oakwoods notably <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> and <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> . It also has <i>Sylvia borin</i> and <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> . | Most of site is over 300 m with much ground over 600 m and the highest peak of Lugnaquilla at 925 m. The substrate over much of site is peat with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The dominant habitats present are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. Fine examples of native Oak woodlands are found in the Glendalough area. The site which is within the Wicklow Mountains National Park is fragmented into about 20 separate parcels of land. |
| 000202 | Howth Head SAC | The climate and landforms of Howth combined with proximity to Dublin have resulted in a site of great scientific and education interest. The flora is very diverse with several Red data book species and species of very restricted Irish distribution. The dry heath and sea cliffs vegetation is extensive and well developed. A wide variety of seabirds nest on the marine cliffs. Many important scientific studies of the area have been published. | Howth is a peninsula of Cambrian quartzite and slate linked to the mainland by a raised beach. Most of the coast is sheer with many 30m or higher cliffs. Its climate is dry and warm by Irish standards, and this is reflected in its flora and fauna. The proposed SAC occupies the eastern portion and summit of Howth. Much of the remaining area is urbanized or used for amenity. The greater part of the site consists of heathland and cliff. |
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | Site possesses an excellent diversity of coastal habitats. The North Bull Island dune system is one of the most important systems on the east coast and is one of the few in Ireland that is actively accreting. It possesses extensive and mostly good quality examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt marshes are well represented, and a particularly good marsh zonation is shown. The salt marshes grade into mudflats and sandflats some of which are dominated by annual <i>Salicornia</i> species. <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> occurs at its only known station away from the western seaboard. The site has five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four Red Data Book bryophyte species. This is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl in Ireland with internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> , <i>Calidris canutus</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> plus nationally important numbers of a further 14 species. 20% of the national total of <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> occurs here. Formerly it had important colony of <i>Sterna albifrons</i> . North Dublin Bay is nationally | The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. Between the island and the mainland there occurs two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. The interior of the island is excluded from the site as it has been converted to golf courses. The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main land use within the site. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|---|
| | | important for three insect species. The scientific interests of the site have been well documented and future prospects are good owing to the various designations assigned to site. | |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | Site possesses a fine and fairly extensive example of intertidal flats. Sediment type is predominantly sand with muddy sands in the more sheltered areas. A typical macro-invertebrate fauna exists. Has the largest stand of <i>Zostera</i> on the east coast. Supports part of the important wintering waterfowl populations of Dublin Bay. Regularly has an internationally population of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> plus nationally important numbers of at least a further 6 species including <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . Regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of <i>Sterna</i> terns including <i>S. dougallii</i> . The scientific interests of the site have been well documented. | This intertidal site extends from the South Wall at Dublin Port to the West Pier at Dun Laoghaire a distance of c. 5 km. At their widest the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km. The seaward boundary is marked by the low tide mark while the landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Several permanent channels exist the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire. A number of small streams and drains flow into the site. The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes. |
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | A small but extremely species-rich site with a high diversity of habitats in a predominantly agricultural area. The site is notable for the presence of many petrifying springs for alkaline fen and for wet woodland. | A small glen cut through calcareous sands and gravels with a tributary stream of the Dargle river flowing west to east through it. The site supports a strip of wet woodland a small area of alkaline fen fed by petrifying springs and grades to scrub and dry calcareous grassland on the upper edges of the valley sides. |
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | This wood situated in an impressive glacial overflow channel is a good example of the <i>Blechno-querquetum petraeae</i> association which is characteristic of the dry valleys of the Wicklow mountains. Oak is dominant over about half the site the remainder being mostly mixed deciduous woodland. There is a range of habitats from the very dry oak dominated upper slopes to ash-hazel woodland on the valley floor and wet areas beside the stream. The juxtaposition of habitats on the valley floor is particularly valuable for invertebrates some of those found being very rare in Ireland. Of particular note is the occurrence of <i>Mycetobia obscura</i> known from only one other site in Britain and Ireland. The avifauna of the site is characteristic of Irish woodlands. This wood is the most easterly in a series of oakwoods in Co. Wicklow which extend to the Glendalough area. | This site is situated in a glacial overflow channel cut in a NW-SE direction through Cambrian quartzite. In the valley bottom there is a narrow band of alluvium associated with a small stream, but the steep slopes are covered with a thin sandy brown-earth/brown podzolic soil which becomes progressively thinner up the slopes. This is reflected in the trees which become shorter and more stunted up the slopes. The soil is very dry over much of the site particularly so on the NE side. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|---|
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | A relatively small but diverse wooded valley notable for the occurrence of good examples of tufa-forming springs and associated alluvial forest. The site is also important for a number of rare plants including <i>Erigeron acer</i> , <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> and <i>Wahlenbergia hederacea</i> and a particularly diverse woodland invertebrate fauna. Its proximity to Dublin adds to its value as an educational and amenity resource. | A wooded valley cut through calcareous glacial drift with the fast-flowing Glencullen river flowing west to east through it. Vegetation types include broadleaf deciduous woods including wet woodland near the river heath and a number of tufa-forming springs and seepage areas. |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | The site comprises the largest complex of upland habitats in eastern Ireland with important examples of blanket bog wet heath and dry heath extensive in area and mostly of good quality. Alpine heath occurs at high levels along with calcareous and siliceous rocky habitats harbouring an arctic-alpine flora. A fine series of oligotrophic lakes occur, and some have <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> . Several oakwoods of moderate quality typical of the dry acidic woods of eastern Ireland are found. Seven Red Data Book plant species occur including the rare <i>Alchemilla alpina</i> and <i>Nitella gracilis</i> at its only Irish station. The site supports significant populations of breeding <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> . The site is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> and <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> . The site also has breeding <i>Turdus torquatus</i> and <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> . <i>Lutra lutra</i> occurs on several of the riverine systems. | An extensive upland site comprising much of the Wicklow Mountains and extending into Co. Dublin. The solid geology is mainly Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area has been glaciated and features fine examples of high corrie lakes deep valleys and moraines. Most of the site is over 300m with much of ground over 600m and the highest peak of Lugnaquilla at 925m. The site includes the headwaters of several major rivers including the Liffey the Dargle and the Slaney. The substrate over much of the site is peat with poor mineral soil on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features. The dominant habitats on the site are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. |
| 004113 | Howth Head Coast SPA | Howth Head has important colonies of breeding seabirds with nationally important populations of <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> <i>Alca torda</i> and <i>Cepphus grylle</i> and a regionally important population of <i>Uria aalge</i> . The colony has been monitored at intervals since the Operation Seafarer project in 1969/70 and most populations have increased since then. The cliffs also support a breeding pair of <i>Falco peregrinus</i> a species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The site is easily accessible and has important amenity and educational value due to its proximity to Dublin City. | Howth Head is a rocky headland situated on the northern side of Dublin Bay. The peninsula is composed of Cambrian rock of the Bray Group the most conspicuous component being quartzite. The site comprises approximately 3 km of sea cliff which vary between about 60 m and 90 m in height. A typical maritime cliff flora occurs. Where the gradient allows shallow glacial drift supports a typical maritime flora and there is a fringe of coastal heath on the cliff tops. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base where seabirds bathe, socialise and feed is included within the site. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|-------------------|---|---|
| 004117 | Ireland's Eye SPA | Ireland's Eye is an important seabird colony with 11 species breeding regularly. It has nationally important populations of Phalacrocorax carbo, Larus argentatus, Larus marinus, Rissa tridactyla, Uria aalge and Alca torda. In addition, the island has a recently established colony of Sula bassana which is one of only five in the country and the only one on the East coast. It also has regionally important populations of Fulmarus glacialis, Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Cepphus grylle and a small colony of Fratercula arctica. It is a traditional site for Falco peregrinus though this species only breeds in some years. It supports two Red Data Book plant species Crambe maritima and Hyoscyamus niger. The seabird colony is monitored annually. | Situated c.1.5 km north of Howth Ireland's Eye is a small uninhabited island. The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive cliffs along the northern and eastern sides of the island reaching up to 69 m. A tall stack which is completely cut off from the main island at mid and high tide occurs at the eastern side of the cliffs. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift. A sandy beach backed by shingle and low sand hills occurs at Carrigeen Bay on the western shore. A low-lying sparsely vegetated islet known as Thulla occurs a little south of the main island and an extensive area of bedrock shore is exposed at low tide to the south of the island. The main habitat on the island is a mix of dry grassland and bracken. The seas to the north and east of the island (to a distance of 500 m) where seabirds feed bathe and socialise are included in the site. Owing to its proximity to the mainland the island is popular with day-trippers and also has educational value. |
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | The site is of high importance for the good numbers and wide variety of waterfowl species that it holds in winter and on passage. The improved grassland provides feeding for Greylag Geese (Anser anser). This is one of a handful of sites around the south and east coasts at which Reed Warbler (Acrocephalus scirpaceus) has in recent years proved to be a regular breeding species. For some years in the 1980s Bearded Tit (Panurus biarmicus) bred here at its only site in Ireland emphasizing the potential of this site to hold the community of reed swamp species present in Great Britain but largely absent in Ireland. The shingle beach is a breeding site for the country's largest colony of Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) and supports 19% of the all-Ireland population. | The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13 km from Kilcoole Station east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow town in the south and extends inland for up to 1 km. The site includes area of marine water to a distance of 200 m from low water mark. There is a railway on top of the beach and much agricultural reclamation of the marshes/saltmarshes. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|----------------------|--|--|
| 000199 | Baldoyle Bay SAC | A typical eastern estuarine system with fairly extensive intertidal sand and mud flats. Good diversity in sediment types. Has <i>Zostera</i> spp. Quality variable but generally good. Salt marshes are well represented and are at least of moderate quality. Has two Red Data Book plant species. Of importance for wintering waterfowl with an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> and nationally important populations of a further 6 species including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . <i>Sterna albifrons</i> formerly bred. | Site comprises a relatively small estuarine and bay system in north County Dublin. Receives the flows of the Mayne and Sluice rivers both of which drain an agricultural / suburban catchment. The inner part of the site is sheltered from the sea by a large sand dune peninsula though most of the dunes are now used as a golf course. Sediments in the inner sheltered areas are mostly muds or muddy sands often with a high organic content. Part of the tidal section of the Mayne River and adjoining brackish marshes are included in the site. The outer part of the site is exposed to the open sea and the sediments here are predominantly well-aerated sands. In addition to the intertidal and salt marsh habitats small areas of sand dunes and sandy beaches are included. |
| 000205 | Malahide Estuary SAC | The site has an important example of intertidal sand and mud flats with <i>Zostera</i> spp. Their quality is variable but generally good. Salt marshes are well represented particularly Atlantic salt meadows and <i>Salicornia</i> on the flats. Most of the sand dune system is managed for a golf course but significant areas of fixed dunes and shifting white dunes remain. The site has <i>Viola hirta</i> a Red Data Book plant species. It is of high importance for wintering waterfowl with an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla horta</i> and nationally important populations of a further 14 species including <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> . It also supports a regionally important population of <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . this site has educational value and has been the subject of a number of research projects. | The site is situated in north Co. Dublin between the towns of Malahide and Swords. It comprises the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. A railway viaduct built in the 1800s crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. Much of the outer part of the estuary is well sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit known as 'the island'. This spit is now mostly converted to golf-course though some sand dunes and salt marshes remain. A section of bedrock shore extending towards Portmarnock is included as it represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral. |
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | Transition mires are well represented at this site and likely to be one of the larger examples of the habitat in eastern Ireland. A range of characteristic species occur. The bryophyte flora is probably well developed (though not fully investigated). It supports a suite of invertebrate species of international importance. | The site is an upland valley bog complex on the Calary plateau on the eastern side of the Wicklow Mountains. It comprises a mosaic of wet blanket bog and poor fen vegetation along with such related habitats as heath wet grassland and <i>Betula-Salix</i> scrub. There is no open water other than pools. The Vartry River skirts the western side of site. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|---------------------------|--|---|
| | | It also supports important wintering concentrations of Gallinago gallinago and Lymnocyptes minimus and is actually the top site in the country for Lymnocyptes minimus. The site is partly owned by State (NPW). | The bog was exploited for peat up to about 100 years ago, but now old cuttings are well revegetated. An area of conifer plantation is included. Surrounding land use is mostly semi-improved grassland and forestry. |
| 002249 | The Murrough Wetlands SAC | This is the most extensive series of wetland habitats on the east coast with six Annex I habitats occurring. Formerly the area of wetland was more extensive, but the integrity of the site has been diminished through drainage agricultural improvement and levelling of sand hills. The railway line has influenced the development of the entire system. It is an important site for winter wildfowl and supports internationally important numbers of Branta bernicla hrota as well as nationally important numbers of several species. Sterna albifrons (Annex I Birds Directive) breeds in the site. Many other Annex I species are also present. The site is also of importance for the populations of rare invertebrate and plant species that it supports. | The site comprises a series of coastal habitats and brackish to freshwater marshes stretching for about 15km. Drainage directly to the sea is impeded along most of the site by a shingle ridge along which runs a railway line. There are two main outlets to the sea and there is seepage into the marshes under the shingle ridge and where breaches occur. Freshwater drains into the site via the Vartry River and many drains. Freshwater springs provide a permanent source of water for a complex fen system. Other habitats present on the site include salt marsh tidal reed bed freshwater reed swamp wet grassland wet woodland mudflat dry heath and dry grassland. Parts of the site are farmed. |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | The site is of national importance for its population of Anser anser which is one of the largest in the country. The site provides the main roost for the birds with feeding mostly on improved grassland outside of the site. A range of other waterfowl species occur in relatively low numbers including Cygnus cygnus, Anas penelope and Bucephala clangula. The reservoir attracts roosting gulls during winter most notably a large population of Larus fuscus which in Ireland is rare in winter away from the south coast. | Poulaphouca Reservoir located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources the River Liffey at the northern end and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species. |
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | The site has important examples of petrifying springs. The physical and chemical properties of the springs have been studied. Good examples of orchid rich calcareous grassland including Pseudorchis albida (legally protected) and Orchis morio (Red Data Book species) are found. | Glenasmole Valley lies at the northern foothills of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. It is a glaciated valley with drift deposits consisting of fluvioglacial sands and gravels of varying thickness and rich in Carboniferous limestone occurring on the slopes. Spring lines occur along both sides of the northern part of the valley. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|--------------------|--|--|
| | | The quality of grassland is variable owing to agricultural improvement. Molinia meadows are also represented. Several other Red Data Book plant species occur along with a host of rare or scarce plant species for Co. Dublin. The botany of this site has been well studied since the 19th century. The site has Alcedo atthis and is important for bats with four Red Data Book species present (Pipistrellus pipistrellus, Nyctalus leisleri, Myotis daubentoni, Plecotus auritus). | The River Dodder flows through the valley and within the site the river has been impounded to form two reservoirs. Associated with the reservoirs are areas of swamp and marsh vegetation. The valley is heavily wooded mostly with mixed woodland of both deciduous and coniferous species but also some native woodland. Dry calcareous pasture grassland improved to varying degrees is a main habitat of the valley sides and occurs in association with wet grassland and in places of seepage fen or marsh type vegetation. |
| 002193 | Ireland's Eye SAC | Island has a small though significant example of vegetated stony or shingle habitat of the type which fringes sandy beaches. It also contains an example of vegetated sea cliffs and has two Red Data Book species Crambe maritima and Hyoscyamus niger. Excellent diversity of breeding seabirds (up to 12 species) with four species in numbers of national importance and also a recently established gannet (Sula bassana) colony the only one on the east coast. Traditional site for Falco peregrinus. | Situated c. 1.5 km north of Howth Ireland's Eye is a small uninhabited island. The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive cliffs along the northern and eastern sides of the island reaching up to 69 m. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift. A sandy beach backed by shingle and low sand hills occurs at Carrigeen Bay on the western shore. An extensive area of bedrock shore is exposed at low tide to the south of the island. The main habitat on the island is a mix of dry grassland and bracken. Owing to its proximity to the mainland the island is popular with day-trippers and also has educational value. |
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | Site is of importance for both breeding and staging Sterna terns. There is a well-established colony of Sterna hirundo and smaller numbers of Sterna paradisaea. Sterna dougallii bred in 2003 and 2004 one of only three known sites in the country - this came about after several years of conservation management aimed at attracting the species. The site along with other parts of south Dublin Bay is used by the three Sterna tern species as a major post-breeding/pre-migration autumn roosting area. The origin of the birds is likely to be the Co. Dublin breeding sites though numbers also suggest birds from other sites perhaps outside the state. The site also has breeding Larus marinus, Tadorna tadornata and Haematopus ostralegus. The site is known to be frequented in winter by significant numbers of Arenaria interpres and Calidris maritima, but recent count data is unavailable. | Site comprises Dalkey Island Lamb Island Maiden Rock the intervening rocks and reefs between Dalkey Island Lamb Island and Clare Rock and the sea area around Maiden Rock to a distance of 100 m. Dalkey Island which is the largest in the group lies ca.400m off Sorrento Point and is separated by a deep channel. The island is low-lying the highest point at c.15m is marked by a Martello Tower. Soil cover consists mainly of thin peaty layers though in a few places there are boulder clay deposits. Vegetation cover is low consisting mainly of grasses. Lamb Island lies to the north of Dalkey Island attached at low-tided by a rocky reef. It has thin soil cover and a sparse vegetation cover. Further north lies Maidens Rock a bare angular granite rock up to 5m high. There is no vegetation cover. Dalkey Island is grazed by a herd of feral goats. |

| Site Code | Site Name | Quality of Site | Other Site Characteristics |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|---|
| 004236 | North-west Irish Sea SPA | <p>The North-west Irish Sea SPA constitutes an important resource for marine birds. The estuaries and bays that open into it along with connecting coastal stretches of intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats, provide safe feeding and roosting habitats for waterbirds throughout the winter and migration periods.</p> <p>These areas, along with more pelagic marine waters further offshore, provide additional supporting habitats (for foraging and other maintenance behaviours) for those seabirds that breed at colonies on the north-west Irish Sea's islands and coastal headlands. These marine areas are also important for seabirds outside the breeding period.</p> | <p>This SPA extends offshore along the coasts of counties Louth, Meath and Dublin, and is approximately 2,333km² in area. This SPA is ecologically connected to several existing SPAs in this area.</p> <p>The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Common Scoter, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Shag, Cormorant, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot.</p> |

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

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|------------------|---|---|--|
| 000199 | Baldoyle Bay SAC | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] | I01, E01, X, K03.06, F02.03.01, J02.01.02, K02.03, E03, G02.01, D01.02, G01.01.02, G01.02, F03.01 | Invasive non-native species, Urbanised areas, human habitation, No threats or pressures, Antagonism with domestic animals, Bait digging or collection, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Eutrophication (natural), Discharges, Golf course, Roads, motorways, Non-motorized nautical sports, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Hunting |
| 000202 | Howth Head SAC | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030] | G05.04, I01, G01.02, D01.01, X, C01, A04.03, E01, J01.01, C01.01.01 | Vandalism, Invasive non-native species, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, No threats or pressures, Mining and quarrying, Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Burning down, Sand and gravel quarries |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| 000205 | Malahide Estuary SAC | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] | G01.03, G01.01, F03.01, J02.01.02, G02.01, A08, G01.02, D01.02, X, E01, I01, D01.05 | Motorised vehicles, Nautical sports, Hunting, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Golf course, Fertilisation, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Roads, motorways, No threats or pressures, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Invasive non-native species, Bridge, viaduct |
| 000206 | North Dublin Bay SAC | Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] | K03.06, E01, A04, I01, F02.03.01, E02, H01.03, J01.01, G02.01, G01.02, H01.09, F02.03, E03, G05.05, G01.01 | Antagonism with domestic animals, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Grazing, Invasive non-native species, Bait digging or collection, Industrial or commercial areas, Other point source pollution to surface water, Burning down, Golf course, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to other sources not listed, Leisure fishing, Discharges, Intensive maintenance of public parks or cleaning of beaches, Nautical sports |
| 000210 | South Dublin Bay SAC | <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] | D01.01, M01, E03, K02.02, D01.02, K02, F02.03.01, E01, J02.01.02, G01.02, E02, G01.01.02, H03, G01.01 | Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Changes in abiotic conditions, Discharges, Accumulation of organic material, Roads, motorways, Biocenotic evolution, succession, Bait digging or collection, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Industrial or commercial areas, Non-motorized nautical sports, Marine water pollution, Nautical sports |
| 000713 | Ballyman Glen SAC | Alkaline fens [7230], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] | A01, A08, C01.01, H01.03, A04, E01.01, E01.02, D01.02, B01, | Cultivation, Fertilisation, Sand and gravel extraction, Other point source pollution to surface water, Grazing, Continuous urbanisation, Discontinuous urbanisation, Roads, motorways, Forest planting on open ground, Disposal of |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | E03.01, A10.01, H02.01 | household or recreational facility waste, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Groundwater pollution by leakages from contaminated sites |
| 000714 | Bray Head SAC | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], European dry heaths [4030] | E01, A04.02.01, G05.04, D01.01, J01.01, K01.01, A10.01, G01.03, K02.01 | Urbanised areas, human habitation, Non intensive cattle grazing, Vandalism, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Burning down, Erosion, Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, Motorised vehicles, Species composition change (succession) |
| 000716 | Carriggower Bog SAC | Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] | A04.03, J02.01, B01, A04.02.03, K02.01, E01.03, A08, J02.08 | Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Forest planting on open ground, Non intensive horse grazing, Species composition change (succession), Dispersed habitation, Fertilisation, Raising the groundwater table or artificial recharge of groundwater |
| 000719 | Glen of the Downs SAC | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] | J01.01, G02.01, A04, G05.06, G05.04, G05.07, D01.02, I01, G02.06, G01.02 | Burning down, Golf course, Grazing, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Vandalism, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Roads, motorways, Invasive non-native species, attraction park, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 000725 | Knocksink Wood SAC | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] | B01, E01.02, E03.01, D01.02, A04, G05.07, G03, B01.02, G01.02, D05, G05.04, D01.01, I01, G05.06, G02.08, B02.03 | Forest planting on open ground, Discontinuous urbanisation, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Roads, motorways, Grazing, Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Interpretative centres, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Improved access to site, Vandalism, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Invasive non-native species, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Camping and caravans, Removal of forest undergrowth |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| 001209 | Glenasmole Valley SAC | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] | A03.03, B02.02, C01.03, B01.02, D01.03, A03, A04.02.03, A04, A04.02.02, H02.07, B02.01.02, B01.01, A08, A04.02.01, F02.03, E01.02, H01.05, I01, J02, D01, H01.08 | Abandonment or lack of mowing, Forestry clearance, Peat extraction, Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), Car parks and parking areas, Mowing or cutting of grassland, Non intensive horse grazing, Grazing, Non intensive sheep grazing, Diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, Forest replanting (non-native trees), Forest planting on open ground (native trees), Fertilisation, Non intensive cattle grazing, Leisure fishing, Discontinuous urbanisation, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Roads, paths and railroads, Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters. |
| 002122 | Wicklow Mountains SAC | Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], 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], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] | A05.02, B06, D01.01, G01.04, G05.04, G01.03.02, G05.06, C01.03, G05.09, G01.02, B02.05, G05.01, F03.02.02, I01, J01.01, K01.01, L05, E03.01, G04.01, K04.05, E01, A04, F03, G05.07, G02.09, F04.02, G01 | Stock feeding, Grazing in forests or woodland, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Mountaineering, rock climbing, speleology, Vandalism, Off-road motorized driving, Tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, Peat extraction, Fences, fencing, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Non- intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), Trampling, overuse, Taking from nest (e.g. falcons), Invasive non-native species, Burning down, Erosion, Collapse of terrain, landslide, Disposal of household or recreational facility waste, Military manoeuvres, Damage by herbivores (including game species), Urbanised areas, human habitation, Grazing, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Missing or wrongly directed conservation measures, Wildlife watching, Collection (fungi, lichen, berries etc.), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 002193 | Ireland's Eye SAC | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] | A04.03, J01, G02.09, G05.01, X, G01.01, G01.02 | Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, Fire and fire suppression, Wildlife watching, Trampling, overuse, No threats or pressures, Nautical sports, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 002249 | The Murrrough Wetlands SAC | Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Alkaline fens [7230] | B, K01.01, E03.02, A04, A08, D01.04, G01.02, J02.05.01, J02.12.01, D01.01, C01.01 | Sylviculture, forestry, Erosion, Disposal of industrial waste, Grazing, Fertilisation, Railway lines, TGV, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), Sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, sand and gravel extraction |
| 003000 | Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC | Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) [1351], Reefs [1170] | E03, H06.01, J02.11, D02, F02.02, J02.02, D03.02, X | Discharges, Noise nuisance, noise pollution, Siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, Utility and service lines, Professional active fishing, Removal of sediments (mud...), Shipping lanes, No threats or pressures |
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA | Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] | E03, D01.05, G01.01, G02.01, G01.02, G03, F02.03.01, D03.02, E01.04, D01.02, E01.01, E02 | Discharges, Bridge, viaduct, Nautical sports, Golf course, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Interpretative centres, Bait digging or collection, Shipping lanes, other patterns of habitation, Roads, motorways, Continuous urbanisation, Industrial or commercial areas |
| 004016 | Baldoyle Bay SPA | Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Bar-tailed Godwit | G02.01, D01.02, K02.03, F03.01, | Golf course, Roads, motorways, Eutrophication (natural), Hunting, Bait digging or collection, Walking, horse-riding and |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|--|---|---|---|
| | | (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] | F02.03.01, G01.02, A08, E01, J02.01.02, I01 | non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Invasive non-native species |
| 004024 | South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA | Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] | G01.01, G01.02, K02.03, J02.01.02, E03, E02, F02.03, D01.02, E01, F02.03.01 | Nautical sports, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Eutrophication (natural), Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Discharges, Industrial or commercial areas, Leisure fishing, Roads, motorways, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging or collection |
| 004040 | Wicklow Mountains SPA | Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] | G03, B, A04, G01.02, C01.03, D01.01 | Interpretative centres, Sylviculture, forestry, Grazing, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Peat extraction, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks |
| 004063 | Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA | Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] | F03.01, G01.01, B01, F02.03, D01.05 | Hunting, Nautical sports, Forest planting on open ground, Leisure fishing, Bridge, viaduct |
| 004113 | Howth Head Coast SPA | Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] | J01, G01.02 | Fire and fire suppression, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles |
| 004117 | Ireland's Eye SPA | Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] | G01.02, F02.03 | Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Leisure fishing |

| Site Code | Site Name | Qualifying Feature | Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|-----------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| 004172 | Dalkey Islands SPA | Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] | G01.01, E01, G01.02, A04 | Nautical sports, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing |
| 004186 | The Murrough SPA | Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] | G01.02, D01.04, A08 | Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Railway lines, TGV, Fertilisation |
| 004236 | North-west Irish Sea SPA | Red-throated (Diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001], Great Northern (Diver <i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009], Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184], Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187], Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188], Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192], Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) [A195], Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199], Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200], Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204], Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>) [A862], | A09, C05, F07, F22, F23, G01, G06, A09, A11, B01, D01, E02, G10, G12, I02, I04, I05, J02, L06, M08, N03, N05, N06, N07 | Agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations. |

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

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---------|---|--|
| Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | [1140] | Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, reclamation of land, coastal protection works and invasive species, particularly cord-grass; hard coastal defence structures; sea-level rise. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development. |
| Reefs | [1170] | Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition. | Sensitive to disturbance and pollution. |
| Annual vegetation of drift lines | [1210] | Grazing; sand and gravel extraction; recreational activities; coastal protection works. | Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Perennial vegetation of stony banks | [1220] | Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel. | Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal. |
| Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts | [1230] | A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change. There have been no significant losses in sea cliff habitat since the Directive came into force. | Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage. |
| Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand | [1310] | Invasive Species; erosion and accretion. | Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species. |
| Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | [1330] | Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>); infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---------|---|---|
| Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) | [1351] | Pressures acting on the species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as impacts arising from geophysical seismic exploration or from local/regional prey removal from fisheries. | Sensitive to disturbance, prey availability and pollution. |
| Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) | [1355] | Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course. | Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution. |
| Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) | [1395] | There are no significant impacts affecting this species. | None identified. |
| Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) | [1410] | Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation. | Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation. |
| Embryonic shifting dunes | [2110] | Natural erosion processes exacerbated by recreation and sand extraction. Coastal protection interfering with natural processes. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) | [2120] | Recreation and coastal defences, which may interfere with local sediment dynamics. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) | [2130] | Recreation; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>). | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. |
| Humid dune slacks | [2190] | Agricultural improvement; overgrazing and inappropriate grazing; forestry; recreational activity. | Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management. Sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) | [3110] | Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---------|--|---|
| Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds | [3160] | Nutrient alterations; management shifts in the associated peatland habitat, afforestation; wastewater; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution |
| Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> | [4010] | Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| European dry heaths | [4030] | Afforestation, over burning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion. | Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status. |
| Alpine and Boreal heaths | [4060] | Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. |
| Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa (<i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>) | [6130] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)* important orchid sites | [6210] | Land reclamation, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) | [6230] | Bracken encroachment, succession, inappropriate grazing, afforestation; drainage; and infrastructural development. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) | [6410] | Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems. | Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species. |
| Blanket bogs (* if active bog) | [7130] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |

| Qualifying Interests | EU Code | Current threats to Qualifying Interests | Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests |
|---|---------|--|---|
| Transition mires and quaking bogs | [7140] | Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change. | Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things. |
| Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton (Cladium mariscus and Caricion davallianae) | [7210] | Hydrological changes, pollution to surface waters, urbanisation, roads development, groundwater interactions, grazing and cultivation practices and the inappropriate use of pesticides. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) | [7220] | Ground water interactions, on site management activities. | Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. |
| Alkaline fens | [7230] | Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development. | Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management. |
| Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) | [8110] | Overgrazing, under grazing and succession were recorded as medium-importance pressures in this reporting period, and Structure and functions were again assessed as Inadequate, the trend is considered to be stable rather than improving. This change is due to improved knowledge and the habitat is considered to have been stable since before the last assessment. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8210] | Overgrazing; extractive industries; recreational activities and improved access. | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | [8220] | Pressures associated with the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb (Epilobium brunnescens). | Erosion, overgrazing and recreation. |
| Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles | [91A0] | The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland. | Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species. |

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

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| A001 | Red-Throated Diver | <i>Gavia stellata</i> | A04, C01, C03, F02, G01, H03, I01, J02, J02.06, K03, M02 | Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions |
| A017 | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> | 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 |
| A043 | Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07 | Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other forms of pollution |
| A046 | Light-Bellied Brent Goose | <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> | 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 |
| A048 | Common Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | 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 |
| A050 | Eurasian Wigeon | <i>Anas penelope</i> | C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03 | 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 |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | water pollution, other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A052 | Eurasian Teal | Anas crecca crecca | C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02 | 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, Human induced changes in hydraulic 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 |
| 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 |
| A103 | Peregrine Falcon | Falco peregrinus peregrinus | C03, F03, J03, M02 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, 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 |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| A140 | European Golden Plover | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | 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 | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | 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 | Knot | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | 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 | <i>Calidris alba</i> | 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 | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | 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 |
| A156 | Black-Tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> | A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03 | Modification of cultivation practices, 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 |
| A157 | Bar-Tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | 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 |

| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| A160 | Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> | C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03 | 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 |
| A162 | Common Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | 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 | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A179 | Black-Headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | 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 |
| A183 | Lesser Black-Backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> | C03, F02, H03, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A184 | European Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> | C03, F02, H03, J03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications |
| A188 | Kittiwake | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | C03, F02, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution |
| A192 | Roseate Tern | <i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i> | 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 | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | 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 |

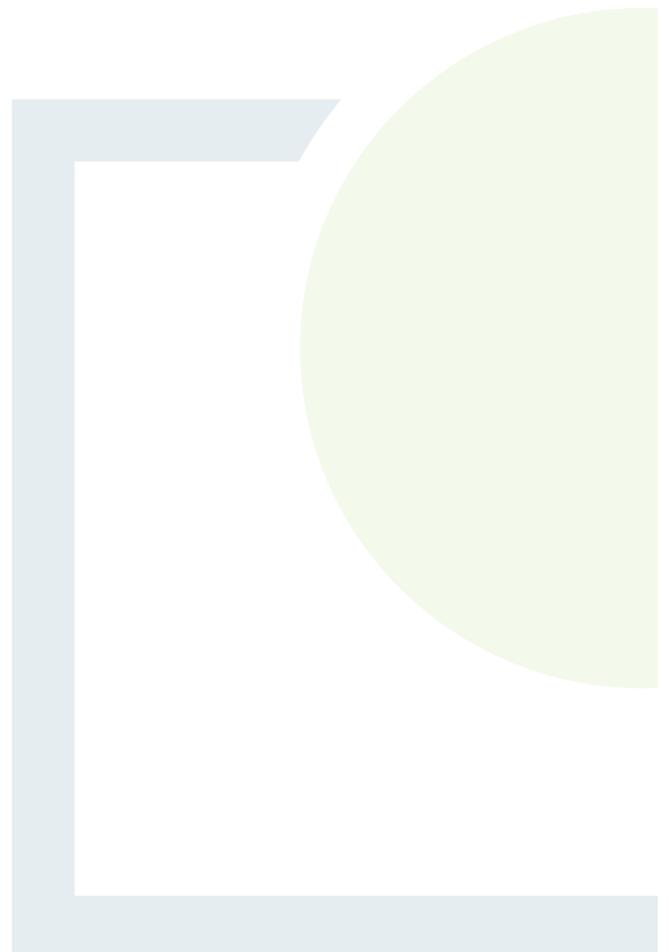
| Species Code | Common Name | Scientific Name | Threats and Pressures Codes | Known Threats and Pressures |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| A194 | Arctic Tern | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | C03, D01, G01, I01, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A195 | Little Tern | <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> | C03, D01, I01, I02, M01 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Changes in abiotic conditions |
| A199 | Common Guillemot | <i>Uria aalge albionis</i> | C03, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution |
| A200 | Razorbill | <i>Alca torda</i> | C03, H03 | Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution |



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
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APPENDIX 2

Relationship with other Plans
and Programmes



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

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| European Level | | | |
| SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|--|---|
| EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|--|--|--|
| Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. • Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. • The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. • Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). • Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. • Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC] | The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC | <p>This Directive lays down provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; • the management of bathing water quality; and • the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|--|
| 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 groundwater 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions | The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. | The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p> | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and • the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest • Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. • Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Renewable Energy Directive (EU/2018/2001) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Directive sets an overall European renewable energy target of 32% by 2030 and includes rules to ensure the uptake of renewables in the transport sector and in heating and cooling. • The directive sets common principles and rules for renewable energy support schemes, sustainability criteria for biomass and the right to produce and consume renewable energy and to establish renewable energy communities. • It also establishes rules to remove barriers, stimulate investments and drive cost reductions in renewable energy technologies and empowers citizens and businesses to participate in the clean energy transformation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. • The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. • EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. • Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Directive 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)</p> | <p>This Directive establishes a common framework for the promotion of energy from renewable sources. It sets a binding European Union target for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030: Member States shall collectively ensure that the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy in 2030 is at least 32%. Support schemes for energy from renewable sources shall be adopted by Member States.</p> <p>Provisions on joint projects between Member States and between Member States and third countries are laid down too.</p> | <p>The Directive lays down rules on financial support for electricity from renewable sources, on self-consumption of such electricity, on the use of energy from renewable sources in the heating and cooling sector and in the transport sector, on regional cooperation between Member States, and between Member States and third countries, on guarantees of origin, on administrative procedures and on information and training. It also establishes sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions saving criteria for biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels. The latter include fuels produced from waste, from agricultural biomass and from forest biomass.</p> <p>The Commission shall monitor the origin of biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels consumed in the European Union and the impact of their production, including the impact as a result of displacement, on land use in the Union and in the main third countries of supply.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2023/1791</p> | <p>The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an EU legally binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. • Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. • Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. • Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. • Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration. • Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|--|---|
| EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU) | <p>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)</p> | <p>This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning. • In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions. • The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans. • Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8. • When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions. • Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|--|---|
| UK Marine Policy Statement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving a sustainable marine economy • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Living within environmental limits • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly | <p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable economic development; • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to provide the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment. | <p>The Marine Act comprises eight key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Management Organisation (MMO) • Strategic Marine Planning System • Streamlined Marine Licensing System • Marine Nature Conservation • Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement • Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries • Coastal Access • Coastal and Estuarine Management | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|---|---|
| Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes. <p>This Act may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p> | <p>The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland’s seas based on a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Planning Nature Conservation Marine Licensing | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|--|---|
| Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020) | <p>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.</p> | <p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. • An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. • 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. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Green Infrastructure Strategy | <p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|---|---|
| UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity | <p>An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.</p> | <p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| <p>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</p> | <p>It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</p> | <p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). • EU member states implement measures to improve on or 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. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. • Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. • Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. • Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. | <p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. • Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. • Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. • Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. • Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive)</p> <p>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). • Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. • Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. • Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. • The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. • Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. • Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. • Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. • Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. • Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</p> | <p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p> | <p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. • Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. • Promote sustainable water usage. • The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive • Sampling Drinking Water Directive • Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive • Shellfish Directive • Freshwater Fish Directive • Groundwater Directive • Dangerous Substances Directive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. • Achieve "good status" for all waters. • Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. • Involve the public and streamline legislation. • Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. • Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. • Recover costs for water services. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, control and conserve groundwater. • Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. • Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. • Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to, and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all. | <p>Key features of the revised Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</p> | <p>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant 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 that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended</p> | <p>The aim of the European Union's ambitious Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe.</p> | <p>The Directive provides various requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an initial assessment of Irish marine waters; • Establishment of establish environmental targets and indicators; • Establishment of a monitoring programme; • Establishment of a programme of measures; and • Implementation of the programme of measures and monitoring programme. <p>Implementation of the Directive is contributed towards by a set of detailed criteria and methodological standards that were revised in 2017 leading to a Commission Decision on “laying down criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters and specifications and standardised methods for monitoring and assessment and repealing Decision 2010/477/EU”. Annex III “Indicative lists of characteristics, pressures and impacts” of the Directive was amended in 2017.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995) | <p>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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co- operation between states and regions. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles') | <p>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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; • (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; • (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. • A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| European Landscape Convention 2000 | <p>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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p> | <p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital • to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy • to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment- related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing | <p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better implementation of legislation. • Better information by improving the knowledge base. • More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. • Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) | <p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats • to promote cooperation between states • to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species | <p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. • Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the 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. • Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co- operation with other organisations. • Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Bali Road Map (2007) | <p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and • To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. | <p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mitigation • adaptation • technology • financing | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Cancun Agreements (2010) | <p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation • Transparency of actions • Technology • Finance • Adaptation • Forests • Capacity building | <p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Doha Climate Gateway (2012) | <p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| EU Common Agricultural Policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and • To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world’s population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; • Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; • Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended) | Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. | <p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p> | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Stockholm Convention | The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention. • Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs • Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| 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” . | <p>Under the “three pillars” of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar List”) and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| OSPAR Convention | <p>The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.</p> | <p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy • Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| European 2020 Strategy for Growth | <p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe’s social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; • Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; • Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. | <p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019 | The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people’s quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package | Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU. | The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030 and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| <p>European Commission’s Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package</p> | <p>The main objectives of the measures defined in this communication are to promote the use of cleaner energy sources and reduce dependency on fossil fuels in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in line with one of the ambitions of the European Green Deal to reach climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.</p> | <p>The communication defines various measures to support the sector in accelerating its energy transition, by improving fuel efficiency and switching to renewable, low-carbon power sources. A summary of the measures broadly proposed by the communication is presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture for the purpose of promoting collaboration and stakeholder engagement • Promotion of new innovative technologies and ways of operating • Improving energy efficiency <p>Moving to renewable and zero or low-carbon energy sources (e.g., use of alternative fuels).</p> | <p>The communication noted the current dependency of the sector on fossil fuel based energy (e.g., marine diesel). It defines a vision for climate-neutral fisheries and aquaculture.</p> |

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| National Level | | | |
| Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan (2021 - 2030) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people. | <p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced 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 | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 [In Preparation] | <p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. | <p>In preparation.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) | <p>The core principle objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2022 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects. • Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C- 418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Waste Management Act 1996, as amended | To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters. | The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009) | The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels | Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). • Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. • Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</p> | <p>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</p> | <p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. • Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values • Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022</p> | <p>The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality.</p> | <p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited • Limits on the land application of fertilisers • Storage requirements for livestock manure; and • Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>National legislation transport the Industrial Emissions Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and • Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 | <p>The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provision of the Directive</p> | <p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing)Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | |

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| <p>Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008)</p> | <p>These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve health protection for bathers • To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and • To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. • Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. • A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. • Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. • There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations. • The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. • Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. • Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I 351 of 2011) | This Regulation defines further the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment. | Further defines the minimum number of bathing water samples required to carry out a bathing water quality assessment. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 | An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. | When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Climate Action Plan 2023 | The Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021. | The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. | <p>The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; Greater partnerships for the Goals; To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and Strong reporting mechanisms | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023) | <p>The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. • The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. • The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. • In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people’s health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EirGrid ’s Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017 - 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EirGrid ’s mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland. • “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.” | <p>Grid25, EirGrid ’s roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. • It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; • Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism • to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, • domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| National Water Resources Plan (2021) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. | <p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland’s water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events 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. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| <p>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development 2030</p> | <p>This multi-annual National Strategic Plan Sustainable Aquaculture Development (2022 – 2030) (NSPSA) overlaps with the EU’s new ‘Strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture for the period 2021 to 2030’, as well as the programming period (2021 to 2027) of the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF). As such, this plan provides the strategic vision and framework for funding under EMFAF, as well as other EU and national initiatives.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ‘Designated Marine Area Plans’ (DMAPs) for aquaculture to ensure that the sector is championed in Ireland’s Marine Spatial Plan to facilitate investment in different forms of sustainable aquaculture. • More vigilant and responsive monitoring if aquatic diseases and food safety risks. • Develop a comprehensive human capacity plan for Irish aquaculture to promote the sector as an attractive career option, develop leadership, management and business capacity in the sector and provide the necessary skills required over the strategy time period. • Provide coordinated messaging on the sustainable, low carbon nature of Irish aquaculture production, supported by independent certification and open dialogue. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. • The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. | <p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; • Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; • The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; • Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; • Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; • Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and • Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. Landscape Strategy Vision: “Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.” | <p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; • To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; • To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. | <p>The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>National Ports Policy 2013</p> | <p>The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.</p> | <p>National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>National Aviation Policy 2015</p> | <p>Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance Ireland’s connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers; • To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and • To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to Ireland’s economic growth and development. | <p>The National Aviation Policy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient; • Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets; • Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market; • Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world; • Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth; • Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland’s leading global position in these spheres; and • Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland’s broader aviation industry | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines | The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density. | The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| <p>National Marine Planning Framework 2021</p> | <p>The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.</p> | <p>The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; • Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Strategy will be published in 2024. • The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. • Vision is to “Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core.” This Plan may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery. | <p>The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative • Inclusive • Sustainable • Attractive • Collaborative <p>The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for growth.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012 | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland. | <p>The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. Protection and renewal. Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. Decarbonisation. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport) | <p>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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030) | <p>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.</p> | <p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Wildlife Act of 1976</p> <p>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</p> | <p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems • Give statutory protection to NHAs • Enhances wildlife species and their habitats • Includes more species for protection | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</p> | <p>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. • To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. • To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. • To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. • To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. • To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| National Broadband Plan (2012) | Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland. | The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| <p>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation • are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</p> <p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)(as amended)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 to 1990</p> | <p>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</p> | <p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p> <p>Water Services Act 2017</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. | <p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures. • 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. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Irish Water’s (now known as Uisce Eireann) Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024) | This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term. | Six strategic objectives as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Customer Expectations. • Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. • Provide Effective Management of Wastewater. • Protect and Enhance the Environment. • Support Social and Economic Growth. • Invest in the Future. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022 | Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. • Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Food Harvest 2020 | Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas. | Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan | Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment | Not applicable | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| National Rural Development Programme | <p>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas</p> | <p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • 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 | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027 | <p>The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.</p> | <p>The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| River Basin Management Plan | River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive. • Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD. • Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD. • Involve the public through consultations. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| <p>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</p> | <p>This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.</p> | <p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs. <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020 | <p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. | <p>Three high level goals of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. • To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. • To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA) 2016 | <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030 | <p>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.</p> | <p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets • Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Food Wise 2025 (DAFM) | <p>Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector’s unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.</p> | <p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. • The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI | <p>The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.</p> | <p>The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| <p>National Policy Framework For Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. • By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. | <p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce overall travel demand • Maximise the efficiency of the transport network • Reduce reliance on fossil fuels • Reduce transport emissions • Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| <p>National Coastal Change Management Strategy</p> | <p>The Government has adopted a policy to assess and manage coastal flood risk with regard to both existing risk and the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>This strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a framework to determine the key decisions to be taken on how Ireland could best manage its coast, being aware of the future risks and the associated planning requirements. • Provide a framework to best inform both where and how decisions regarding appropriate development / projects along the coast should be taken in the future, in coordination with investment in flood risk management. | <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing governance and capacity building (a dual approach of both mitigation and adaptation measures) • Understanding the risk and identifying potential risk management options <p>Developing management (a dual approach of both mitigation (tackling the cause) and adaptation measures) to coastal change</p> | <p>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.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. • This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. <p>Aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build adaptive capacity within the sector • Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change • Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector | <p>The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change 2. To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage 3. To conserve Ireland’s heritage for future generations 4. To communicate and transfer knowledge 5. To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources | <p>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.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| <p>Heritage related legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; • Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and • The Heritage Act 2018. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage. | <p>Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the LACAPs. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>All-Island Strategic Rail Review</p> | <p>The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.</p> | <p>The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to decarbonisation; • improve All Island connectivity between major cities; • enhance regional accessibility; • stimulate economic activity; • encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

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| Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030 | Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature. | It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Regional/ County/Local Level | | | |
| <p>Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</p> | <p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.</p> <p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. • Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors. <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p> | <p>Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| <p>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)</p> | <p>It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</p> <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p> | <p>They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. • The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. • The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. • Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. • Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form. • Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040 | <p>The Strategy addresses all transport modes, and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades.</p> <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p> | <p>It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow • Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically • The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland • including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow. <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p> | <p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level • The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports • The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. • This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits. <p>This Strategy may or may not be directly relevant to the LACAP, however, is considered influential in the context of national climate action delivery.</p> | <p>To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Local Transport Plans and Strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sustainable transport. • To promote integrated and proper transport planning. • To promote safe travel. • To promote active travel infrastructural development. <p>To encourage modal shift.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Water Quality Management Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. • Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards. • Outlines management programmes for water catchments. • Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Port Masterplans (such as Dublin Port Masterplan 2040 and 2017 Review) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation. • The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies. | Not applicable | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs | <p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Groundwater Protection Schemes | A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. | A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) | The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities” | The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protects and enhances amenities and environment. • Guides planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aims to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats. | Not applicable | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Biodiversity Action Plans | Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. Aims to increase awareness. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Heritage Plans | Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and promote heritage as well as increased awareness. Aim to conserve and protect heritage. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| County Landscape Character Assessments | Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produced by Local Authorities. Outlines areas local flood risk. Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level. | Not applicable | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes | Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Regional Waste Management Plans | These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021. | To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Noise Action Plans | The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland. | <p>The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Newry Mourne and Down Local Development Plan</p> | <p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p> | <p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan</p> | <p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p> | <p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Fermanagh Local Development Plan</p> | <p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p> | <p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>Mid Ulster Local Development Plan</p> | <p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.</p> <p>The aim of the plans is to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> <p>Through the development plan, councils can identify the best locations for new homes, businesses and infrastructure while also protecting places of value to people or wildlife. The plans are an important consideration in dealing with planning applications and should help guide decision making.</p> | <p>The LDP provides a plan framework to support economic and social needs in the local authority functional area, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The LDP will inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers and other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide development decisions; and will be the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the District.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)</p> | <p>Provides for the protection of birds, certain other animals and wild plants. Includes various offences, such as intentional killing, injury, and destruction of place of shelter. Amendments to the 1985 order are made with respect to birds, enabling licences to be granted for killing wild birds and animals whilst increasing protection for birds more generally.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs, the prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds and the sale of live or dead wild birds or eggs. • Protection of captive birds. • Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals, the use of spring traps, and the sale of live or dead wild animals as well as providing protection for wild plants and prohibiting the sale of invasive, non-native species. • Also covers: the protection of deer, the sales and purchases of venison and the prevention of poaching; the possession of pesticides harmful to wildlife; wildlife refuges; and the possession of articles for purposes of committing certain offences. • With regard to enforcement, it includes details regarding the power of wildlife inspector to enter premises and to examine specimens and take samples, false statements made for obtaining registration or licence and penalties and forfeitures. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011</p> | <p>This Act requires every public body to promote the conservation of biodiversity and defines functions of public bodies in Northern Ireland with respect to the conservation of biodiversity. It also contains provisions for the conservation of wild fauna and flora and habitats. The Act amends the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make provision about biodiversity. • To amend the wildlife (Northern Ireland) order 1985 and part 4 of the environment (Northern Ireland) order 2002. • To abolish game licences and game dealers' licences. • To prohibit hare coursing events. • To amend the game preservation act (Northern Ireland) 1928; and for connected purposes. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)</p> | <p>These regulations transpose the requirements of the EC 'Habitats' Directive and aspects of the 'Wild Birds' Directive in relation to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Provide for the protection of sites in the UK that support habitats and species in need of conservation across Europe and full protection of species of European importance whether occurring within designated sites or not.</p> | <p>Protects certain birds, plants, animals, marine life and their habitats, including Natura 2000 sites, through creating criminal offences and changing planning requirements.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002</p> | <p>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 is the primary piece of environmental legislation in Northern Ireland. The order sets out a range of requirements for the protection and management of the environment, including the prevention and control of pollution, the conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, and the regulation of waste management.</p> <p>The order applies to a wide range of activities, including industrial and commercial activities, waste management, agriculture, and construction. It also establishes the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), which is responsible for enforcing the order and regulating activities that may have an impact on the environment. The NIEA has the power to investigate environmental incidents, issue enforcement notices, and prosecute individuals and organisations that breach environmental regulations.</p> | <p>The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 places a range of obligations on individuals and organisations to protect and manage the environment. These obligations include reporting environmental incidents, obtaining permits, and complying with environmental standards. Evidence requirements under the order may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reporting requirements 2. Permit requirements 3. Compliance monitoring 4. Enforcement action | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017</p> | <p>The purpose of these regulations is to promote sustainable development by considering and mitigating the potential environmental effects of projects before they are approved. The regulations require a systematic and transparent assessment process, enabling decision-makers to make informed choices based on the environmental implications of proposed developments.</p> | <p>The regulations apply to a wide range of projects, including infrastructure developments, industrial facilities, energy projects, and certain agricultural and waste management activities.</p> <p>The regulations mandate that developers or project proponents carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of the planning process. The EIA involves the identification, prediction, and evaluation of potential environmental effects, such as impacts on air, water, biodiversity, human health, and cultural heritage. The assessment also considers alternative options and potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>Additionally, the regulations emphasize public participation, ensuring that affected individuals and organizations have the opportunity to provide input and express their concerns during the assessment process.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland</p> | <p>The SPPS is a statement, consolidating some twenty separate policy publications into one document, of the Department’s policy on important planning matters that should be addressed across Northern Ireland. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within their new Local Development Plans.</p> | <p>The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals.</p> <p>The SPPS has a policy objective to “seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region’s natural heritage”.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|--|---|
| Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2: Natural Heritage (2013) | Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2 sets out the Department of the Environment’s planning policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of Northern Ireland’s natural heritage. PPS 2 replaces ‘Planning and Nature Conservation (1997)’ and supersedes Policies SP16 and DES4 in ‘A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (1993)’. | Objectives of PPS2 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region’s natural heritage; and • to contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |
| Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18: Renewable Energy | Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the Department’s planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources and that requires the submission of a planning application. In addition the PPS encourages the integration of renewable energy technology and greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design in the design, siting and layout of new development. | The aim of this Statement is to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment in order to achieve Northern Ireland’s renewable energy targets and to realise the benefits of renewable energy. The objectives of the Statement are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed; • to ensure adequate protection of the Region’s built and natural, and cultural heritage features; and • to facilitate the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development and promote greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|---|
| Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 | A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. | The objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy are to: i) maintain healthy ecosystems, ii) address adverse pressure, iii) increase prosperity and well-being, and iv) engage society in biodiversity conservation and develop partnerships. | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |
| Draft Environment Strategy | The Environment Strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out Northern Ireland’s environmental priorities for the coming decades and will form part of the Green Growth agenda. | This Strategy focuses on several Strategic Context/Drivers: i) Sustainability ii) Global Climate & Biodiversity Action iii) Green Growth Strategy iv) Environmental Governance & Co-operation v) Agriculture & Environment vi) Marine Environment vii) Built & Historic Environment | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |
| Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 | The strategy identifies the ecosystem services provided by healthy peatlands, including climate regulation and adaptation, specialised biodiversity, good water quality, flood alleviation and a historical archive. The strategy also highlights the role peatlands play as a unique landscape for recreation and education. | The document outlines six strategic objectives: i) Conserve peatlands & prevent degradation ii) Restoration of degraded areas to functioning peatland ecosystems (designated & non-designated sites) iii) Supporting Sustainable Peatland Management iv) Knowledge Sharing & Research v) Communication, Education & Access vi) Governance, Implementation & Funding | Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>The Draft Green Growth Strategy</p> | <p>The Strategy establishes Northern Ireland’s Green Growth vision and principles and sets out commitments to tackling the climate crisis.</p> | <p>One of the key commitments of the Green Growth Strategy is to develop Northern Ireland’s first Climate Action Plan. 10 Executive Commitments have been set out in the Strategy.</p> <p>Green Growth considers climate targets but also the wider environment and green jobs.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 (Northern Ireland Energy Strategy ‘Path to Net Zero Energy’)</p> | <p>The Strategy sets a long-term vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>It is also about growing the economy and supporting the 10X Economic Vision.</p> | <p>The energy strategy sets a target of 70% of local electricity supplies coming from renewable sources by 2030 and includes a plan to fully decarbonise by 2050.</p> <p>The Energy Strategy is centred around delivering on five key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing you at the heart of our energy future • Grow the green economy • Do more with less • Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy • Create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>The Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018</p> | <p>The Plan informs and guides the regulation, management, use and protection of Northern Ireland’s marine area. It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region.</p> | <p>Marine Plan Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the sustainable development of productive activities, which support employment at all skill levels while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests. • To help realise the potential of energy resources and energy storage within the marine area, while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests. • To promote the development of vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities. • To promote the marine resource, its recreational value and its wider economic, environmental and social benefits to all. • To promote the preservation and enjoyment of marine related heritage assets. • To promote a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem and an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas. • To contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. • To continue to develop a sound marine evidence base in a co-ordinated manner, to increase understanding and to support the development, monitoring and review of marine plans. | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 - 2026</p> | <p>Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment.</p> <p>ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.</p> | <p>The Strategy is based on the several key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable development • Precautionary principle • Ecosystem approach | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |
| <p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans for Northern Irish local authorities bordering Ireland</p> | <p>These Northern Ireland plans make sure there is enough land available for each area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.</p> | <p>Northern Irish Local Development Plans for Northern Irish local authorities bordering Ireland include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Derry City and Strabane District Council's Local Development Plan 2032 • Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |

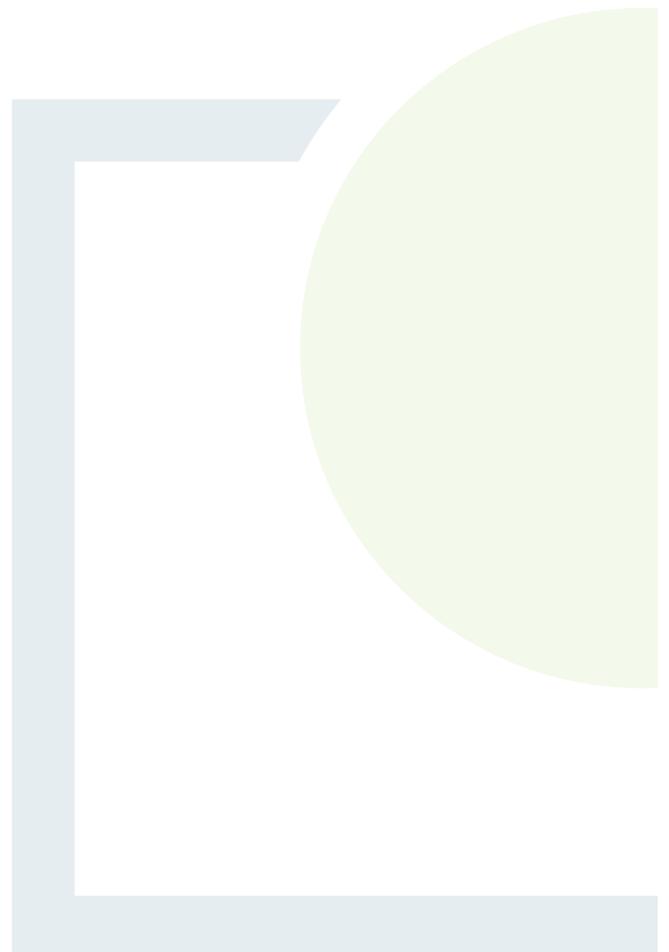
| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective | Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|--|---|--|
| Northern Ireland River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NI River Basin Management Plans take an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. • They apply to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile. • River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) as required by the regulations were published in 2009 and 2015 for each River Basin District within Northern Ireland. | <p>The Plans identified where Northern Ireland’s water environment is in good or excellent condition and set out objectives for improvement or prevention of deterioration.</p> | <p>Implementation of the Climate Action Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection.</p> |



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 3

Appropriate Assessment
Screening of Post
Consultation Plan
Modifications





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

AA Screening Report For Modifications To
The Local Authority Climate Action Plan
2024 - 2029

Prepared for:
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

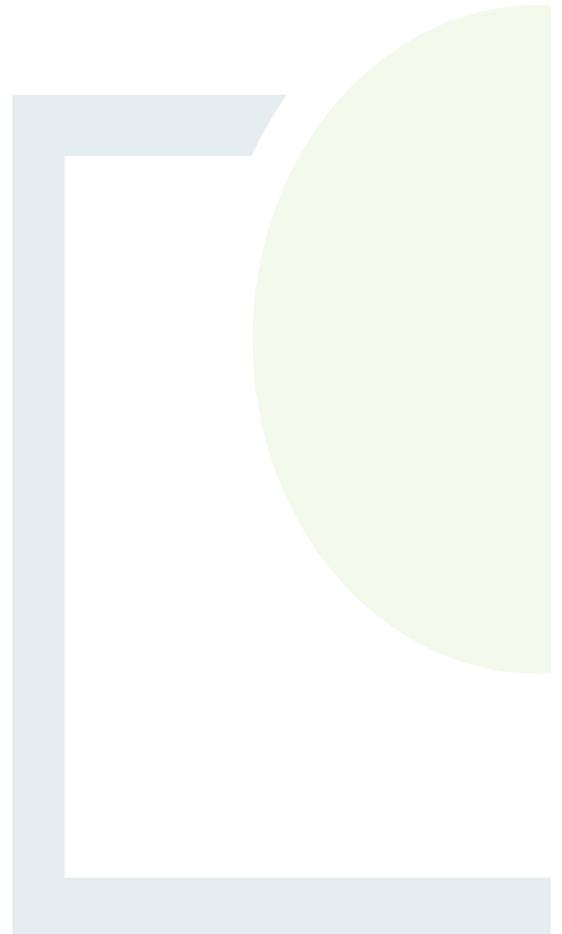


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Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

| Rev. No. | Description of Changes | Prepared by: | Checked by: | Approved by: | Date: |
|----------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Final | EV/AMW/NSC | AT | AT | 19/02/2024 |

Client: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Keywords: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Natura Impact Report, LACAP, Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this AA Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action 2024 - 2029 to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report for modifications to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLRCC) Local Authority Climate Action Plan (referred to as either the 'LACAP' or the 'Plan') 2024 - 2029.

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

1.2 Plan-making Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive¹ and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive² and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

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

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

1.3 Purpose of this Assessment

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

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



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

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

1. The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LACAP 2024 - 2029.
2. The Draft NIR for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LACAP 2024 - 2029.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LACAP 2024 - 2029.
4. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LACAP Submissions Chief Executive Report.
5. The SEA Screening Report for modifications to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LACAP 2024 - 2029.



2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Requirements

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. 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 (Habitats Directive as above and 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 among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

Therefore, the AA process is an assessment of the following key concepts:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is ‘connected with or necessary to the management of the site’. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

2.2 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002).



- This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

The AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed:

- Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).
- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;
- The integrity of a European Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified; and
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives.

2.3 Assessment Process and Approach

A Draft NIR has been produced for the DLRCC Draft LACAP. This report contains the information on the receiving environment, European sites, and potential effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites. The report also defines mitigation measures designed to avoid and minimise effects on European sites. The information contained in this Draft NIR has been referred to during the carrying out of the AA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

This assessment commences with a description of the Plan Action modifications being considered. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Plan Action modifications are then identified and evaluated having regard to nature and characteristics of the Plan Action modifications. The overall AA process will be completed in a revised full NIR at the end of the plan development process incorporating all interim steps, modifications and reports/assessments.



An ecological desktop study has been completed for the AA Screening Assessment of the Plan Action modifications, which comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites that may be impacted by Plan Action modifications.
- Identification of European sites pathways.
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for relevant European sites.
- Examination of available information on protected species.

This desktop assessment mainly involved a review of the Draft NIR produced for the Draft LACAP.

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a plan or a project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. 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 mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – ecological connectivity linkages e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – ecological resources supporting the qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan Action modifications that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor³.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the Conservation Objectives, QIs and/ or 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 likelihood of significant effects, including in-combination effects, on European Sites is then interrogated having regard to the nature and characteristics of Plan Action modifications, environmental pathways, and the sensitivity of relevant European sites.

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the Plan Action modification must be will be subject to Stage 2 AA and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR).

³ Qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors



Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and ‘grey’ literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.



3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Modifications

| Action | Summary of Modification |
|--------|---|
| C24 | <p>The following new action is to be included in the Community Engagement section of the LACAP:</p> <p>"Explore and respond to ways in which the Climate transition will affect different groups in the county including facilitating skills training and energy poverty reduction measures so that no one is left behind"</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Number of people availing of interventions offered.</p> <p>Timeframe: 2029.</p> <p>Adaptation /Mitigation: Mitigation.</p> <p>Council Role: Full Accountability/ Influence/Co-ordinate and facilitate /Advocate.</p> <p>Lead Department(s) Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)</p> <p>Partners Identified: Codema, Third Level Institutions, the HSE and the Community and Voluntary Sector.</p> |
| C20 | <p>The action below has been amended to read as follows:</p> <p>"Promote energy awareness within the county and the Council including workshop type events"</p> |
| EB8 | <p>Action EB8 to include Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic) as a 'Lead Department'.</p> |
| EB9 | <p>Action EB9 include the additional text into the 'Tracking Measure' as follows: 'The number of energy and decarbonisation upgrades carried out through the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP). '</p> |
| EB12 | <p>Action EB12 to be updated and include 'Lead Department(s)' Corporate Affairs (including IT and Human Resources) and Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)</p> |
| EB12 | <p>Architects, dlr Energy Team and Codema to be included as 'Partner(s) Identified'.</p> |
| EB17 | <p>Action EB17 to include Codema as a 'Partner(s) Identified'.</p> |
| EB18 | <p>Action EB18 to include Codema as a 'Partner(s) Identified'.</p> |
| EB21 | <p>Action EB21 include the additional text into the Tracking Measure: 'Energy use and decarbonisation'</p> <p>Action EB21 include Corporate Affairs (including IT and Human Resources) as a 'Lead Department'.</p> |
| EB25 | <p>Action EB25 include Corporate Affairs (including IT and Human Resources) as a 'Lead Department'.</p> |
| T13 | <p>"Note A" text to be added to action T13</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification |
|---------------|--|
| T21 | "Note A" text to be added to action T21 |
| T20 | This action will be updated from 'Assess the condition of road infrastructure within the County' to the following: "Identify opportunities to upgrade the existing road and footway network to mitigate damage due to weather events and to provide new footpaths." The wording of tracking measure will be altered to: 'Length of existing road network upgraded. Length of footway repaired.' The wording of timeframe will be altered to read: '2024 and annually thereafter.' Both' will be replaced with 'Adaption' |
| C8 | Change to the Draft Plan to include the words 'and Blue/Green Infrastructure' in Action C8 'Action' column. |
| C8 | Include 'Planning and Economic Development (including Dún Laoghaire Harbour) and Private Landowners as Partners Identified for this action. |
| F11 | Include Private Landowners as Partners Identified relating to Urban Greening. |
| N11 | Change to Action N11 as follows: "Develop guidance on biodiversity inclusive design for housing development including social housing with green roofs, wetland & pond SuDS, green carparking, nest boxes, local soil and seed for landscaping, and wildlife friendly shrubs and native trees." |
| N25 | Change to the Draft Plan to include Community Gardens Ireland as an Identified Partner for action N25. |
| N13 | Change to be made to Action N13 to remove the words 'Publish and', to read as: "Implement the Council's Tree Strategy 2023-2029 (A Climate for Trees)." |
| N11, N23, N24 | Airfield Estate to be added as a 'Partner Identified' |
| N17 | Add 'with an emphasis on nature-based solutions/SuDS wherever possible following best practice design and governmental guidance' to action N17 to read as follows: "Development of on-street Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SuDS) within the county with an emphasis on nature-based solutions/SuDS where possible following best practice design and governmental guidance." |
| N/A | Edit to page 150 of Draft Plan to correct Action numbering from N25 and N26 to N24 and N25. |
| R16 | Action R16 will be expanded to read: "Monitor and review use of Smart Bins in the county including conducting a trial to collect compostable waste in the decarbonising zone" Tracking Measure to also include: 'Volume of food waste segregated for composting from Smart Bins during the trial.' Timeframe to also include: '2029' Council Role: Full Accountability/Influence/Co-ordinate and facilitate. |
| R4 | Alter the wording of Action R4 to read: |



| Action | Summary of Modification |
|--------|--|
| | <p>"Support the capture of waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) at authorised Council Recycling Centres and free WEEE collection events"</p> <p>Alter the Tracking Measure to read: 'Tonnes of WEEE waste received at Recycling Centres and public events annually'</p> |
| R10 | <p>Revise Action R10 and expand it to read: "Develop a vision for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to become a circular county including the feasibility of setting up blue/circular economy hubs in the county."</p> |
| C23 | <p>New Action C23 to be added reading: "Facilitate Uisce Éireann's delivery of water demand/conservation campaigns for schools, households and businesses."</p> <p>Tracking Measure: 'Number of campaigns carried out.'</p> <p>Timeframe: '2024 and Annually thereafter'.</p> <p>Action Type: 'Mitigation'</p> <p>Council Role: 'Facilitate'.</p> <p>Lead Department: 'Infrastructure and Climate Change (inc. Road Maintenance and Traffic)'</p> <p>Partner Identified: 'Uisce Éireann'.</p> |
| R5 | <p>Community Reuse Network Ireland will be altered to read Community Resources Network Ireland as a 'Partner Identified' in the delivery of Action R5.</p> |
| C7 | <p>Change to Action C7 to include Creative Ireland as a 'Partner(s) Identified'</p> |
| C17 | <p>Revise Action C17 to read: "Provide education and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and water quality."</p> |
| C25 | <p>New action to be added C25: 'Produce a newsletter to encourage all within the county to take climate action and to report on the progress being made in implementing the actions over the lifetime of the Plan'.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: 'Number of Newsletters produced annually.'</p> <p>Timeframe: 2024 Annually thereafter.'</p> <p>Adaptation/Mitigation: Mitigation.</p> <p>Council Role: Full Accountability.</p> <p>Lead Department(s): Infrastructure and Climate change (inc. Road Maintenance and Traffic) and Corporate Affairs (inc. IT and Human Resources).</p> |
| C6 | <p>Wording for C6 revised to read: "Work in partnership with residents, community groups, sports clubs and schools in climate related programmes."</p> |
| C6 | <p>Community, Cultural Services and Parks to be added as joint 'Lead Department(s)' for the implementation of this action.</p> |
| C19 | <p>Action C19 to be altered include additional text as follows:</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification |
|--------|--|
| | ‘Create training programmes for local authority staff/public in the use of traditional and sustainable materials and skills, carbon literacy , protection of heritage assets and any other specific skills training necessary to address the adaptation, mitigation and emergency management issues arising from the impact of climate change’. |
| EB3 | Wording of EB3 to be altered to read ' Facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy projects whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits, support homeowners, schools, businesses, community and club facilities in their endeavours to reduce their carbon footprint and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects '. Tracking Measure to be altered to add ' Offshore Renewable Projects undertaken ' |
| C9 | Wording of Action C9 will be updated to read ' Increase climate themed events for national events such as National Heritage Week, Cruinniú and Bealtaine '. |
| C14 | Action C14 will be revised and expanded to read: " Promote and support Circular Economy initiatives with businesses and the community including the feasibility of setting up of blue/circular economy hubs in the county. " |
| C14 | The Rediscovery Centre will be added as a 'Partner Identified' to C14. |
| C11 | Action C11 will be revised and expanded to read: 'Encourage and support schools implementing the An Taisce Green Schools Programme and the Farmer Time Programme' . The Tracking Measure will be revised to read: 'Number of schools awarded Green Flag. Number of schools participating in Farmer Time Programme.' Partner(s) Identified will be revised to read An Taisce Airfield Estate . |
| N10 | Change to the Draft Plan for Action N10 to include the additional text as follows: " Prepare a Habitat and Species Management Plan for Booterstown Marsh proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA), a Protected Plant Species Site and part of the South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA subject to the agreement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. " |



4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from the Plan Action modifications, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

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

- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Draft LACAP.
- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Plan Action modifications.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the Draft NIR.

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

The first stage of the Screening process in this case involved interrogating Plan Action modifications to ascertain the materiality of the modifications and whether the modifications will result in the occurrence of additional effects on European sites not previously considered in the AA process to date.

4.2 Assessment Criteria

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.
- **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 for which 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.



The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as 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; and the integrity of a site as 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.

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 which define the character habitat. The maintenance of the favourable condition for these habitats and species at the site level will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SACs have been provided as follows:

- 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.

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

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

EC guidance⁴ outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);

⁴ Assessment of plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001.



- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

In addition, the guidance outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change.

4.3 Elements of the Plan Modifications with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

An evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each Plan Action modification has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 4-1.



Table 4-1: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification

| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|---|--|
| C24 | <p>The following new action is to be included in the Community Engagement section of the LACAP:</p> <p>"Explore and respond to ways in which the Climate transition will affect different groups in the county including facilitating skills training and energy poverty reduction measures so that no one is left behind"</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Number of people availing of interventions offered.</p> <p>Timeframe: 2029.</p> <p>Adaptation /Mitigation: Mitigation.</p> <p>Council Role: Full Accountability/ Influence/Co-ordinate and facilitate /Advocate.</p> <p>Lead Department(s) Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)</p> <p>Partners Identified: Codema, Third Level Institutions, the HSE and the Community and Voluntary Sector.</p> | <p>This community-engagement action will support the effective delivery of climate action in the community. The adoption of this action will support the full realization of the plan vision in the community and inherently benefit human health and wellbeing. Adding Codema, Third Level Institutes, the HSE, and the Community and Voluntary Sector as partners in this action serves to strengthen the reach of this action in the community. The action amendments does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. Updating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a a specific, measurable, and time-bound manner supports the delivery of the action.</p> |
| C20 | <p>The action below has been amended to read as follows:</p> <p>"Promote energy awareness within the county and the Council including workshop type events"</p> | <p>This promotional action will support the effective delivery of climate action in the community. The adoption of this action will support the full realization of the vision and main objectives of the plan in the community. The action does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |
| EB8 | <p>Action EB8 to include Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic) as a 'Lead Department'.</p> | <p>This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|---|---|
| EB9 | Action EB9 include the additional text into the 'Tracking Measure' as follows: 'The number of energy and decarbonisation upgrades carried out through the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP). ' | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| EB12 | Action EB12 to be updated and include 'Lead Department(s)' Corporate Affairs (including IT and Human Resources) and Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic) | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| EB12 | Architects, dlr Energy Team and Codema to be included as 'Partner(s) Identified'. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| EB17 | Action EB17 to include Codema as a 'Partner(s) Identified'. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| EB18 | Action EB18 to include Codema as a 'Partner(s) Identified'. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|---|--|
| EB21 | Action EB21 include the additional text into the Tracking Measure: 'Energy use and decarbonisation' Action EB21 include Corporate Affairs (including IT and Human Resources) as a 'Lead Department'. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| EB25 | Action EB25 include Corporate Affairs (including IT and Human Resources) as a 'Lead Department'. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| T13 | "Note A" text to be added to action T13 | Note A for the Transport section of the Draft LACAP states: "Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage." This change clarifies the defined mitigation measures for this action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| T21 | "Note A" text to be added to action T21 | Note A for the Transport section of the Draft LACAP states: "Having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage." This change clarifies the defined mitigation measures for this action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| T20 | This action will be updated from 'Assess the condition of road infrastructure within the County' to the following: "Identify opportunities to upgrade the existing road and footway network to mitigate damage due to weather events and to provide new footpaths." | The identification of opportunities to upgrade existing road/footways will have no discernable environmental effects when considered in isolation. This action remains a research action and as such the potential environmental effects analysis that has been undertaken for this action remain unchanged. |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|--|--|
| | <p>The wording of tracking measure will be altered to: 'Length of existing road network upgraded. Length of footway repaired.'</p> <p>The wording of timeframe will be altered to read: '2024 and annually thereafter.'</p> <p>Both ' will be replaced with 'Adaption'</p> | <p>Therefore, this action amendment is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. Updating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a specific, measurable, and time-bound manner supports the delivery of the action.</p> |
| C8 | <p>Change to the Draft Plan to include the words 'and Blue/Green Infrastructure' in Action C8 'Action' column.</p> | <p>This action now facilitates a broader understanding of Blue/Green Infrastructure as well as SuDs. The action remains promotional in nature and the amendment introduces no additional sources for effects. Therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard.</p> |
| C8 | <p>Include 'Planning and Economic Development (including Dún Laoghaire Harbour) and Private Landowners as Partners Identified for this action.</p> | <p>This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |
| F11 | <p>Include Private Landowners as Partners Identified relating to Urban Greening.</p> | <p>This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |
| N11 | <p>Change to Action N11 as follows: "Develop guidance on biodiversity inclusive design for housing development including social housing with green roofs, wetland & pond SuDS, green carparking, nest boxes, local soil and seed for landscaping, and wildlife friendly shrubs and native trees."</p> | <p>This action amendment provides clarification that social housing developments are to be included in the scope of the action. This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|---------------|--|--|
| N25 | Change to the Draft Plan to include Community Gardens Ireland as an Identified Partner for action N25. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| N13 | Change to be made to Action N13 to remove the words 'Publish and', to read as: "Implement the Council's Tree Strategy 2023-2029 (A Climate for Trees)." | This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| N11, N23, N24 | Airfield Estate to be added as a 'Partner Identified' | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| N17 | Add 'with an emphasis on nature-based solutions/SuDs wherever possible following best practice design and governmental guidance' to action N17 to read as follows: "Development of on-street Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SuDS) within the county with an emphasis on nature-based solutions/SuDS where possible following best practice design and governmental guidance." | This action has been amended to ensure the action places emphasis on nature-based solutions. This addition has inherent benefits to the receiving environment for flood risk management, water quality, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation. This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| N/A | Edit to page 150 of Draft Plan to correct Action numbering from N25 and N26 to N24 and N25 . | This is a clerical amendment and does not materially alter the Plan. |
| R16 | Action R16 will be expanded to read: "Monitor and review use of Smart Bins in the county including conducting a trial to collect compostable waste in the decarbonising zone" | This action amendment does not introduce any additional sources of significant environmental effect. the undertaking of such a trial will not materially change existing waste management activities being undertaken by the Council. |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|--|--|
| | Tracking Measure to also include: 'Volume of food waste segregated for composting from Smart Bins during the trial.' Timeframe to also include: '2029' Council Role: Full Accountability/Influence/Co-ordinate and facilitate. | |
| R4 | Alter the wording of Action R4 to read: "Support the capture of waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) at authorised Council Recycling Centres and free WEEE collection events" Alter the Tracking Measure to read: 'Tonnes of WEEE waste received at Recycling Centres and public events annually' | This action amendment broadens the action's potential to support proper management of waste and reduce the risk of improper disposal of waste. This amendment does not impact the previous assessment and does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. Updating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a specific and measurable manner supports the delivery of the action. |
| R10 | Revise Action R10 and expand it to read: "Develop a vision for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to become a circular county including the feasibility of setting up blue/circular economy hubs in the county." | This action remains administrative in nature. The feasibility assessment will be undertaken with respect to the environmental governance principals within the LACAP which were considered within the existing environmental documentation. The potential creation of such hubs promotes awareness and understanding of blue/circular economy. The action is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing NIR. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|--|---|
| C23 | <p>New Action C23 to be added reading: “Facilitate Uisce Éireann’s delivery of water demand/conservation campaigns for schools, households and businesses.”</p> <p>Tracking Measure: ‘Number of campaigns carried out.’</p> <p>Timeframe: ‘2024 and Annually thereafter’.</p> <p>Action Type: ‘Mitigation’</p> <p>Council Role: ‘Facilitate’.</p> <p>Lead Department: ‘Infrastructure and Climate Change (inc. Road Maintenance and Traffic)’</p> <p>Partner Identified: ‘Uisce Éireann’.</p> | <p>This additional action is in line with the Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013. The action is promotional in nature and will have no real environmental effect when considered in isolation. This action serves to promote water conservation in the community through campaigning efforts. It is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard.</p> <p>Creating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a a specific, measurable, and time-bound manner supports the delivery of the action.</p> |
| R5 | <p>Community Reuse Network Ireland will be altered to read Community Resources Network Ireland as a ‘Partner Identified’ in the delivery of Action R5.</p> | <p>This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |
| C7 | <p>Change to Action C7 to include Creative Ireland as a ‘Partner(s) Identified’</p> | <p>This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date.</p> |
| C17 | <p>Revise Action C17 to read: “Provide education and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and water quality.”</p> | <p>This amendment facilitates a broader understanding of water quality issues. The action remains promotional in nature and, as such, does not have a discernible environmental effect in and of itself.</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|---|---|
| | | Therefore, this action amendment is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. |
| C25 | <p>New action to be added C25: 'Produce a newsletter to encourage all within the county to take climate action and to report on the progress being made in implementing the actions over the lifetime of the Plan'. Tracking Measure: 'Number of Newsletters produced annually. Timeframe: 2024 Annually thereafter.' Adaptation/Mitigation: Mitigation. Council Role: Full Accountability. Lead Department(s): Infrastructure and Climate change (inc. Road Maintenance and Traffic) and Corporate Affairs (inc. IT and Human Resources).</p> | <p>This promotional action will support the effective delivery of climate action in the community. The adoption of this action will support the full realization of the plan vision in the community. The action does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. Updating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a specific, measurable, and time-bound manner supports the delivery of the action.</p> |
| C6 | <p>Wording for C6 revised to read: "Work in partnership with residents, community groups, sports clubs and schools in climate related programmes."</p> | <p>This action amendment broadens the reach of climate action promotion within the community, thereby supporting the full realisation of the vision and objectives of the plan. This action amendment is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. Adding Libraries as joint lead in this action serves to strengthen the reach of this action in the community.</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|--|--|
| C6 | Community, Cultural Services and Parks to be added as joint 'Lead Department(s)' for the implementation of this action. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| C19 | Action C19 to be altered include additional text as follows: 'Create training programmes for local authority staff/public in the use of traditional and sustainable materials and skills, carbon literacy, protection of heritage assets and any other specific skills training necessary to address the adaptation, mitigation and emergency management issues arising from the impact of climate change'. | This action amendment broadens the scope of the training programmes to be provided. This action amendment does not introduce any additional sources of significant environmental effect. Undertaking further public/staff training will not materially change existing training activities being undertaken by the Council in this action. |
| EB3 | Wording of EB3 to be altered to read 'Facilitate the development of offshore renewable energy projects whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits, support homeowners, schools, businesses, community and club facilities in their endeavours to reduce their carbon footprint and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects'. Tracking Measure to be altered to add 'Offshore Renewable Projects undertaken' | This action amendment broadens the reach of climate action promotion within the community, thereby supporting the full realisation of the vision and objectives of the plan. This action amendment is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. Updating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a a specific, measurable, and time-bound manner supports the delivery of the action. |
| C9 | Wording of Action C9 will be updated to read 'Increase climate themed events for national events such as National Heritage Week, Cruinniú and Bealtaine'. | This action amendment broadens the reach of climate action promotion within the community, thereby supporting the full realisation of the vision and objectives of the plan. This action amendment is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. |



| Action | Summary of Modification | |
|--------|---|--|
| C14 | Action C14 will be revised and expanded to read: "Promote and support Circular Economy initiatives with businesses and the community including the feasibility of setting up of blue/circular economy hubs in the county." | The feasibility assessment will be undertaken with respect to the environmental governance principals within the LACAP which were considered within the existing environmental documentation. This has inherent benefits to the receiving environment and it is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. |
| C14 | The Rediscovery Centre will be added as a 'Partner Identified' to C14. | This amendment clarifies action related detail. This does not amend the wording of the action or the intent, focus or scope of the action. This change does not result in the introduction of additional environmental effects not already considered under the SEA/AA process to date. |
| C11 | Action C11 will be revised and expanded to read: 'Encourage and support schools implementing the An Taisce Green Schools Programme and the Farmer Time Programme'. The Tracking Measure will be revised to read: 'Number of schools awarded Green Flag. Number of schools participating in Farmer Time Programme.' Partner(s) Identified will be revised to read An Taisce Airfield Estate. | This amendment broadens the scope for the promotion of good environmental management in schools. This action has benefits to the receiving environment and it is in keeping with the environmental effects identified in the existing environmental documentation. There are no additional sources for effects; therefore, no further considerations are required in that regard. Updating the tracking measure for this Plan Action in a specific, measurable, and time-bound manner supports the delivery of the action. |
| N10 | Change to the Draft Plan for Action N10 to include the additional text as follows: "Prepare a Habitat and Species Management Plan for Booterstown Marsh proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA), a Protected Plant Species Site and part of the South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA subject to the agreement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service." | This action amendment does not introduce environmental effects not already considered and mitigated through the defined Environmental Governance Principle framework (which underpins and guides climate action) in the SEA/AA process. Therefore, there are no additional sources for effects which were not already considered by the existing environmental documentation. No further considerations are required in that regard. |



4.1 Summary of the Evaluation

The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP having regard to the consultation process. They will not result in any additional sources for likely, significant environmental effects, including effects on ecological processes or European sites, not already considered by the existing NIR for the Draft LACAP.

The Plan Action modifications will not introduce any of the following types of additional environmental effect that have the potential to affect European sites.

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation;
- Transportation;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning activities.

The Plan Action modifications will not result in any of the following types of change that may occur at a European site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change impact.

Further assessment is therefore not required.

4.2 Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. There are no additional sources for effects identified within the Proposed amendments; therefore, there are no in-combination effects.



5. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 Screening for AA of Plan modifications was carried out to determine the need for a full AA for the Plan modifications to the Draft LACAP in this case. It has been demonstrated that implementation of the Plan modifications are not foreseen to have any significant effects on any European Site.

The principal reasons the Modifications to the Draft LACAP do will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, are as follows:

- The modifications are only intended to provide clarification on existing Climate Actions defined in the Draft LACAP and make the LACAP more operative and focussed.
- The modifications are not material and will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects, including effects in ecological processes or European sites, not already considered in the NIR for the Draft LACAP.

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



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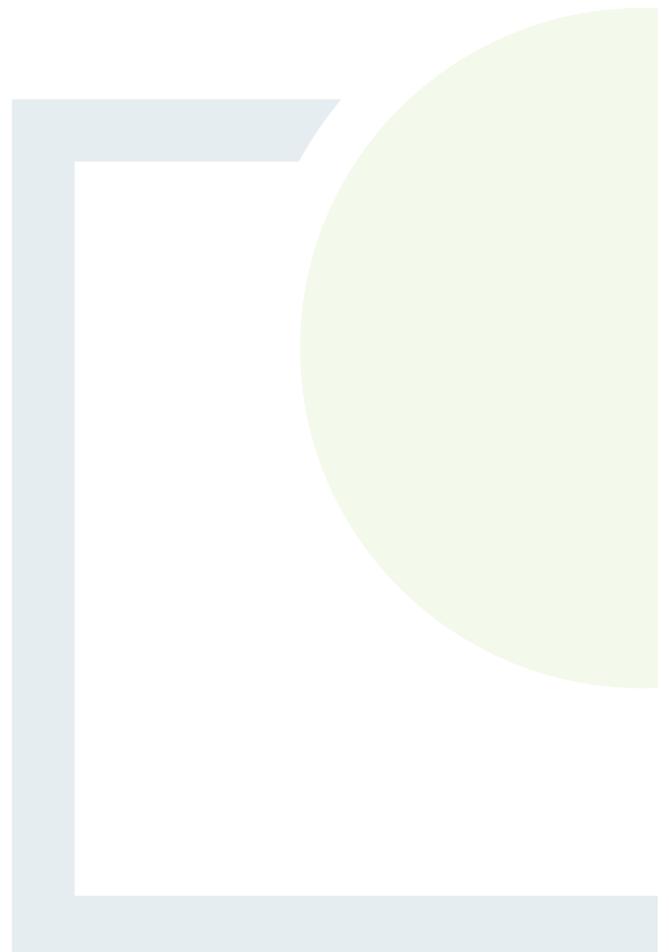
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APPENDIX 1

Author Details



Author Details

Lead Author - Andrew Torsney is a Principal Ecologist with over 12 years' experience working on major national and local scale projects. Andrew graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and obtained Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds in 2012. He has a range of ecological skills which include habitat mapping, ecological surveying, data interpretation and report writing. Andrew is a vegetative plant specialist, who has a wealth of experience classifying riparian habitats and identifying rare floral species. Andrew has a vast knowledge of riparian and freshwater ecosystems and undertakes freshwater surveys regularly. Andrew holds 4 national protected species licenses and has a lot of experience optioning surveying licenses for aquatic species such as the white clawed crayfish. He is also a Bat specialist with a wealth of experience, in acoustic surveying and monitoring of bats. Throughout Andrews' career he has worked on a number of large-scale multifaceted projects such as the Killaloe to Dublin water supply project NIS. For this work, Andrew designed and oversaw all ecological field work relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA.

Andrew has been the principal ecologist for a range of projects including the AA of the National Wind Energy Guidelines, a number of AAs for County Councils and a range of large-scale infrastructure projects.



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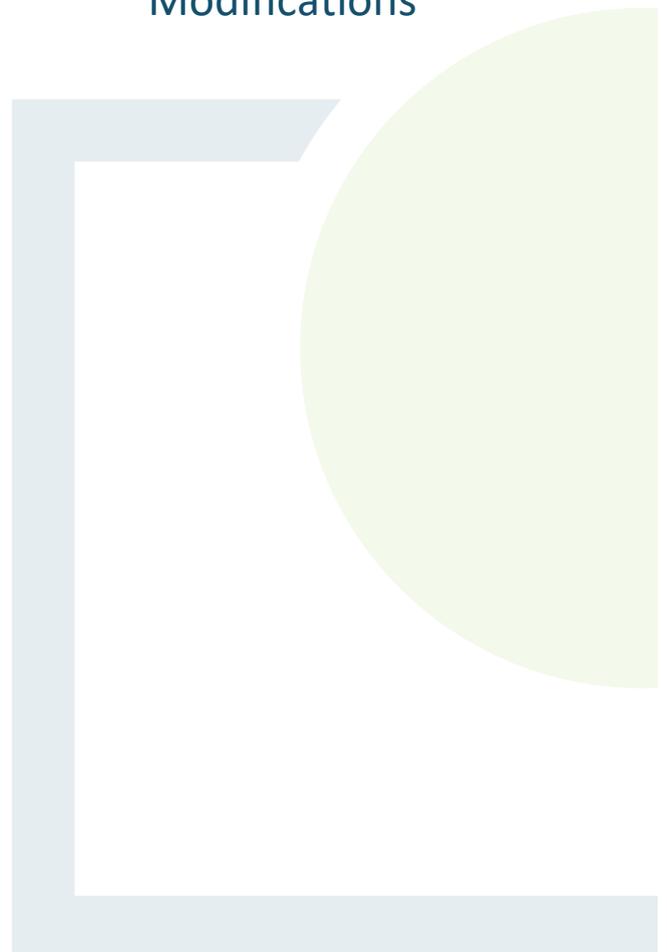




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APPENDIX 4

AA Screening Report for
Elected Member Plan
Modifications





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APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

**AA Screening Report For Elected Member
Modifications To
The Local Authority Climate Action Plan
2024 - 2029**

Prepared for:
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown



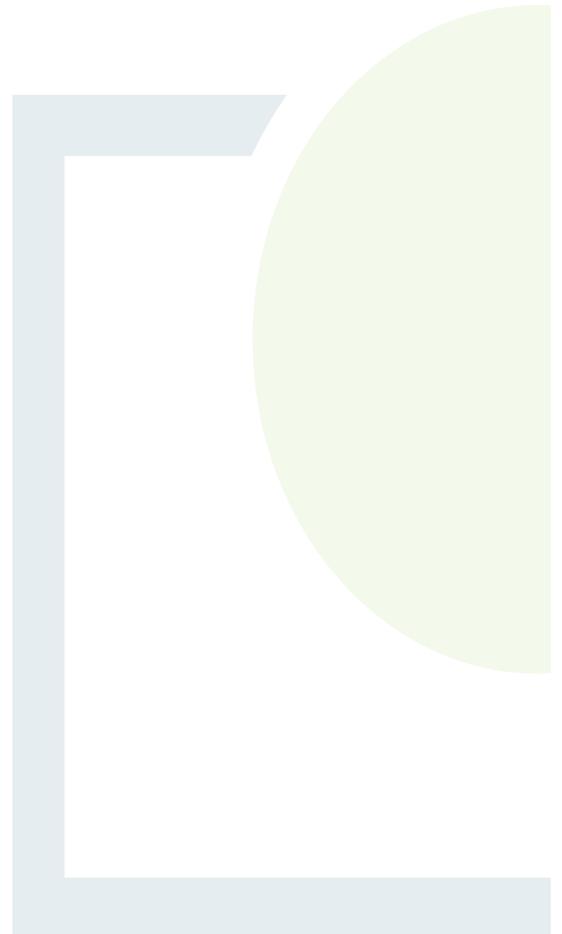
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Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for Elected Member Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

| Rev. No. | Description of Changes | Prepared by: | Checked by: | Approved by: | Date: |
|----------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1 | Final | EV/AMW/NSC | AT/RD | AT | 19/02/2024 |

Client: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Keywords: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Natura Impact Report, LACAP, Climate Action Plan Implementation Plan.

Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this AA Screening Report for Modifications to the Local Authority Climate Action 2024 - 2029 to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report for Elected Member modifications to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLRCC) Local Authority Climate Action Plan (referred to as either the 'LACAP' or the 'Plan') 2024 - 2029.

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

1.2 Plan-making Process to Date

A draft version of the LACAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive¹ and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LACAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive² and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LACAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

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

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

An AA Screening Assessment Report was completed for all modifications made to the Draft LACAP Actions arising following consideration of submissions. This report 'screened out' the need for AA of that set of modifications.

Additional modifications were made by Elected Members upon Plan Adoption. These modifications were screened for AA at the time of Adoption. It was determined on Adoption that these modifications will not give rise to likely, significant effects on European sites. This report documents the AA Screening undertaken for these 'Elected Member' modifications.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING METHODOLOGY

2.1 Legislative Requirements

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. 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 (Habitats Directive as above and 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 among them. These two designations are collectively known and referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect such sites. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA. These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public".

Therefore, the AA process is an assessment of the following key concepts:

- Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site.
- Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential impacts.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan or project is ‘connected with or necessary to the management of the site’. Where a formal consent process applies, the AA process is concluded by the relevant competent authority making a determination in accordance with article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

2.2 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002).



- This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C(2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

The AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and 'grey' literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives. The EPA Envision Map-viewer (www.epa.ie) and available reports were also reviewed:

- Definitions of conservation status, integrity and significance used in this assessment are defined in accordance with 'Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC' (EC, 2000).
- The conservation status of a natural habitat is defined as the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species;
- The conservation status of a species is defined as the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its population;
- The integrity of a European Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified; and
- Significant effect should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives.

2.3 Assessment Process and Approach

A NIR has been produced for the DL RCC LACAP. This report contains the information on the receiving environment, European sites, and potential effects of the LACAP on European sites. The report also defines mitigation measures designed to avoid and minimise effects on European sites. The information contained in this NIR has been referred to during the carrying out of the AA Screening Assessment documented in this report.

This assessment commences with a description of the Plan Action modifications being considered. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Plan Action modifications are then identified and evaluated having regard to nature and characteristics of the Plan Action modifications. The overall AA process will be completed in a revised full NIR at the end of the plan development process incorporating all interim steps, modifications and reports/assessments.



An ecological desktop study has been completed for the AA Screening Assessment of the Plan Action modifications, which comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites that may be impacted by Plan Action modifications.
- Identification of European sites pathways.
- Review of the NPWS site synopses and conservation objectives for relevant European sites.
- Examination of available information on protected species.

This desktop assessment mainly involved a review of the NIR produced for the LACAP.

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a plan or a project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. 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 mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – ecological connectivity linkages e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) – ecological resources supporting the qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

In the context of this report, a receptor is an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan Action modifications that is known to interact with ecological processes. A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor³.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the Conservation Objectives, QIs and/ or 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 likelihood of significant effects, including in-combination effects, on European Sites is then interrogated having regard to the nature and characteristics of Plan Action modifications, environmental pathways, and the sensitivity of relevant European sites.

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the Plan Action modification must be will be subject to Stage 2 AA and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR).

³ Qualifying interest or special conservation interests of the European site in question and the known sensitivities of these key ecological receptors



Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”

This AA screening is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and ‘grey’ literature was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife Website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.



3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

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

Table 3-1: Summary of Plan Action Modifications

| Action | Summary of Modification |
|--------|---|
| EB1A | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan:</p> <p>Review how planning applications demonstrate regard to the relative energy cost of and expected embodied and operational carbon emissions and demonstrate maximum energy efficiency over the lifetime of the development to align with climate policy.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Number of applications reviewed</p> <p>Timeframe: 2024, Annually thereafter</p> <p>Lead Department: Planning and Economic Development (including Dún Laoghaire Harbour)</p> <p>Partner Identified: Forward Planning Infrastructure</p> |
| EB20A | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan:</p> <p>Work with partners in the Climate Action Regional Office, CODEMA and others to develop a plan to reduce Scope 3 emissions over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Scope 3 Reduction Plan developed</p> <p>Timeframe: 2029</p> <p>Lead Department: Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)</p> <p>Partner Identified: Climate Action Regional Office CODEMA Neighbouring Local Authorities Other Agencies</p> |
| T17 | <p>The following action was amended as follows:</p> <p>Expand the number of controlled crossings and zebra crossings.</p> <p>Additional Tracking Measure: Number of zebra crossings.</p> |
| T19 | <p>The following action was amended as follows:</p> <p>Implement alternative treatments for winter maintenance operations and respond appropriately in line with the latest available guidance, practices and industry standards to any longer-term weather predictions advised by Met Eireann and the Vaisala road condition forecast system</p> |
| R1A | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan:</p> <p>Ensure compliance with Solid Fuel Regulations through inspection of and monitoring of solid fuel suppliers.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Number of inspections per year as per RMCEI Plan</p> <p>Timeframe: 2024 Annually thereafter</p> <p>Lead Department: Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)</p> <p>Partner Identified: Department of Environment, Climate and Communications</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification |
|--------|--|
| R6 | <p>The following action was amended as follows:</p> <p>Continue to accept garden waste at Ballyogan Recycling Park, in accordance with environmental management and protection related conditions contained in the waste licence for this facility and develop a composting strategy for organic waste collected by/generated by the Council.</p> <p>Additional Tracking Measure: Composting strategy developed.</p> <p>Additional Timeframe: 2025.</p> |
| R12 | <p>The following action was amended as follows:</p> <p>Monitor municipal solid waste generated annually in corporate dlr buildings with a view to reducing the quantity of this waste sent for incineration.</p> <p>Additional Tracking Measure: Tonnes of solid municipal waste.</p> |
| C26 | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan:</p> <p>Promote and encourage retrofitting of housing and multi-unit developments while sharing Council knowledge and best practices, with an emphasis on reaching households at risk of fuel poverty.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Number of engagement events per year</p> <p>Timeframe: 2024 Annually thereafter</p> <p>Lead Department: Architects</p> <p>Partner Identified: Multi -Departmental, Approved Housing Bodies Tenants' Organisations Owner Management Companies Private Landlords</p> |



4. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

4.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any likely significant effects to European Sites from the Plan Action modifications, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

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

- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the LACAP.
- The likely significant effect on the environment and European sites of implementing the Plan Action modifications.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the NIR.

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

The first stage of the Screening process in this case involved interrogating Plan Action modifications to ascertain the materiality of the modifications and whether the modifications will result in the occurrence of additional effects on European sites not previously considered in the AA process to date.

4.2 Assessment Criteria

The following parameters are described when characterising impacts (following CIEEM (2016), EPA (2002) and NRA (2009)):

- **Direct and Indirect Impacts** - An impact can be caused either as a direct or as an indirect consequence of a proposed development.
- **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 for which 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.



The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines for ecological impact assessment (2016) define: an ecologically significant impact as 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; and the integrity of a site as 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.

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

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

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: 'its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable'.

Generic Conservation Objectives for SACs have been provided as follows:

- 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.

One generic Conservation Objective has been provided for SPAs as follows:

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

EC guidance⁴ outlines the types of effects that may affect European sites. These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);

⁴ Assessment of plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Environment DG, 2001.



- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

In addition, the guidance outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change.

4.3 Elements of the Plan Modifications with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

An evaluation of the potential environmental implications of each Plan Action modification has been carried out. This evaluation is presented in Table 4-1.



Table 4-1: Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification

| Action | Summary of Modification | Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification |
|--------|---|---|
| EB1A | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan:</p> <p>Review how planning applications demonstrate regard to the relative energy cost of and expected embodied and operational carbon emissions and demonstrate maximum energy efficiency over the lifetime of the development to align with climate policy.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Number of applications reviewed</p> <p>Timeframe: 2024, Annually thereafter</p> <p>Lead Department: Planning and Economic Development (including Dún Laoghaire Harbour)</p> <p>Partner Identified: Forward Planning Infrastructure</p> | <p>This text promotes the consideration of climate impact when assessing planning applications. It does not alter the scope of any defined, implementable climate action. This text is broadly consistent with existing Plan objectives and actions - which seek to facilitate and advocate for improved energy efficiency and carbon reduction in our County. It does not introduce any substantive additional environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against.</p> |
| EB20A | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan:</p> <p>Work with partners in the Climate Action Regional Office, CODEMA and others to develop a plan to reduce Scope 3 emissions over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Tracking Measure: Scope 3 Reduction Plan developed</p> <p>Timeframe: 2029</p> <p>Lead Department: Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic)</p> <p>Partner Identified: Climate Action Regional Office CODEMA Neighbouring Local Authorities Other Agencies</p> | <p>The development of such a plan will not introduce any environmental effects in and off itself. This action is consistent with the existing plan objectives and actions, which seek to reduce the Council's GHG emissions, including indirect GHG emissions (e.g., EB2, EB6, R11).</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification | Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification |
|--------|--|---|
| T17 | <p>The following action was amended as follows: Expand the number of controlled crossings and zebra crossings. Additional Tracking Measure: Number of zebra crossings.</p> | <p>This action is consistent with existing Plan objectives and actions relating to low carbon transport modes, road safety and the community. It aligns closely and is similar to several existing actions. The environmental effects of promoting active travel and modal shift have been considered and mitigated against under the SEA and AA processes already. This action will not introduce any additional environmental effects not already considered.</p> |
| T19 | <p>The following action was amended as follows: Implement alternative treatments for winter maintenance operations and respond appropriately in line with the latest available guidance, practices and industry standards to any longer-term weather predictions advised by Met Eireann and the Vaisala road condition forecast system</p> | <p>This amendment clarifies generally the local authority's intention to progress climate adaptation initiatives in line with good practice and weather predictions. The action is consistent with existing Climate Adaptation related objectives and actions defined in the Plan. It does not introduce additional environmental effects not already considered and mitigated against under the SEA and AA.</p> |
| R1A | <p>The following new action was included in the Plan: Ensure compliance with Solid Fuel Regulations through inspection of and monitoring of solid fuel suppliers. Tracking Measure: Number of inspections per year as per RMCEI Plan Timeframe: 2024 Annually thereafter Lead Department: Infrastructure and Climate Change (including Road Maintenance and Traffic) Partner Identified: Department of Environment, Climate and Communications</p> | <p>This action promotes adherence to the National Solid Fuel Regulations. It is general and high-level in nature and will serve to promote awareness of the regulations. This action will not introduce any real environmental effects in and off itself.</p> |
| R6 | <p>The following action was amended as follows: Continue to accept garden waste at Ballyogan Recycling Park, in accordance with environmental management and protection related conditions contained in the waste licence for this facility and develop a composting strategy for organic waste collected by/generated by the Council.</p> | <p>This action is consistent and harmonious with existing Circular Economy related objectives and actions defined in the Draft Plan, which seek to promote waste recycling. It does not introduce additional likely, significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated under the SEA and AA process.</p> |



| Action | Summary of Modification | Evaluation of Potential Environmental Implications of each Plan Action Modification |
|--------|---|--|
| | Additional Tracking Measure: Composting strategy developed. Additional Timeframe: 2025. | |
| R12 | The following action was amended as follows: Monitor municipal solid waste generated annually in corporate dlr buildings with a view to reducing the quantity of this waste sent for incineration. Additional Tracking Measure: Tonnes of solid municipal waste. | This action is consistent and harmonious with existing Circular Economy related objectives and actions defined in the Draft Plan, which seek to promote waste recycling. It does not introduce additional likely, significant environmental effects not already considered and mitigated under the SEA and AA process. |
| C26 | The following new action was included in the Plan: Promote and encourage retrofitting of housing and multi-unit developments while sharing Council knowledge and best practices, with an emphasis on reaching households at risk of fuel poverty. Tracking Measure: Number of engagement events per year Timeframe: 2024 Annually thereafter Lead Department: Architects Partner Identified: Multi -Departmental, Approved Housing Bodies Tenants' Organisations Owner Management Companies Private Landlords | This action is an engagement based action. The local authority intends on supporting housing bodies and developed in retrofitting their buildings through good governance and by providing guidance on best practice. It is consistent with the existing Plan objective to facilitate and advocate for improved energy efficiency and carbon reduction in our County. This action will not introduce any real environmental effects in and off itself. |



4.1 Summary of the Evaluation

The Plan Action modifications are broadly intended to provide clarification on existing information and give better effect to the LACAP. They will not result in any additional sources for likely, significant environmental effects, including effects on ecological processes or European sites, not already considered by the existing NIR for the LACAP.

The Plan Action modifications will not introduce any of the following types of additional environmental effect that have the potential to affect European sites.

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation;
- Transportation;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning activities.

The Plan Action modifications will not result in any of the following types of change that may occur at a European site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Reduction of Habitat Area.
- Disturbance to Key Species.
- Habitat or Species Fragmentation.
- Reduction in Species Density.
- Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.).
- Climate Change impact.

Further assessment is therefore not required.

4.2 Other Plans and Programs

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European Sites. There are no additional sources for effects identified within the Proposed amendments; therefore, there are no in-combination effects.



5. CONCLUSION

Stage 1 Screening for AA of Plan modifications was carried out to determine the need for a full AA for the Plan modifications to the LACAP in this case. It has been demonstrated that implementation of the Plan modifications are not foreseen to have any significant effects on any European Site.

The principal reasons the Modifications to the LACAP do will not give rise to any likely significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, are as follows:

- The modifications are not material and will not result in any additional, likely significant environmental effects, including effects in ecological processes or European sites, not already considered in the NIR for the LACAP.

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



6. REFERENCES

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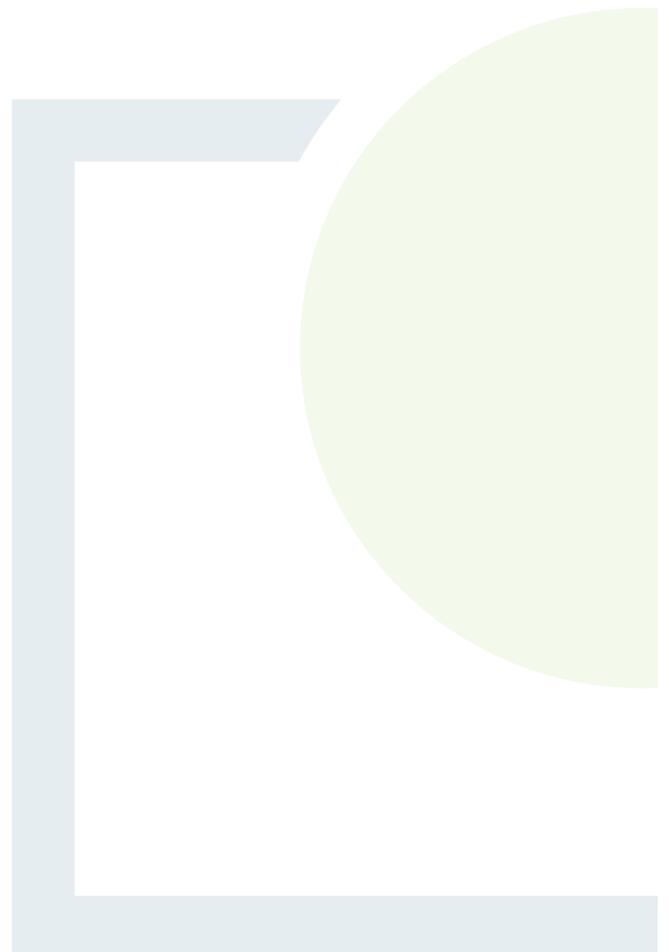
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APPENDIX 1

Author Details



Author Details

Lead Author - Andrew Torsney is a Principal Ecologist with over 12 years' experience working on major national and local scale projects. Andrew graduated from University College Dublin in 2011 with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and obtained Master's degree in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Leeds in 2012. He has a range of ecological skills which include habitat mapping, ecological surveying, data interpretation and report writing. Andrew is a vegetative plant specialist, who has a wealth of experience classifying riparian habitats and identifying rare floral species. Andrew has a vast knowledge of riparian and freshwater ecosystems and undertakes freshwater surveys regularly. Andrew holds 4 national protected species licenses and has a lot of experience optioning surveying licenses for aquatic species such as the white clawed crayfish. He is also a Bat specialist with a wealth of experience, in acoustic surveying and monitoring of bats. Throughout Andrews' career he has worked on a number of large-scale multifaceted projects such as the Killaloe to Dublin water supply project NIS. For this work, Andrew designed and oversaw all ecological field work relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AA.

Andrew has been the principal ecologist for a range of projects including the AA of the National Wind Energy Guidelines, a number of AAs for County Councils and a range of large-scale infrastructure projects.



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