

**SCREENING  
FOR  
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

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FOR THE

**DRAFT  
BOYLE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN  
2026**

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

**for: Roscommon County Council**



**by: CAAS Ltd.**



**MARCH 2026**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Screening for AA report has been prepared for the Draft Boyle Local Transport Plan 2026 (“the Plan”), in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the “Habitats Directive”).

This report is part of the ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan, and will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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

AA is required under articles 6(3) and 6(4) of 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 Acts 2000 and 2024 (both as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of a European site, in view of the conservation objectives. European sites are either SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe’s most valuable species and habitats.

## 1.3 The AA Process

The initial test in the AA process is to ascertain whether the Plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites. If the Plan is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of European sites, then it will proceed to the first stage of the AA process. Subsequently, 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 identified impact and their effects 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 in view of its Conservation Objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

### **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

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

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

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

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

#### **1.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?**

The primary purpose of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to set out recommendations for transport interventions that may be considered for integration into the Roscommon County Development Plan. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites and must proceed to Stage 1 AA - Screening for Appropriate Assessment.

## **1.4 Methods**

### **1.4.1 Ecological desktop study**

This Screening for AA is based on best scientific knowledge and ecological expertise, and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>1</sup>, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)<sup>2</sup> and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>3</sup> mapping websites, including the most recent Article 17<sup>4</sup> conservation status reporting cycle, 2025 for European sites, where required.

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

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

### **1.4.2 Source-pathway-receptor model and potential effects**

The examination of the Plan for potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor model, where in order for a potential for effect to be identified, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. Examples of a source, a pathway and a receptor are:

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off from subject development.
- Pathway(s) – e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats.
- Receptor(s) – e.g., qualifying habitats and species of European sites.

As per the above examples, a source is any identifiable element of the Plan that may interact with ecological processes of European sites. A pathway is any connection between the source and the receptor. A receptor is a Qualifying Interest or Special Conservation Interests of the European site being examined, or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by, or provide support to, the Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests of a European site.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

<sup>4</sup> NPWS (2025). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volumes 1, 2 and 3.

<sup>4</sup> Available from the NPWS [here](#).

When all three elements of the model are in place, a potential effect is identified. The potential effect is then examined further to determine whether or not it presents a *likelihood of significant effect*<sup>5,6</sup> on a European site. This is carried out by assessing objective information such as: the nature of the source; the nature of the pathway; the distances involved; the QIs/SCIs involved and their threats, pressures and sensitivities; and, consulting best scientific evidence/literature when required. As such, the presence of all three elements and the identification of a potential effect, does not automatically constitute the likelihood of significant effect to a European site, and is context dependent. However, the absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that there is no potential effect(s) and thus no likelihood for significant effects. The Plan is also examined in-combination with other plans and programmes to assess whether there are sources for in-combination effects as a result of the implementation of the Plan.

Where a likelihood for significant effects to any European site is deemed to be present following the application of this model, then the Plan must proceed to Stage Two AA i.e., the production of a Natura Impact Report (NIR) with accompanying mitigation measures addressing the significant effects identified at screening, in order to prevent adverse effects to the QIs/SCIs of the European sites identified. This evaluation has been made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

### 1.4.3 Identification of European sites

This is conducted via the application of the source-pathway-receptor (SPR) model (described in Section 1.4.2) to identify the European sites with potential for effects. The use of an initial 15 km buffer zone can also aid in the scoping stages, when applying the SPR model.

Upon application of the SPR model, any additional European sites with ecological connectivity to the Plan area that identified beyond that 15 km initial buffer (i.e., downstream connectivity), are also included for assessment. Subsequently, the "Qualifying Interests" (QIs) (i.e., habitats and species of conservation concern for which Special Areas of Conservation are designated), and/or "Special Conservation Interests" (SCIs), (i.e., bird species of conservation concern for which Special Areas of Conservation are designated) of each European site identified are examined, and their respective "Conservation Objectives" (COs) consulted.

The COs focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each European site and form the basis for the assessment of significant effects. The threats to the ecological/environmental conditions that are required to support the QIs and SCIs are also considered as part of the assessment. Supporting information on QIs, SCIs, site-specific sensitivities and information on Ireland's Article 17 Reports to the European Commission<sup>7</sup> of the European sites considered are provided in Appendix I of this report. Additional supporting information for each European site, such as site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms<sup>8</sup>, are considered where required.

The following NPWS First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) have been considered in the screening where relevant:

- 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, SSCO that have been designed to define favourable conservation status for a specific habitat or species have been examined (see Section 3 below). A complete dataset of the QIs and SCIs, and their respective threats and pressures<sup>8</sup>, of the European sites assessed in this report is included in Appendix I and was utilised throughout this report.

### 1.4.4 Assessment of potential significant effects

All policies and objectives within the Plan are considered in the assessment with respect to potential sources for significant effects on the QIs and SCIs of European sites. This is carried out by considering

<sup>5</sup> "Likely" defined by the [OPR Practice Note PN01 on Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management \(2021\)](#) as the: "*risk or possibility of effects occurring that cannot be ruled out based on objective information.*"

<sup>6</sup> With regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive

<sup>7</sup> NPWS (2025). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volumes 1, 2 and 3.

<sup>8</sup> Sourced from the NPWS. Available [here](#).

the sensitivities and threats and pressures of each of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects, and potential pathways for such effects identified from the SPR model. Subsequently, where sources and pathways for effects are identified, potential significant effects will be assessed in relation to the COs, and thereafter any likelihood for significant effects<sup>9</sup>, or absence thereof, is identified.

#### 1.4.5 Characterising Potential Significant Effects

The following parameters and descriptors can be used when describing impacts and characterising resulting significant effects to European sites (in view of their Conservation Objectives)<sup>10</sup>:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 1.4.6 Relevant guidance

This report has been prepared by also taking into account the following guidance documents:

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

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<sup>9</sup> With regard to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, and the precautionary principle ([C127/02 Waddenzee](#))

<sup>10</sup> These descriptions are informed by relevant guidelines including: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Version 1.2; 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.

## Section 2 Description of the Local Transport Plan

The Local Transport Plan<sup>11</sup> has been prepared with the ambition of informing land use zoning and the forthcoming Settlement Plan for Boyle. The proposals put forward in the Plan document are primarily aimed at improving and providing sustainable linkages, mobility and access throughout Boyle, with emphasis on safe pedestrian and vehicular movement within and around the town. The recommended proposals set out in the Plan represent high level, yet considered and objective transport, mobility and access improvement solutions. In seeking to advance any of the recommended proposals set out in the Plan, it is important to highlight that, prior to any development, these proposals would be subject to further detailed, preliminary feasibility and site-specific considerations. All such proposals would also be subject to comprehensive advance consultation with all relevant stakeholders at local and national level, prior to being prepared in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

The primary objective of the Plan is to provide a framework to enable the safe, efficient and sustainable movement of pedestrians and vehicles throughout the town of Boyle. The Plan identifies potential transport challenges and required interventions for Boyle Town to pave the way for development to be planned, phased, and undertaken in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region, Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028, and other relevant policies.

The findings and recommendations presented in the Plan shall inform the Council in relation to the nature, scale, location and timing of delivery of future development within Boyle and identify the transport infrastructure and service requirements to support the realisation of such development. The Plan shall also form a framework for investment in transport in Boyle, ensure integration between land use and transport infrastructure and services, and ensure that national, regional, and local policy in relation to transport and mobility is appropriately applied. It is hoped that the Plan will serve as a catalyst for further investment into Boyle which will encourage communities and commerce to grow in highly accessible, connected and safe spaces within and around the town.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.

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<sup>11</sup> For more detail refer to the Plan document.

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

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

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

The following NPWS First Order Site-Specific Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

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

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>12</sup> or species<sup>13</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km pathway consideration zone to be considered. All European sites within a 15km radius of the area to which the Plan relates were examined to assess potential connectivity corridors on a landscape scale, and assess potential interactions between Plan and the Conservation Objectives of each of the sites.

European sites considered by this assessment are examined in Table 3.1. and mapped in Figure 3.1. Sites that have surface hydrological and groundwater pathways with the Plan area are mapped in Figure 3.2 and Figure 3.3 respectively. Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 and Article 12 Reports to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered.

Information on QIs, SCIs, site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has also been considered by the AA screening assessment. The COs of the European sites that have been considered throughout the assessment report, were sourced from the following NPWS documents:

- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Arrow SAC [IE0001673] Version 1.
- NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives for Lough Arrow SPA [IE0004050] Version 1.
- NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives for Lough Gara SPA [IE0004048] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC [IE0001656] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Cloonshanville Bog SAC [IE0000614] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Callow Bog SAC [IE0000595] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Unshin River SAC [IE0001898] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Bellanagare Bog SAC [IE0000592] Version 1.
- NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives for Bellanagare Bog SPA [IE0004105] Version 1.

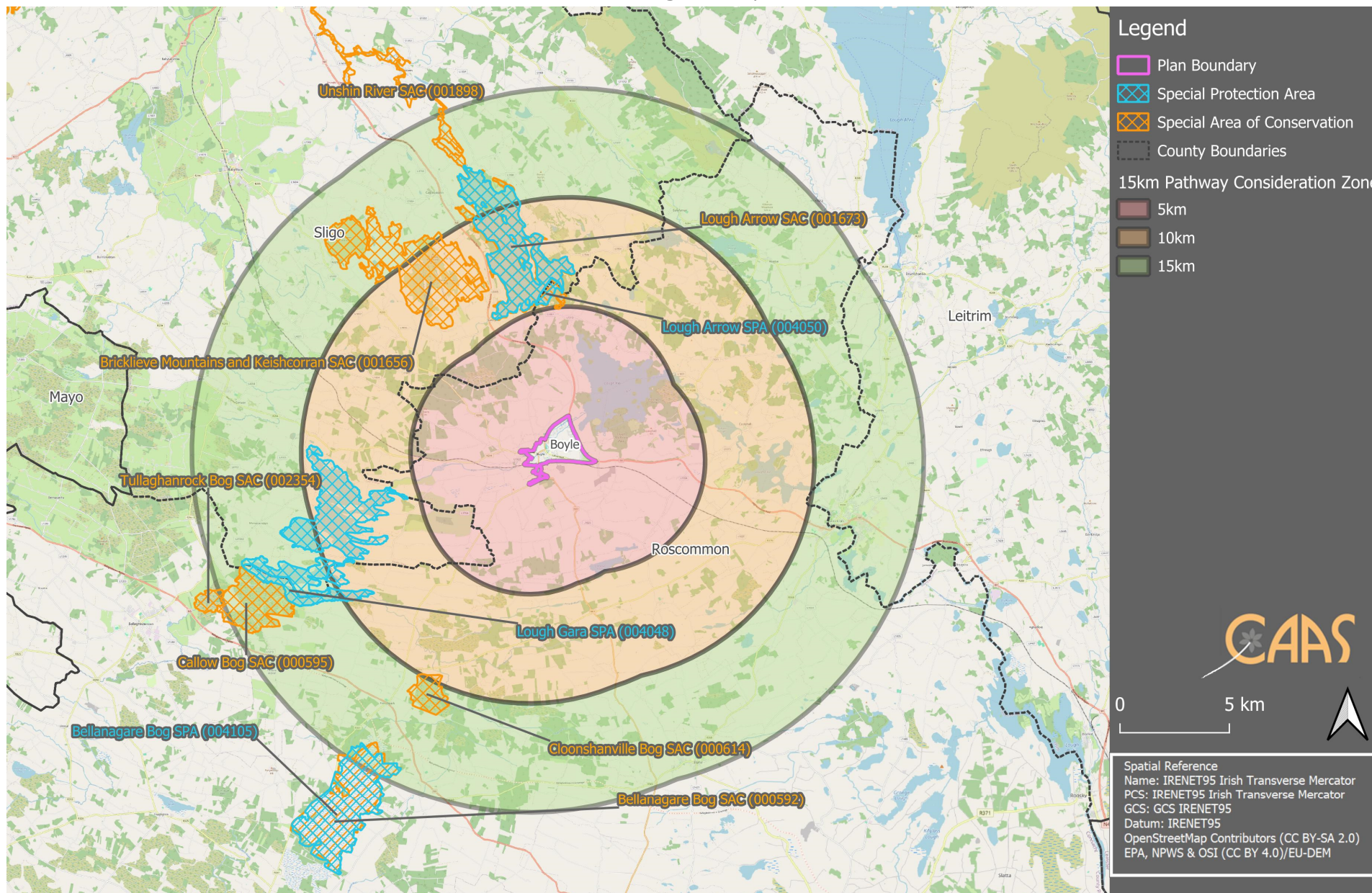
<sup>12</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

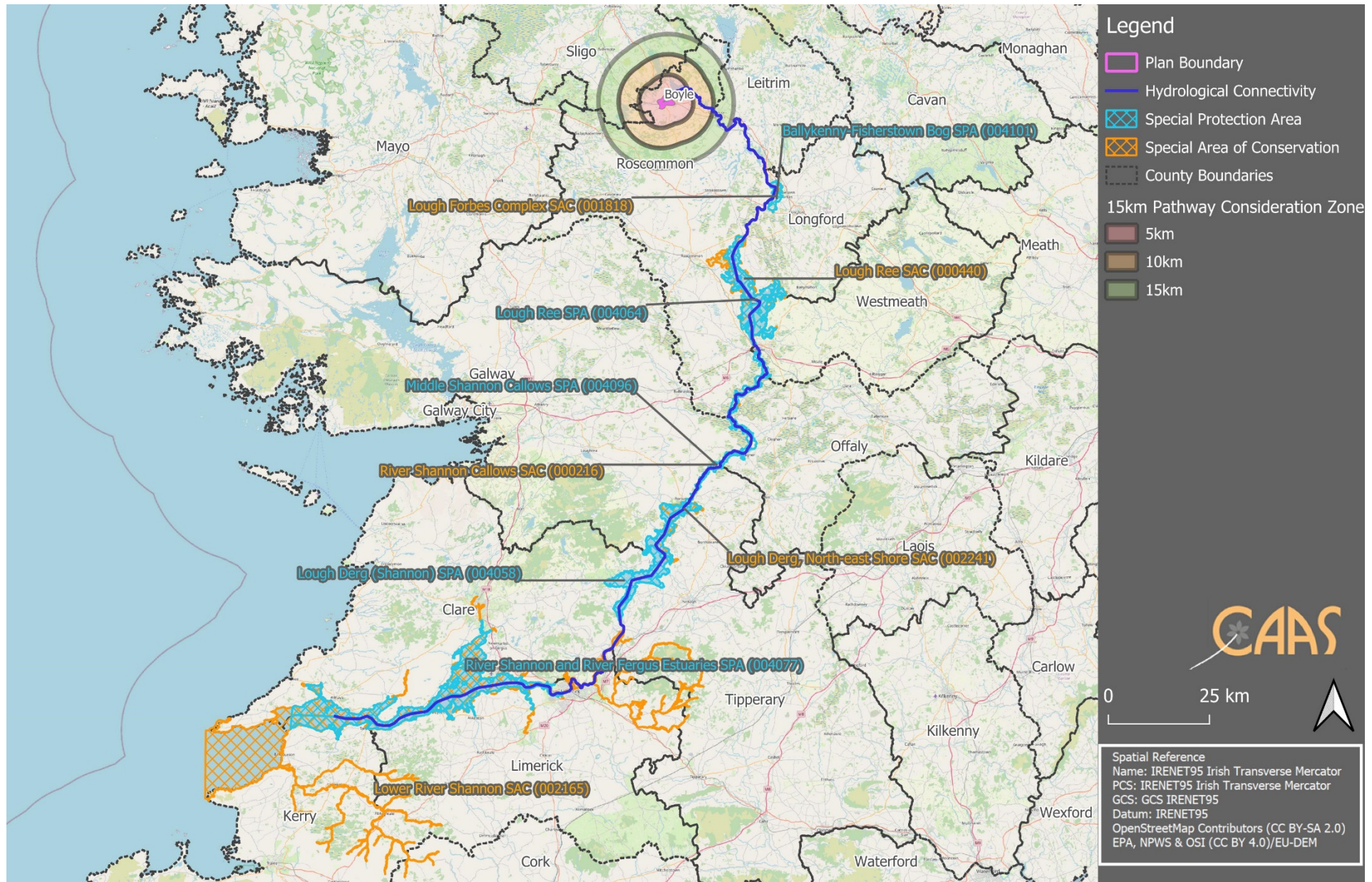
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NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Tullaghanrock Bog SAC [IE0002354] Version 1.  
NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC [IE0001626] Version 1.  
NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Mullygollan Turlough SAC [IE0000612] Version 1.  
NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Drumalough Bog SAC [IE0002338] Version 1.  
NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for Derrinea Bog SAC [IE0000604] Version 1.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Urlaur Lakes SAC [IE0001571] Version 1.  
NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Errit Lough SAC [IE0000607] Version 1.  
NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Forbes Complex SAC [IE0001818] Version 1.  
NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives for Ballykenney-Fisherstown Bog SPA [IE0004101] Version 1.  
NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SAC [IE0000440] Version 1.  
NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives for Lough Ree SPA [IE0004064] Version 1.  
NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Middle Shannon Callows SPA [IE0004096] Version 1.  
NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon Callows SAC [IE0000216] Version 1.  
NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC [IE0002241] Version 1.  
NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA [IE0004058] Version 1.  
NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Lower River Shannon SAC [IE0002165] Version 1.  
NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA [IE0004077] Version 1.

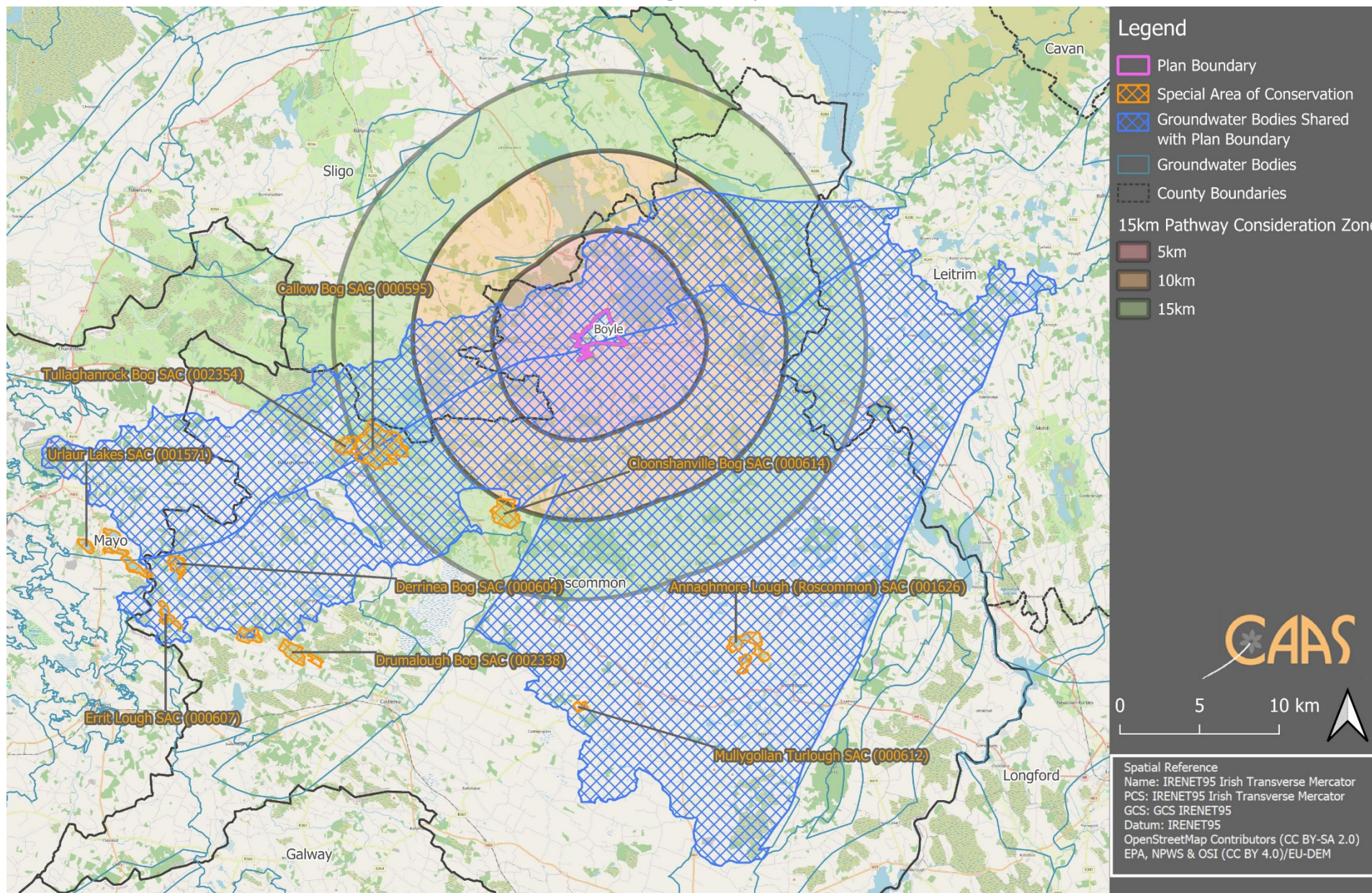
The COs focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each European site, therefore the screening process concentrated on assessing any likely significant effects on any European Site of the Plan with respect to the QIs/SCIs of each European site.



**Figure 3.1 European Sites within a 15 km pathway consideration zone of the Plan area**



**Figure 3.2 European Sites with hydrological pathways for interactions with the Plan area**



**Figure 3.3 European Sites that occur within the same groundwater bodies as the Plan area**

### 3.3 Assessment

All provisions of Plan are considered in this report with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified. The sensitivities, threats and pressures of the QIs in relation to all potential sources for effects identified, and potential pathways for such effects identified above are then examined by the Screening for AA in Table 3.1. If/where sources within the Plan and pathways for likely significant effects are identified, the European sites concerned will proceed to Stage 2 AA (where a Natura Impact Statement is then required).

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

The overarching aim of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of European sites, but to set out recommendations for transport interventions that may be considered for integration into the Roscommon County Development Plan.

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

The Local Transport Plan has been prepared with the ambition of informing land use zoning and the forthcoming Settlement Plan for Boyle. The proposals put forward in the Plan document are primarily aimed at improving and providing sustainable linkages, mobility and access throughout Boyle, with emphasis on safe pedestrian and vehicular movement within and around the town. The recommended proposals set out in the Plan represent high level, yet considered and objective transport, mobility and access improvement solutions. In seeking to advance any of the recommended proposals set out in the Plan, it is important to highlight that, prior to any development, these proposals would be subject to further detailed, preliminary feasibility and site-specific considerations. All such proposals would also be subject to comprehensive advance consultation with all relevant stakeholders at local and national level, prior to being prepared in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.

Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes.

#### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document *"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"* 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)
- Excavation Requirements
- Transportation Requirements
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

In addition, the guidance document 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:

- 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.

The assessment of potential effects on European Sites is conducted in light of the above guidance and utilising a standard source-pathway (SPR) model (see approach referred to under Section **Error! Reference source not found.**). Table 3.1 below examines each of the European sites identified in this report for potential effects resulting from the implementation of the Plan by utilising the SPR model and the above guidance, in the context of the provisions of the Plan.

Table 3.1 Screening of European Sites

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	4.92	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	5.18	Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
004048	Lough Gara SPA	5.52	Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p>	No

Screening for AA Report

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				<p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	
001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	6.51	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Turloughs [3180], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC	9.60	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Bog woodland [91D0], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p>	No

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				Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.	
000595	Callow Bog SAC	12.02	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
001898	Unshin River SAC	12.37	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	13.70	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p>	No

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				<p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	
004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	14.03	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	14.81	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p>	No

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001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	19.54	Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	21.42	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
002338	Drumalough Bog SAC	24.77	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p>	No

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000604	Derrinea Bog SAC	27.74	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	29.92	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p>	No

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000607	Errit Lough SAC	30.01	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
004188	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	31.05	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	31.06	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p>	No

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				<p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	
000440	Lough Ree SAC	36.36	Alkaline fens [7230], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], 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], Bog woodland [91D0], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Limestone pavements [8240], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
004064	Lough Ree SPA	36.43	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p>	No

Screening for AA Report

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects
				Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.	
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	64.61	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	64.62	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], Alkaline fens [7230], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Limestone pavements [8240]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>herefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	97.44	Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], 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], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Alkaline fens [7230]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p>	No

Screening for AA Report

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects
				<p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	97.45	Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	128.35	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Coastal lagoons [1150], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Reefs [1170], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p>	No

Screening for AA Report

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects	Likelihood of Significant Effects
			silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.	
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	134.30	Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Therefore, the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</p>	No

### **3.4 Other Plans and Programmes**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the likelihood for significant effects on European sites.

Appendix II outlines a selection of plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects on European sites. All plans and projects within the area to which the Plan relates and receiving environment have been considered in combination with any and all lower tier plans and projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan.

However, given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of infrastructure and developments facilitated by the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028, it is recognised that the identification of in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will also need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

## **Section 4 AA Screening Conclusion**

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment report informs the competent authority carrying out the AA screening determination for Plan to Draft Boyle Local Transport Plan 2026 and demonstrates that the implementation of the Plan does not have a likelihood to result in significant effects to any European site.

The source-pathway-receptor model was applied, i.e. the Plan was examined for sources for potential effects, alongside an examination of pathways for effects of any sources presented in the Plan to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests (i.e., receptors), in view of their Conservation Objectives, of each European site assessed. In applying this model, it was found that no potential sources for significant effects to any European site considered would arise from the implementation of the Plan that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the existing the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report accompanying the Plan).

As such, the risks to the safeguarding of the Conservation Objectives of the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests of the European sites have been addressed through existing, already in-force policies and objectives within the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 - with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

Therefore, it is concluded in this Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report, to inform the competent authority carrying out the AA Screening, that the Draft Boyle Local Transport Plan 2026 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, any likelihood for significant effect to any European site and the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests therein, as a result of the Plan, can be ruled out. Consequently, a Stage Two AA (Natura Impact Report) is not required.

# Appendix I Background information on European Sites

List of European Sites considered by the screening assessment with functional connectivity (ecological pathways) to the proposed development area including their Qualifying Interests, known threats and pressures

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Limestone pavements [8240], 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], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> ) [6410]	G05.01, D01.01, A03, J02.05, C01.03.02, A10.01, A04.02.05, J02.05.02, A04.01, J02.01, J02.11, J02.04.01, A08, K03.04, A03.03, B06, A07, B02.02, A04.03, G01, F03.01	Trampling, overuse, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, mowing or cutting of grassland, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, mechanical removal of peat, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, modifying structures of inland water courses, intensive grazing, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, flooding, fertilisation, predation, abandonment or lack of mowing, grazing in forests or woodland, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, forestry clearance, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, hunting
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Bog woodland [91D0], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Alkaline fens [7230], 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], Limestone pavements [8240]	A03.03, G01.01, H06.03, B02, A04, F02.03, K03.05, G01.02, J02.11.02, H01.08, D03.01.02, H02.06, G02.09, J02.04, L08, A08, F03.01, E01.03, I01	Abandonment or lack of mowing, nautical sports, thermal heating of water bodies, forest and plantation management & use, grazing, leisure fishing, antagonism arising from introduction of species, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, other siltation rate changes, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, wildlife watching, flooding modifications, inundation (natural processes), fertilisation, hunting, dispersed habitation, invasive non-native species
000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	J02.05, E03.01, X, I01, C01.03.02	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, no threats or pressures, invasive non-native species, mechanical removal of peat
000595	Callow Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	J02.15, C01.03.02, J02.04, B, X, J01.01	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, mechanical removal of peat, flooding modifications, silviculture, forestry, no threats or pressures, burning down
000604	Derrinea Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]	I01, J02.05, A04, E03.01	Invasive non-native species, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
000607	Errit Lough SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	X, G05	No threats or pressures, other human intrusions and disturbances
000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, F03.01, A04	Fertilisation, hunting, grazing
000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Bog woodland [91D0], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	B, J02.04, C01.03.02, X	Silviculture, forestry, flooding modifications, mechanical removal of peat, no threats or pressures
001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	A08, A04, E01.03, F02.03, C01.03.01, E03.01, C01.03.02, J02, D01.02	Fertilisation, grazing, dispersed habitation, leisure fishing, hand cutting of peat, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, mechanical removal of peat, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, roads, motorways
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	Geyer`s whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]	A02, A04.03, J01, A04.02.01	Modification of cultivation practices, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, fire and fire suppression, non-intensive cattle grazing
001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Turloughs [3180], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> ) [8120], White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) [1092]	A02.01, J01.01, A04.01.02, A10, A04.02.01, A10.01, D01.01, F06, C01.03.02	Agricultural intensification, burning down, intensive sheep grazing, restructuring agricultural land holding, non-intensive cattle grazing, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, mechanical removal of peat
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]	G02, I01, X, A10.01, D03.01.02, J02.01.03	Sport and leisure structures, invasive non-native species, no threats or pressures, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	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], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	J02.15, G02.09, J02.07.02, H02.06, A03.03, F02.03, F03.01, A04.03, I01, A03.02	Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, wildlife watching, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, abandonment or lack of mowing, leisure fishing, hunting, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, invasive non-native species, non-intensive mowing

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
001898	Unshin River SAC	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], 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], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	I01, B02, A04.02.02, A02.01, J02.10	Invasive non-native species, forest and plantation management & use, non-intensive sheep grazing, agricultural intensification, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) [1095], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Bottlenose dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> ) [1349], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinia caeruleae</i> ) [6410], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], 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], Coastal lagoons [1150], Estuaries [1130], Reefs [1170], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) [1096], Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ) [1029], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	A08, B, E01, F01, A04, F03.01, G01.01, H04, E03, J02.10, J02.01.02, J02.12.01, J02.01.01, D01.01, C01.01.02, I01, C01.03.01, F02.03, K02.03	Fertilisation, silviculture, forestry, urbanised areas, human habitation, marine and freshwater aquaculture, grazing, hunting, nautical sports, air pollution, air-borne pollutants, discharges, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, polderisation, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, removal of beach materials, invasive non-native species, hand cutting of peat, leisure fishing, eutrophication (natural)
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230], 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], Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	A10.01, K02.01, G02.09, G01, I02, B02.01.01, D01.01, K02.03, J02.01.03, M01.02, M01.03, A08, H01.08, D03.01.02, A04.02.05, A04.01, J02, I01, M01.01, H01, J02.10, C01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, species composition change (succession), wildlife watching, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, problematic native species, forest replanting (native trees), paths, tracks, cycling tracks, eutrophication (natural), infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, droughts and less precipitations, flooding and rising precipitations, fertilisation, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers, non-intensive mixed animal grazing, intensive grazing, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, invasive non-native species, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes), pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, mining and quarrying
002338	Drumalough Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]	J02.05, I01, X, E03.01	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, invasive non-native species, no threats or pressures, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	X, B, A04.02.01, J02.04	No threats or pressures, silviculture, forestry, non-intensive cattle grazing, flooding modifications
004048	Lough Gara SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	A08, B, X	Fertilisation, silviculture, forestry, no threats or pressures
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004]	F02.03, A08	Leisure fishing, fertilisation
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067]	G01.01, F03.01, A08, F02.03	Nautical sports, hunting, fertilisation, leisure fishing
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> ) [A125], Goldeneye ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ) [A067], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Little Grebe ( <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> ) [A004], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) [A061], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]	A04, A08, F02.03, B, I01, F03.01, G01.01, G01.02	Grazing, fertilisation, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, invasive non-native species, hunting, nautical sports, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles
004077	River Shannon and Fergus Estuaries SPA	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Scaup ( <i>Aythya marila</i> ) [A062], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Greenshank ( <i>Tringa nebularia</i> ) [A164], Cormorant	G01.01, E01, D03.02, F01, E03, E02, A08	Nautical sports, urbanised areas, human habitation, shipping lanes, marine and freshwater aquaculture, discharges, industrial or commercial areas, fertilisation

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]		
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Corncrake ( <i>Crex crex</i> ) [A122], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050]	A04.03, F02.03, D01.01, G01.01, A04, D01.05, E01, G01.02, F03.01, A08, A03	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, leisure fishing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, nautical sports, grazing, bridge, viaduct, urbanised areas, human habitation, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, hunting, fertilisation, mowing or cutting of grassland
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	F03.01, F02.03, B, A04, G01.01	Hunting, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry, grazing, nautical sports
004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395]	A04, J02.05.02, B01, C01.03, D01.02	Grazing, modifying structures of inland water courses, forest planting on open ground, peat extraction, roads, motorways

List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have been considered by the screening assessment, including summaries of current threats and sensitivities

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1013]	Geyer's Whorl Snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	A06, A09, A10, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow	Changes to ground vegetation condition, groundwater dependent and is highly sensitive to hydrological changes.
[1029]	Freshwater Pearl Mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )	A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, D02, F12, F28, F31, F33	Agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, other modification of hydrological conditions for residential or recreational development, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
[1065]	Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> )	A01, A07, A10, B01	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
[1092]	White-clawed Crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> )	I01, I05	Invasive alien species of union concern, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Invasive species, disease, surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
[1095]	Sea Lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )	A19, A20, A31, D02, G01, N01, N02, N03, X0	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, threats and pressures from outside the member state	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity.
[1096]	Brook Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> )	A19, A20, A31, B09, D02, F11, F12, N01, N02	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
[1099]	River Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> )	A19, A20, A31, D02, E03, N01, N02, N03	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
[1106]	Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	A25, A26, B23, D02, F12, F28, G11, G19, G20, I02, J01, K05, L06, N01	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, illegal harvesting, collecting and taking, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, abstraction of water, flow diversion, dams and other modifications of hydrological conditions for freshwater aquaculture, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), physical alteration of water bodies, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1110]	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[1130]	Estuaries	A28, F20, G16, I02, XU	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), unknown pressure	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1150]	Coastal lagoons	C12, J02, K02, K04, L01, L03, N04	Extraction activities generating marine pollution, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), accumulation of organic material, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
[1160]	Large shallow inlets and bays	A28, B23, F20, G01, G16, I02	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
[1170]	Reefs	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1349]	Bottlenose Dolphin ( <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> )	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Large vessel movement effecting distributions. Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[3140]	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass ( <i>Chara spp.</i> )	A25, A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12, F13, F33, I02	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water,	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
			abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	
[3150]	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3180]	Turloughs	A09, A26, A31	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3260]	Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation ( <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> )	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K01, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
[5130]	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites)	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6410]	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> )	A02, A06, A10, A14, A31, B01	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, livestock farming (without grazing), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6510]	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )	A02, A06, A14, A19, A20	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), livestock farming (without grazing), application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7110]	Active raised bogs	A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7120]	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7150]	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	A09, A11, B01, C05, K02, N01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, drainage, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and ground water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7210]	Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> )	A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[7230]	Alkaline fens	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[8120]	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels ( <i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i> )	A09	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8240]	Limestone pavements	A01, A10, C01, F01, I02	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[91D0]	Bog woodland	A11, B09, C05, I02, K01	Burning for agriculture, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, peat extraction, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
[91J0]	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	A09, I02, I05	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

Special Conservation Interests and Vulnerabilities of SPAs that have undergone assessment

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A004	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	x	No threats or pressures
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	G12, D01, F07, G10, J02, N06, N07, N01	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change
A038	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	D01, D06, F07, F28	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	F07, D06, F01, F08, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A048	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F07, G19, N01, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A050	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	F07, G07, N01, D01, F08, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A052	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	G07, F07, D01, F28	Hunting, sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A053	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	F07, G07, D01, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A054	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	F07, G07, N01, D01, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A056	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	I02, I05, F07, G07, N01, D01, F28	Other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests, sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A061	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	F28, F07, G07, J01, N01, D01	Modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A062	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	F07, G07, G19, J01, D01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A065	Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	L06, A06, I02, I04, A26, F07, G12, G01, D01, E02	Interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, sports, tourism and leisure activities, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A067	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	F07, G07, J01, N01, N04, D01, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A122	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	A08, A06, L06, M08, N03, A09, A31, A20, A03	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, drainage for use as agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, conversion from mixed farming and agroforestry systems to specialised (e.g. single crop) production
A125	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	J01, N01	Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change
A137	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A140	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	B01, I04, I02, A02, A11, A09, D01, H04, A31, G07, N01, F07, F28	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), burning for agriculture, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, vandalism or arson, drainage for use as agricultural land, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	F07, G01, G19, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A142	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A08, A21, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, N01, F07, F28	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A143	Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	F07, G01, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	G01, G19, D01, F08, N04, F07	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities
A156	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	F07, G19, G01, F08, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A160	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A08, B01, I04, I02, A31, A02, C05, D01, A06, A11, F07, G01, G19, F08	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), burning for agriculture, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)
A162	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A08, A09, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, F07, F08, N04	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A164	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	F07, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A179	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	F22, F23, I02, I04, D01, M08	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, flooding (natural processes)
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A09, G12, I02, I04, J02, L06, M08, D01, F07, G01, N06, N07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A395	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	F07, G10, A02, B01, D01, D06, E01, F01, J02, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species

## Appendix II Legislation and Other Plans, Programmes, etc.

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</b>	<p>It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.</p>	<p>EU Member States must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred.</li> <li>Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions.</li> <li>Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes.</li> <li>Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding.</li> <li>Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive's implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes.</li> <li>Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate.</li> <li>Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received.</p>

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<p><b>EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) (2008/105/EC)</b></p>	<p>It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)'s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.</p>	<p>The directive sets EQSs for priority substances and eight other pollutants. These substances include: the metals cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, and their compounds; benzene; polyaromatic hydrocarbons; and several pesticides. Several of these priority substances are classed as hazardous. The EQSs in Directive 2008/105/EC are limits on the concentration of the priority substances and eight other pollutants in water (or biota), i.e. thresholds which must not be exceeded if a good chemical status is to be met. There are two types of water standard.</p> <p>A threshold for the average concentration of the substance concerned calculated from measurements over a 1-year period. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against long-term exposure to pollutants in the aquatic environment. A maximum allowable concentration of the substance concerned, i.e. the maximum for any single measurement. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against short-term exposure, i.e. pollution peaks.</p> <p>The EQSs are different for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inland surface waters (rivers and lakes);</li> <li>• other surface waters (transitional, coastal and territorial waters).</li> <li>• EU Member States must ensure compliance with the EQSs. They must also take measures to ensure that the concentrations of substances that tend to accumulate in sediment and/or biota do not increase significantly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU)</b></p>	<p>It is aimed at achieving significant benefits to the environment and human health by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil);</li> <li>• best available techniques;</li> <li>• flexibility;</li> <li>• inspections;</li> <li>• public participation.</li> </ul> <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions: With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry;</li> <li>• Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste;</li> <li>• Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste;</li> <li>• Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive);</li> <li>• Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive);</li> </ul> <p>With effect from 1st January 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IED aspires to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate pollution arising from industrial activities. It seeks to achieve this by providing a general framework for the control of the industries with the highest pollution potential in order to prevent the shifting of pollution from one environmental medium (or industry) to another. The overall intention is to provide an integrated approach to the prevention and control of emissions into the various environmental media such as, air, water and soil while striking a commercial balance for businesses.</li> <li>• The IED aims to increase the effectiveness of the legislation by supporting Member States in implementing BAT-based permitting. The IED aims to improve and clarify the concept and use of BAT and increases transparency by requiring that the use of flexibility must be justified and documented leading to a more coherent and EU-wide application of BAT.</li> <li>• The IED also strengthens existing minimum requirements in certain sectors (such as large combustion plants, waste incineration, etc.) so as to ensure the achievement of objectives of the Commission's Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.</li> <li>• The IED aims to further increase the effectiveness of the legislation by strengthening provisions on environmental improvement and enforcement, while stimulating innovation. The IED introduces minimum requirements as regards the environmental inspections of installations, the review and update of permits, and reporting on compliance. It also provides incentives for the development and promotion of environment-friendly technologies.</li> <li>• The IED aims to cut all identified unnecessary administrative burdens and simplify current legislation. The IED tackles the shortcomings of current EU legislation on industrial emissions by overhauling the seven existing pieces of legislation on industrial emissions. This has improved the clarity and coherence of the legislation and should reduce the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b></p>	<p>The 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>	<p>This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.</p>
<p><b>EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/2413</b>  - amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652</p>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.</p>	<p>The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.</p>
<p><b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>• The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>• Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>• Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>• Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>• Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) -</b> <b>(Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU)</b></p>	<p>The regulation sets mandatory national targets for European Union Member States to deploy publicly accessible alternative fuels infrastructure (in particular for electricity and hydrogen) for road vehicles, vessels moored at the quayside and stationary aircraft, with a specific focus on the trans-European networks. The regulation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• common rules for user information, data provision and payment requirements;</li> <li>• a mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure interoperability of infrastructure by mandating technical specifications on the basis of European standards; and</li> <li>• planning and reporting requirements for Member States.</li> </ul>	<p>Recharging infrastructure for electric cars and vans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure that publicly accessible recharging stations are set up in proportion to the number of registered vehicles, as follows:</li> <li>• for each registered electric vehicle, a total power output of at least 1.3 kilowatts (kW); for each registered plug-in hybrid vehicle, a total power output of at least 0.80 kW.</li> <li>• Member States must also ensure the deployment of publicly accessible recharging stations along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) road network.</li> </ul> <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric heavy-duty vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must ensure a minimum coverage of recharging points for heavy-duty electric vehicles.</li> </ul> <p>Hydrogen infrastructure for road vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2030, Member States must ensure that publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling stations with a total capacity of at least 1 tonne per day are deployed at least every 200 km along the TEN-T core network. At least one refuelling station must be deployed in each urban node.</li> </ul> <p>Liquefied methane for road transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until 31 December 2024, Member States must ensure that an appropriate number of publicly accessible refuelling points for liquefied methane are set up, at least along the TEN-T core network, where there is demand, unless the costs are disproportionate to the benefits, including environmental benefits.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity supply in maritime ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2029, there must be sufficient shoreside electricity for ships moored at the quayside at TEN-T core and TEN-T comprehensive maritime ports to serve at least 90% of all container and passenger vessels above 5,000 gross tonnage.</li> </ul> <p>Electricity for stationary aircraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 December 2024, all airports of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network must provide electricity to stationary aircraft used for commercial air transport operations at aircraft contact stands, and by 31 December 2029 at all remote stands.</li> </ul> <p>Railway infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member States must assess the development of alternative fuel technologies and propulsion systems (including hydrogen and battery power) for rail infrastructure that cannot be fully electrified for technical or cost-efficiency reasons.</li> </ul> <p>Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users of electric and hydrogen vehicles must be able to pay easily at recharging and hydrogen refuelling points (with payment cards and without subscriptions). Prices, including all of their components and specific to the recharging session, must be communicated clearly to end users before the start of a recharging session.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>• Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>• EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>• The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>• Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> <li>• Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>• National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>• Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>• Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b></p>	<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>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>• The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>• The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>• Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023)</b></p>	<p>The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.</p>

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<p><b>The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019)</b></p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved.</p> <p>The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021–2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy.</p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries.</li> <li>• A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers.</li> <li>• Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth.</li> <li>• Climate action, decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy.</li> <li>• Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law.</p>
<p><b>Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2024/EC</b></p> <p><b>recast: Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC</b></p>	<p>This new directive simplifies EU rules on ambient air quality by merging the two existing EU directives into one. Its goal is to bring quality standards in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.</p> <p>The new directive introduces stricter limits on key air pollutants, aligning EU standards more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.</p>	<p>Air quality is assessed using common methods and criteria across the EU, and the revised directive brings further improvements to air quality monitoring and modelling.</p> <p>The revised directive will also ensure early action, with air quality roadmaps that need to be prepared ahead of 2030 if there is a risk that the new standards will not be attained by that date. The air quality standards will be reviewed regularly in line with latest scientific evidence to assess whether they continue to be appropriate.</p> <p>The revised directive prioritises the health of EU citizens: it sets new air quality standards for pollutants to be reached by 2030 which are more closely aligned with the WHO air quality guidelines. Those pollutants include, among others, particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all known to cause respiratory problems. Member states may request that the 2030 deadline be postponed if specific conditions are met.</p>
<p><b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b></p>	<p>Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants</b></p>	<p>It aims to reduce the health risks and environmental impact of air pollution by establishing national emission reduction commitments. The Directive also aligns emission reduction commitments under EU law with international commitments (following the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012). The legislation was proposed as part of the EU's 2013 Clean Air Policy Package, which included a Clean Air Programme for Europe.</p>	<p>The Directive covers 5 air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sulphur dioxide;</li> <li>• nitrogen oxides;</li> <li>• non-methane volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• ammonia; and</li> <li>• fine particulate matter.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards.</p>
<p><b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b></p>	<p>The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.</p>	<p>The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.</p>
<p><b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended</b></p>	<p>Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p>	<p>The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.</p>
<p><b>Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)</b></p>	<p>Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.</p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.</p>

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<p><b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)</b></p>	<p>The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.</p>	<p>The revised Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020;</li> <li>more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport;</li> <li>puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty, it aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency;</li> <li>it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners;</li> <li>introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres;</li> <li>expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold;</li> <li>mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability;</li> <li>establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional, and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b></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"> <li>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;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <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><b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drinking Water Directive</b> - Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and to improve access to water intended for human consumption.</li> </ul>	<p>For purposes of the Directive, 'water intended for human consumption' means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all water, either in its original state or after treatment, intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes in both public and private premises, regardless of its origin and whether it is supplied from a distribution network, supplied from a tanker or put into bottles or containers, including spring waters;</li> <li>all water used in any food business for the manufacture, processing, preservation or marketing of products or substances intended for human consumption.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive</b> - Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the environment and human health from adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency in the sector.</li> </ul>	<p>The Directive establishes a detailed framework covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements for collection and treatment of urban wastewater in agglomerations above 1,000 population equivalent (p.e.)</li> <li>Standards for secondary, tertiary and new quaternary treatment of wastewater</li> <li>Extended producer responsibility for pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies to cover costs of removing micropollutants</li> <li>Energy neutrality targets for treatment plants</li> <li>Requirements for monitoring, reporting and public access to information</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b></p>	<p>The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sewage Sludge Directive (Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I A and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge.</p> <p>The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits</li> <li>to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture</li> </ul>	<p>The Directive also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets limits for the concentration of seven heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils (cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury, chromium)</li> <li>bans the use of sewage sludge that results in concentrations of these heavy metals in soil exceeding these limit values</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bathing Waters Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC)</b></p>	<p>With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.</p> <p>The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos</li> <li>move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management</li> <li>integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	<p>The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.</p> <p>The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.</p>
<p><b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b></p> <p><b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b></p>	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>
<p><b>EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962)</b></p> <p><b>CAP 2023-2027</b></p>	<p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;</li> <li>safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;</li> <li>help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;</li> <li>keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p>

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<p><b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle. The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p>
<p><b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership.</p>	<p>Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements.</p>
<p><b>European Commission's "Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change" (2021)</b></p>	<p>The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.</p>	<p>The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.</p>
<p><b>European Environment Agency's European Climate Risk Assessment (2024)</b></p>	<p>This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe.</p>	<p>The risks are evaluated in the contexts of risk severity, policy horizon (lead time and decision horizon), policy readiness and risk ownership. It further identifies priorities for EU policy action, based on a structured risk assessment united with qualitative aspects, such as considering social justice.</p>
<p><b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b></p>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> </ul> <p>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>
<p><b>European Green Deal (2019) and "Fit for 55" legislation (2021)</b></p>	<p>The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The "Fit for 55" legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal.</p>	<p>The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>The 'Fit for 55' package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the REPowerEU plan to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe's energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives.</p>
<p><b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b></p>	<p>Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.</p>	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b></p>	<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>Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)</b></p>	<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"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>

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<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</b>	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>• (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>• (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>• (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.</li> </ul>
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995)</b>	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>• The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>
<b>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</b>	The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>• Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>
<b>The Eight Environmental Action Programme (2021–2030)</b>	The 8th Environmental Action Programme (8th EAP) 2021–2030 sets the EU's legally binding environmental policy framework anchored in the European Green Deal. It establishes a long-term vision out to 2050 and specific targets for 2030.	By 2050, the goal is for Europeans to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Live well, within planetary boundaries"</li> <li>• Thrive in a well-being economy where nothing is wasted and growth is regenerative</li> <li>• Achieve climate neutrality</li> <li>• Substantially reduce inequalities</li> </ul>
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979)</b>	The convention has three main aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>• to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>• to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>• Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>• Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>• Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>• Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>• Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision.	The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions.
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation</li> <li>• Transparency of actions</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Adaptation</li> <li>• Forests</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>	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.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	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.	Among the many decisions taken, governments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020.</li> <li>• Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.</li> <li>• Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt.</li> <li>• Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)</b></p>	<p>The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>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</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ramsar Convention (1971)</b></p>	<p>The Convention's mission is <i>"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"</i>.</p>	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OSPAR Convention (1992)</b></p>	<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"> <li>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> <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><b>The National Planning Framework (first revision 2025) and associated National Development Plan Review (2025)</b></p>	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040.</p> <p>The new 2025 Framework is revised and updated to take account of changes that have occurred since it was published in 2018 and to build on the framework that is in place. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for the people, and to protect and enhance the environment.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan form a single vision for Ireland under Project Ireland 2040. The implementation of the National Planning Framework will continue to be fully supported by the Government's investment strategy for public capital investment and investment by the State sector in general, with the National Development Plan detailing key projects.</p>	<p>The ambition is to create a single vision, a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact Growth</li> <li>Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>Enhanced Amenities and Heritage</li> <li>Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources</li> <li>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>
<p><b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000; to amend certain other enactments; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning and Development Act 2024</b></p>	<p>An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 and amend certain other enactments; for purposes unrelated to the foregoing, to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<p>Key reforms included in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes, to give confidence and certainty to applicants;</li> <li>A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Coimisiún Pleanála;</li> <li>Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency;</li> <li>Improvements to the planning judicial review processes;</li> <li>Clearer, more consistent policies and guidance;</li> <li>Longer term, more strategic, ten-year plans for Local Authorities;</li> <li>More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities;</li> <li>Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage;</li> <li>Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and;</li> <li>Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul>

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<b>S.I. No. 456 of 2025, the European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025</b>	S.I. No. 456 of 2025, the European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025, came into effect on 2 October 2025 to update SEA requirements for land-use plans. These regulations replace S.I. No. 436 of 2004, mandating environmental assessments for regional strategies, development plans, and certain planning schemes to ensure environmental protection.	These Regulations detail requirements for SEA, including the determination of need for assessment, the assessment process itself, the content and scoping of environmental reports, consultation procedures, handling transboundary effects, decision-making processes, information disclosure, monitoring and joint or coordinated assessments. Further explanation of the Regulations can be found in the attached Appendix. The Regulations include a new provision (Regulation 14) to allow for the carrying out of joint or coordinated assessments where both a SEA and an Appropriate Assessment are required.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended</b>	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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>• Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended</b>	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> </ul>
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>• Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>• Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007) Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013) Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013) Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017) Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 39 of 2022)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>• Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>• Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Uisce Éireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> </ul>
<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024</b>	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p>	<p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is made up of investment in individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants and upgrading existing networks, and national programmes where activities are being delivered in a consistent and efficient manner across the country. Some examples of these programmes are the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme.</p>
<b>Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027</b>	The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2050. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 was created in alignment with Ireland's Forest Strategy and is designed to provide lasting benefits for many key areas including climate change, biodiversity, wood production, and employment alongside enhancing societal benefits. The Forestry Programme will provide incentives for farmers and other landowners and will provide farm families with the opportunity to increase and diversify their income streams.

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<b>Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024)</b>	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthen the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for 'targeting the right measures in the right place' and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.
<b>Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027</b>	The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.	The programme is comprised of 2,899 surface and groundwater bodies representing 60% of the total number of national water bodies, covering 2,429 river water bodies, 224 lakes, 80 transitional water bodies, 45 coastal waters, 16 canals and 121 groundwater bodies. The programme is operated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Authorities.
<b>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021)</b>	<p>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> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP Framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE)</li> <li>• Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM)</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>
<b>National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030</b>	The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by the European Commission in 2022.	The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	<p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>• to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.
<b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024)</b>	<p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040.</p> <p>The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p>	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>• clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>• direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>
<b>Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027</b>	Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"	The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b></p>	<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><b>National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network</b></p>	<p>The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.</p>	<p>The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).</p>
<p><b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b></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"> <li>To give direction to Ireland’s approach to peatland management.</li> <li>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>To ensure that Ireland’s peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022)</b></p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland’s Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.</p>	<p>Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure pits, silage pits or silage clamps arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle.</p> <p>Part 3 concerns nutrient management.</p> <p>Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied.</p> <p>Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters.</p> <p>Part 6 is functions of the public authorities: certificates, exemptions, etc.</p>
<p><b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014)</b></p>	<p>These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b></p>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ireland’s 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b></p>	<p>Ireland’s 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 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.</p>	<p>This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <p>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</p>
<p><b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b></p>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	<p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p>

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<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	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"> <li>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,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>
<b>National Climate Action Plans</b>	<p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided 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.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.</p>
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>
<b>Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans</b>	The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments.	To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project. The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines' publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.
<b>National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022)</b>	<p>It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe and green mobility;</li> <li>People focussed mobility; and</li> <li>Better integrated mobility.</li> </ul>	The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022-2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and DART+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country.
<b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated implementation plan</b>	It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery.	The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.
<b>Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2025-2027</b>	The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2025-2027 sets out a pathway for achievement of Climate Action Plan biofuel targets as well as delivery of the targets and requirements for renewable energy share in transport under the European Union Renewable Energy Directive, including EU requirements for sustainability certification and greenhouse gas reduction.	<p>The Department updates the policy every two years to ensure it remains agile and responsive to market trends and other variables impacting on the achievement of the objectives set out.</p> <p>The latest iteration of the policy explores potential for further deployment of renewable fuels for all transport modes, incentivises increased supply of advanced biofuels and renewable fuels of non-biological origin, and seeks to strengthen sustainability assurance mechanisms within EU frameworks and continue to ensure policy is grounded on latest research and market developments. The policy contains 19 actions aimed at delivering on the objectives set out over the next two years.</p>

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<b>National Energy Security Framework (2022)</b>	<p>National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.</p>	<p>The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term</li> <li>- ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23</li> <li>- reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU</li> </ul>
<b>Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (updated 2024)</b>	<p>National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years, this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decarbonisation</li> <li>- Energy Efficiency</li> <li>- Energy Security</li> <li>- Internal Energy Market</li> <li>- Research, Innovation and Competitiveness</li> </ul> <p>The NECP brings together the policies, targets, tools and associated material relating to our climate and energy obligations under various EU Regulations and Directives from across government bodies and departments into one document. It reflects our ambitions and provides certainty to investors and policymakers that we are committed to EU-wide targets and ambitions to move towards becoming a carbon-neutral society.</p>	<p>It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024.</p>
<b>National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024</b>	<p>It is the second National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals reviews the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs</p> <p>Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals</p> <p>Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms</p>
<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040</b>	<p>The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.</p>	<p>The PLUTO seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) (2021)</b>	<p>The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p>
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	<p>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</p>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>• Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>• Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts;</li> <li>• Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> <li>• To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	<p>€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>• It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>
<b>Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 ("Energy Security Package")</b>	<p>It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050.</p>	<p>The Energy Security Package includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced and Responsive Demand</li> <li>• A Renewables-Led System</li> <li>• More Resilient Systems</li> <li>• Robust Risk Governance</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<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. It aims at improving synergies and identifying and tackling policy gaps, policy conflicts and trade-offs as part of a coherent, joined-up approach to policy making on sustainable development.</p> <p>Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Framework are to: • Identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable progress towards the strategy aims. • Highlight and promote existing sustainable practices that, with the correct support, can underpin sustainable development more generally. • Strengthen policy integration, coherence and co-ordination and bring a long term perspective to decision making. • Set out governance mechanisms which ensure effective participation within government and across all stakeholders. • Set out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan. • Set out how progress is to be measured and reported on through the use of indicators. • Incorporate adequate and effective monitoring, learning and improvement into the Framework process.</p>
<p><b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020</b></p>	<p>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>
<p><b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b></p>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan vision: 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>	<p>Three high-level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCA) 2016</b></p>	<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><b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTAS) 2017-2030</b></p>	<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"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b></p>	<p>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.</p>	<p>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020. Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.</p>
<p><b>National Cycle Network Plan Report 2023 (Transport Infrastructure Ireland, on behalf of the Department of Transport)</b></p>	<p>The planned National Cycle Network, presented below, links cities and towns of over 5,000 people with a safe, connected and inviting cycle network. One of the most ambitious and wide-reaching infrastructure plans in the history of the State, the proposed cycle network of approximately 3,500km will connect more than 200 settlements and 2.8m people.</p> <p>The National Cycle Network will link to destinations such as transport hubs, centres of education, centres of employment, leisure, and tourist destinations with the intention of facilitating greater cycling and walking amongst students, leisure users, tourists, and commuters alike.</p> <p>The NCN Plan complements other networks and establishes a core spine of infrastructure to encourage further development of cycling projects in the future, thereby optimising the potential for people to cycle as part of their daily activities, such as travel to work or education.</p>	<p>As well as contributing to Ireland's commitments to sustainability and decarbonisation, successful implementation of the NCN Plan will provide many benefits for cyclists and communities across Ireland, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring delivery of a high-quality cycle network which will promote safety, comfort and increased participation in cycling.</li> <li>Improving sustainable connectivity nationally and providing links with other networks such as CycleConnects, EuroVelo and Northern Ireland networks.</li> <li>Supporting both urban and rural economies through increased leisure and tourism cycling.</li> <li>Improving public health through well documented benefits of active travel.</li> <li>Guiding how local authorities prioritise exchequer-funded investments in cycle infrastructure.</li> <li>Making use of existing infrastructure wherever possible including greenways, road infrastructure, and declassified roads where safe and inviting cycle experiences can be provided.</li> <li>The NCN aligns with the NTA's CycleConnects programme of urban and county-level cycle networks, as well as other cycle routes and networks in various stages of development, including the EuroVelo routes, national and regional greenways, and the Strategic Plan for Greenways in Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b></p>	<p>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>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>
<p><b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>

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<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010)</b>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. National Renewable Energy Action Plan.	The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020)</b>	Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.	It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>
<b>Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1 (EirGrid)</b>	The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1 is to outline how we can make the grid ready so that 80% of Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity can come from renewable sources, like the wind and sun, by 2030. These targets, and new limits to carbon emissions, are the product of updates to climate change policy across the island in 2022.	Key goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the delivery of renewable electricity.</li> <li>• Find problems, gaps, opportunities, potential collaborations, or areas of duplication in the deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Help to find and resolve potential regulatory, administrative and/or legal barriers to the faster deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Increase alignment across the energy sector to support the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects.</li> <li>• Recommend appropriate investment conditions for electricity projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	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"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>• Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>• Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>• The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>• Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>• Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>• Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>• Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	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: <i>"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."</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)</b>	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.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;</li> <li>2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;</li> <li>3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste.</li> <li>4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;</li> <li>5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.</li> </ol>

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<b>National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024)</b>	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	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.
<b>Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025</b>	The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.	It is based around four key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• to reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b>	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ), and fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.  The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy 2023</b>	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b>	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level "Missions" for the sector to work toward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>• Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being</li> <li>• Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>• An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent</li> </ul>
<b>Agricultural Schemes, including:  Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP)</b>	Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>• Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>• Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>• Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
<b>National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended)</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas.	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.	A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>

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<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.  The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.  The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b>	10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.  Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.	At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>• Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>• Participation and Reputation</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>
<b>Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998</b>	The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.	This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1998, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.
<b>Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DHLGH, 2024)</b>	The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.	The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.
<b>Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</b>	The Guidelines have five key policy objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that retail development is plan-led;</li> <li>• Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development;</li> <li>• Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations;</li> <li>• Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and</li> <li>• Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</li> </ul>	The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.
<b>Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</b>	Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.	Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.
<b>National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027</b>	The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.	This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.
<b>Derelict Sites Act (1990)</b>	An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable Local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961.	Under the Act, local authorities can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served</li> <li>• Make compulsory land purchases</li> <li>• Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost</li> </ul> All local authorities must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain derelict sites register</li> <li>• Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site.</li> </ul>

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<b>Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.	This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.
<b>Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland</b>	The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to purchase or rent at an affordable price</li> <li>• built to a high standard and in the right place</li> <li>• offering a high quality of life</li> </ul>	The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting home ownership and increasing affordability</li> <li>• eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion</li> <li>• increasing new housing supply</li> <li>• addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock</li> </ul>
<b>Town Centre First Policy (2022)</b>	The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and cultural.	The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.
<b>IDA's Adapt Intelligently: A Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Innovation 2025-29 and associated developments</b>	IDA Ireland's strategy 2025-29 is an ambitious and positive approach to a fast-changing world. Drawing on the opportunities for growth arising from the structural forces that are reshaping the global economy, it sets an ambition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Ireland to be a leading location for smart, sustainable manufacturing and intelligent, digitalised services</li> <li>• To increase the number of companies undertaking cutting-edge research and innovation and the scope, scale and ambition of their Research, Development and Innovation activity</li> <li>• To retain and enhance Ireland's position in key strategic value chains</li> <li>• To grow the level of investment in sustainable business practices and processes and in developing new sustainability and energy-efficient technologies</li> <li>• For Ireland to be a leading location for the world-class talent and skills needed to realise future growth opportunities.</li> </ul>	In pursuit of the strategic objectives and targets, IDA Ireland will win 1,000 investments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure €7bn in new Research, Development and Innovation investment</li> <li>• Deliver 550 regional investments</li> <li>• Reduce IDA Ireland client carbon emissions by 35%</li> <li>• Create 75,000 jobs</li> <li>• Upskill 40,000 people.</li> <li>• This in turn will support IDA Ireland client spend in Ireland of €250bn over the lifetime of the strategy on wages, Irish goods and services, and capital investment, providing further opportunity and economic impact across local supply chains.</li> </ul>
<b>National Biodiversity Adaptation Plan 2025</b>	The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Biodiversity Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2025 is the second Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Ireland's Biodiversity Sector. It has been developed under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and the National Adaptation Framework (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, 2024). The 2025 Plan builds on the 2019 Plan and integrates the latest climate and ecological science, stakeholder engagement, and national and international strategies. The Plan is a national-scale plan that considers climate change impacts and risks across Ireland's terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biodiversity. It assesses sectoral consequences under two climate scenarios.	The Plan is aligned with the objectives of the 4 <sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan and supports the overarching objectives of the Nature Restoration Regulation to put restoration measures in place to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. The Plan sets out three strategic goals supported by eight objectives and 22 new actions, alongside coordinated delivery of 43 existing actions from the 4 <sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan. These actions range from strengthening the evidence base for adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and nature-based solutions to governance, monitoring, and public engagement. Each action is linked to delivery owners, timelines, and indicators to support implementation and alignment with Ireland's climate commitments. Governance and implementation are supported by a Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning framework, annual progress reviews, and funding mechanisms. The Plan also recognises cross-sectoral interdependencies, highlighting how climate impacts and adaptation efforts in biodiversity influence and are influenced by sectors such as agriculture, water, health, energy, and infrastructure. Through this integrated and forward-looking approach, the Plan aims to mainstream climate adaptation and build long-term resilience across Ireland's ecosystems, ensuring that biodiversity continues to support climate regulation, human wellbeing, and sustainable development.
<b>Heritage Ireland 2030 (2020)</b>	The Vision from Heritage Ireland is: "Recognised for its contribution to society and well-being, Ireland's heritage will be valued, nurtured and protected and placed at the very centre of our decision"	Heritage Ireland 2030 is Ireland's new national heritage plan. It is built around a vision of our heritage – in all its forms – being at very centre of local and national discourse, valued by all and cared for and protected for future generations. At the heart of this framework are three themes: communities, leadership and partnerships. These themes reflect the importance of ongoing collaboration between government and communities, heritage organisations, individuals and local authorities in caring and planning for our shared heritage. Heritage Ireland 2030 suggests a series of structures under which all these stakeholders can come together to advance the protection of Ireland's heritage through over 150 actions. These structures will be established in Q1 and Q2 of 2022 ahead of the publication of an implementation plan in Q3 which will assign actions and timeframes to responsible stakeholders.
<b>Emerging NTA CycleConnects: Ireland's Cycle Network</b>	Aims to improve sustainable travel by providing the potential for more trips on a safe, accessible and convenient cycling network, connecting more people to more places.	Proposals for cycling links in key cities, towns and villages in each county are included in the plan, in addition to connections between the larger towns, villages and settlements. The plan also incorporates existing and planned cycle routes such as greenways and blueways.  The draft proposals envisage an extensive cycling network across the 22 counties, complementing the cycling plans already developed for the Greater Dublin Area (Meath, Kildare, Wicklow and Dublin). Together these plans will create an overall comprehensive cycle network for Ireland.
<b>The All-Island Strategic Rail Review</b>	The All-Island Strategic Rail Review aims to enhance and expand the rail system across Ireland and Northern Ireland with 32 strategic recommendations for development up to 2050.	The All-Island Strategic Rail Review was jointly commissioned by the Department of Transport in Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland. Its primary goal is to create a strategic vision for the rail system that supports sustainable transport, enhances connectivity, and aligns with net carbon zero commitments in both jurisdictions. The review emphasizes the importance of rail as a backbone for a high-quality transport system that benefits communities and the economy.
<b>December 2013 the European parliament adopted Regulation (EU) No.315/2013 on Guidelines for the development of the Trans European Transport Network (Ten-T), (amended in 2014 to include supplementary maps (EU) No.473/2014)</b>	The Guidelines set out that member states shall "take appropriate measures" to complete their core network by 2030; the maps associated with the Regulations show the core network corridors of the TEN-T extending from Dublin to Belfast, and Dublin to Cork only.	Nationally, as a result of the directive, parts of the N13 (including the Letterkenny to Bridgend section), N14 and N15 have also been identified as part of the TEN-T network

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<p><b>Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032</b></p>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>The RSES includes a high-level Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan for Galway. This sets out the strategic direction for the Metropolitan Area to achieve compact growth which is the first national strategic outcome (NSO) of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Roscommon County Council; Donegal County Council; Sligo County Council; Leitrim County Council; Mayo County Council; Monaghan County Council; Cavan County Council; Galway City Council; and Galway County Council.</p>
<p><b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b></p>	<p>The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus;</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable</li> <li>• Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b></p>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Land Use Plans including those in force in County Roscommon (including the overarching Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 and associated variations and Boyle Settlement Plan , and those in force in neighbouring local authorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>• Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Boyle 2040</b></p>	<p>The plan has been developed to give a local expression to the principles to secure compact and sustainable urban growth as set out in the National Planning Framework 'Project Ireland 2040', for the benefit of the town.</p>	<p>The objective of the Boyle 2040 regeneration projects, many of which, it is intended, will be realised in the early years of Boyle 2040, are to provide quick win development on key strategic sites within the study area, to stimulate an immediate uplifting effect and influence the development of nearby lands by the private sector. These regeneration projects are also about demonstrating the principles advocated by Boyle 2040 in a tangible way.</p>
<p><b>Boyle Community and Economic Plan 2024-2028</b></p>	<p>The rationale for any Community and Economic Plan that a sustainable settlement performs better and meets the aspirations of its citizens and visitors to it when it is has a strong economy working in partnership with an effective and energised community and voluntary sector and with all these stakeholders working to a common vision for that place.</p>	<p>The Community and Economic Plan recognises that significant strategic investment has already been undertaken or is underway in Boyle led by the Council. These strategic investment projects will help create the conditions for the town to develop and grow and therefore set the context for the implementation of this Community and Economic Plan developed and led by the people of Boyle.</p>
<p><b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including Roscommon LECP 2023-2029</b></p>	<p>The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities."</p>	<p>The purpose of the Local Economic and Community Plan 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 in county Laois.</p>
<p><b>Town Centre First Plans</b></p>	<p>Town Centre First aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.</p>	<p>Town Centre First (TFC) lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan, which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges. The TCF approach is centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration and communication – a collaborative process involving all relevant local stakeholders, represented by a collaborative Town Team, with good communication in respect of issues raised and the agreed direction.</li> <li>• Understanding the place – analysis and appraisal underpinned by a town audit/ data gathering -process.</li> <li>• Defining the place – shaping the plan around high-level objectives that are subsequently expressed through a series of actions.</li> <li>• Enabling the place– identifying a clear path to delivery of the Plan, cognisant that this will require actions of varying scale to be delivered by different partners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Local Authority Tourism Strategy</b></p>	<p>Local authority tourism strategies are six-year plans that identify opportunities and challenges for tourism in an area, outlining actions to grow the industry through marketing, events, and infrastructure development.</p>	<p>These strategies involve collaboration with local businesses and communities to preserve culture and resources while promoting sustainable growth, often resulting in the development of attractions, festivals, and improved visitor amenities.</p>
<p><b>Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy</b></p>	<p>The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County.</p>	<p>The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy.</p>
<p><b>Local Authority Climate Action Charter 2019</b></p>	<p>The Climate Action Charter is a key action in the Plan and will ensure every local authority embeds decarbonisation, sustainable development and climate resilience into every aspect of the work they do. This Plan will ensure to meet local authority's 2030 climate commitments, on a trajectory to be net-zero emissions by 2050.</p>	<p>The Charter commits Local Authorities to several actions that will ensure that they play a key leadership role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action.</p>
<p><b>County Roscommon Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment in adjoining local authorities</b></p>	<p>Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area.</li> <li>• Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Biodiversity Action Plans</b></p>	<p>The Biodiversity Action Plans outline a strategic framework to protect, restore, and enhance local habitats and species.</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Action Plans focus on strengthening ecological networks, tackling key environmental pressures, and promoting community engagement to foster a greener, more resilient urban environment.</p>

### Screening for AA Report

<b>Roscommon Heritage Strategy 2025-2029</b>	The Strategy sets out the high-level vision, mission and strategic objectives for the management and protection of heritage in the county for the next five years.	The heritage strategy and associated action plans will ensure that the Heritage Act 1995 and national and regional heritage policy are translated to local actions and address local needs in a coordinated and effective way. The Heritage Strategy provides the context for Roscommon County Council to work with and support local communities and custodians.
<b>Roscommon Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The purpose of Noise Action Plans is to inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems. Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects. Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good.
<b>County Roscommon Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021) Ireland is now on a legally binding path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade. The act requires local authorities to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan, which runs for 5 years to meet national emission reductions targets and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change.	The ambition of this Plan is in line with the Government's National Climate Objective, which seeks to transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.
<b>Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024-2030</b>	The plan provides a pathway for the accelerated delivery of regional and local networks of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood areas, in line with both national and European ambitions for cleaner transportation. The plan ensures a cohesive and standardised approach. It will be led by local authorities, working together to develop regional and local strategies to promote a unified and efficient rollout of charging infrastructure and to facilitate the equitable transition to EVs.	The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan provides a way forward for equitably delivering charging infrastructure at a national and local level to support the national and international efforts to reduce transport-related carbon emissions through the shift to zero emission vehicles for all users. The plan lays out a pathway, adhering to the fundamental principles below set out in the Infrastructure Strategy, to sustainably deliver charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood locations.
<b>Local Neighbourhood and Destination Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategies</b>	The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan published for consultation by ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) in 2024 sets out minimum charging capacity requirements for local authorities per geographical area.	By developing a comprehensive network of strategically located charging stations, the strategies are intended to support the growing number of EVs on Irish roads, ensuring that all areas are adequately served and help meet the climate action targets.
<b>'The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan' by the National Transport Authority</b>	The plan aims to improve mobility in rural areas, and it will do this by providing better connections between villages and towns by linking these areas with an enhanced regional network connecting cities and regional centres nationwide.	These principles include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing frequency on existing routes to attract more passengers;</li> <li>• Design useful and integrated timetables;</li> <li>• Schedule services to arrive at a centre before 09:00, particularly for work and education trips;</li> <li>• Allow for trips in the middle of the day for those shopping, attending health appointments, or visiting friends and family;</li> <li>• Schedule a return home at around 17:30 and potentially provide later services for socialising and evening retail where there is demand;</li> <li>• Provide services seven days a week;</li> <li>• Provide local routes that connect smaller settlements with the regional public transport network with integrated timetables that allow more interchange opportunities; and</li> <li>• Serve key locations within towns, e.g. hospitals, train stations, educational institutes, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" including Destination Experience Development Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.  The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.

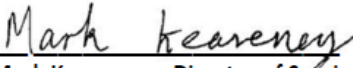
**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination**  
for the  
**Draft Boyle Local Transport Plan 2026**

This determination whether the Draft Boyle Local Transport Plan 2026 would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

An accompanying Screening for AA Report has been prepared to inform this determination. As identified in that report:

- The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that is subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely sets out recommendations that may be considered for integration into Statutory documents, such as the Roscommon County Development Plan.
- In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. As such, implementation of the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. All provisions from the Roscommon County Development Plan (including those identified in this Screening for SEA report) shall be complied with throughout the implementation of the Plan.
- Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the Plan was assessed for all sources and pathways for potential significant effects to the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests of the European sites considered, in view their Conservation Objectives, in the absence of any mitigation measures. It was found that the Plan does not introduce any additional sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing planning framework and associated AA processes.
- Therefore, it is concluded, in this Screening for AA report to inform the competent authority carrying out the AA Screening, that the Plan is not foreseen to have any likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore the risk of significant effects to any European site as a result of the implementation of the Plan can be ruled out.
- This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the “Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report”. The undersigned hereby determines that the Draft Local Transport Plan for Boyle is not likely to result in significant effects on European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Signatory:   
Mark Keaveney – Director of Services

Date: 02-04-2026