



# Limerick and Clare Sports and Physical Recreation Strategy

*Habitats Directive Screening Report June 2013*

Prepared by Limerick Institute of Technology for Clare County Council, Limerick City Council, Limerick County Council and the Midwest Regional Authority



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## Abbreviations

ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DoCMNR	Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources
DoECLG	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ER	Environmental Report
EU	European Union
GHG	Green House Gas Emissions
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
HDA	Habitats Directive Assessment
EHDA	Extended Habitats Directive Assessment
IGHP	Irish Geological Heritage Programme
LAP	Local Area Plan
LCEA	Limerick Clare Energy Agency
LCSPRS	Limerick and Clare Sports and Physical Recreation Strategy
MWRA	Mid West Regional Authority
MWRPG	Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen dioxide
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRA	National Roads Authority
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
OPW	Office of Public Works
P/P	Plan/Programme
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
POMS	Programme of Measures

PPP	Public Private Partnership
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plans
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPG	Regional Planning Guidelines
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RWP	The Rural Water Programme
S.I. No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SAA	Shannon Airport Authority
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDZ	Strategic Development Zone
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SIRBD	Shannon International River Basin District
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulphur dioxide
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WMU	Water Management Units
WRBD	Western River Basin District
WSIP	The Water Services Investment Programme
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

## Glossary

### **Alternatives (Reasonable)**

Alternatives should take into account the objectives and geographical scope of the P/P. There can be different ways of fulfilling the P/P objectives, or of dealing with environmental problems. The alternatives should be realistic, capable of implementation and should fall within the legal and geographical competence of the authority concerned.

### **Appropriate Assessment**

An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites).

### **Baseline Environment**

A description of the present state of the environment of the P/P area.

### **Baseline Survey**

Description of the existing environment against which future changes can be measured.

### **Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992). Flora is all of the plants found in a given area. Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.

### **Biotic Index Values (Q Values)**

The Biotic Index Values, or Q values, are assigned to rivers in accordance with biological monitoring of surface waters - low Q ratings, as low as Q1, are indicative of low biodiversity and polluted waters, and high Q ratings, as high as Q5, are indicative of high biodiversity and unpolluted waters. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to approximately Q4 in the national scheme of biological classification of rivers as set out by the Environmental Protection Agency.

### **Birds Directive**

EU Council Directive of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC).

### **Built Environment**

Refers to both architectural heritage and archaeological heritage.

### **Cumulative Effects**

Effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space

### **Data**

Includes environmental data, proxy data, and any other relevant statistical data.

### **Designated Environmental Authority**

An organisation that must be consulted in accordance with the SEA Regulations. For Ireland these are the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural

Resources (DCENR) and in certain circumstances the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG).

### **Ecology**

The study of relationships between living organisms and between organisms and their environment (especially animal and plant communities), their energy flows and their interactions with their surroundings.

### **Environmental Assessment**

The preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision (in accordance with Articles 4 to 9 of the SEA Directive).

### **Environmental Characteristics**

Environmental resources, issues and trends in the area affected by the P/P.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

An ordered exercise designed to enable the environmental impacts of a proposed development/project to be anticipated before the project is carried out.

### **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

A statement of results from the ordered exercise which focuses on anticipating all environmental impacts of significance of a proposed development, prior to implementation or construction, and which specifies those measures which should be taken to eliminate or mitigate such impacts to an acceptable level.

### **Environmental Indicator**

An environmental indicator is a measure of an environmental variable over time, used to measure achievement of environmental objectives and targets.

### **Environmental Objective**

Environmental objectives are broad, overarching principles which should specify a desired direction of environmental change.

### **Environmental Problems**

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse. Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

### **Environmental Receptors**

Include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological) and landscape as listed in the SEA Directive. This list is not exhaustive, and can include other receptors which may arise for a particular P/P.

**Environmental Report (ER)**

A document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.

**Environmental Targets**

A target usually underpins an objective often having a time deadline that should be met and should be accompanied by limits or thresholds.

**Environmental Vectors**

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings.

**Evolution of the Baseline**

A description of the future state of the baseline in the absence of a plan or programme assuming 'business as usual' or 'do nothing' scenarios, depending on which is more reasonable for the P/P being proposed.

**Extended Habitats Directive Assessment**

This refers to a more detailed assessment of the potential impact of a plan or policy on a Natura 2000 site if an initial screening suggests that a negative impact is likely.

**Geographical Information System (GIS)**

Refers to a computer system that collects, stores, views and analyses geographical information and commonly creates maps as an output.

**Geology**

Science of the earth, including the composition, structure and origin of its rocks.

**Habitat**

Area in which an organism or group of organisms live.

**Habitats Directive**

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

**Habitats Directive Assessment**

An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites).

**Hierarchy of Plans**

Both higher and lower level P/P relevant to the P/P being assessed.

**Indirect effect**

Any aspect of a P/P that may have an impact (positive or negative) on the environment, but that is not a direct result of the proposed P/P. May also be referred to as a secondary effect.

**Interrelationships**

Associations or linkages, related to environmental impact of the proposed P/P usually on environmental receptors.

**Issues Paper**

Paper produced as part of the consultation process, usually for Land Use Plans, to facilitate consultation with stakeholders on key issues.



**Invasive Alien Species**

Plants or animals which did not originally occur in Ireland before human colonisation of the country and which are expanding their numbers and distribution so as to cause a competitive threat to such native fauna and flora.

**Key Environmental Issues**

Those significant environmental issues, which are of particular relevance and significance within a P/P area and/or the zone of influence of that P/P. These issues should be identified during SEA Scoping process.

**Key Environmental Receptors**

Aspects of the environment likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed P/P.

**Material Assets**

Critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment transportation etc.

**Member States**

Those countries that belong to the European Union.

**Mitigate**

To make or become less severe or harsh.

**Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

**Monitoring** A continuing assessment of environmental conditions at and surrounding, the plan or programme. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted. The primary purpose of monitoring is to identify significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.

**Monitoring Programme**

A detailed description of the monitoring arrangements to be put in place to carry out the monitoring of the impact of the proposed P/P on the environment including; frequency of monitoring, who has responsibility for monitoring, and responses if monitoring identifies significant negative impacts.

**Natura 2000 Site**

Designated European Site. In combination Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas will constitute Natura 2000 network of protected sites for habitats and species across the EU.

**Natural Heritage**

Refers to habitats and species of flora and fauna.

**Non-technical Summary**

A summary of the findings of the ER, summarized under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive that can be readily understood by decision- makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the ER.

**Plan or Programme**

Including those co-financed by the European Community, as well as any modifications to them which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.

In accordance with the SEA Directive, P/P that require SEA are those that fulfill the conditions listed in Article 2(a) and Article 3 of the SEA Directive.

**Post-mitigation Residual Impacts**

Environmental effects that remain after mitigation measures have been employed.

**Protected Structure**

Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning Act of 2000 to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the Planning Authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.

**Proxy Data**

Is a measure of activity resulting from a P/P which provides information on environmental impact without the need for a direct measure of an environmental receptor. For example, an increase in the number of vehicles (activity resulting from a P/P) can provide information on the impact on air quality and greenhouse gases without having to measure the concentration of these parameters in the receiving environmental receptor.

**Public**

One or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.

**Recorded Monument**

A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out County by County under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

**Scoping**

The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.

**Screening**

The determination of whether implementation of a P/P would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a P/P requires SEA.

**SEA Directive**

Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.

**SEA Statement**

A statement summarising:

- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the P/P

- how the ER, the opinions of the public and designated authorities, and the results of transboundary consultations have been taken into account
- the reasons for choosing the P/P as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives.

### **Secondary Effect**

Effects that are not a direct result of the P/P. This is another name for 'indirect effect'.

### **Sensitivity**

Potential for significant change to any element in the environment that is subject to impacts.

### **Short-term Effects**

These are typical of those effects that may occur during construction stage of a development, for example, the increased traffic going to and from a site during construction, or, the noise associated with construction activities.

### **Significant Effects**

Effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

### **SPA**

Special Protection Area under Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), designated for bird species listed in Annex I of the Directive, in particular internationally important concentrations of migratory and wetland birds. Designation is focused on habitats of these species.

### **Statutory Authority**

The authority by which or on whose behalf the plan or programme is prepared.

### **Statutory Instrument**

Any order, regulation, rule, scheme or bye-law made in exercise of a power conferred by statute.

### **Strategic Actions**

Strategic actions include: Policies, which may be considered as inspiration and guidance for action and which set the framework for plans and programmes; Plans, sets of co-ordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of the policy; and Programmes, sets of projects in a particular area.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it. The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

### **Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)**

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which environmental effects can be tested.

### **Synergistic Effect**

Effects that, when totaled, result in a greater or lesser effect than the sum of the individual effects.

**Threshold**

Magnitude of a project, which if exceeded, will trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment.

**Transboundary Consultation**

If a plan or programme is being prepared that is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State, or where a Member State likely to be significantly affected so requests, the Member State in whose territory the plan or programme is being prepared shall, before the plan or programmes adoption or submission to the legislative procedure, forward a copy of the draft plan or programme and the relevant environmental report to the other Member State.

**Zone of Influence**

The area over which a plan can impact on the environment.

## **Limerick and Clare Sports and Physical Recreation Strategy**

### **Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report**

# **1 Habitats Directive Assessment - Screening**

## **1.1 Background**

In circumstances in which it is possible that a plan or programme might impact negatively on a Natura 2000 site it is necessary to carry out an assessment as to the nature of that impact and to ascertain whether mitigation measures are possible. If such measures are not possible strategies which would result in damage to a Natura 2000 site are presumed not to be acceptable other than in exceptional circumstances.

A number of potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites have been identified that could arise from actions that would be taken in the context of the LCSPRS if adequate mitigation measures were not taken. In order to ensure that appropriate protection is given to the Natura 2000 sites, certain policies and projects in the LCSPRS has been made conditional on adequate evaluations and mitigations being carried out at project level to ensure that these priority habitats are not damaged.

These conditions have been incorporated into the LCSPRS and are denoted in the LCSPRS as having arisen from the SEA or HDA screening process.

The SAC and SPA descriptions in the following table are direct quotes or edited extracts from the site synopses from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, 2009).

## **1.2 Conclusion**

The Sports and Physical Recreation Strategy, does not identify areas or sites for development that are sufficiently specific to permit or require a detailed assessment of their impact on any Natura 2000 site. Such assessments, where necessary, should be carried out when a specific project is being considered. However, the general environmental conditions incorporated in the strategy provide adequate protection to Natura 2000 sites.

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Ballyallia Lake	Clare	A naturally eutrophic lake situated on the River Fergus approximately 4 km north of Ennis. Also an SPA. Includes Lough Girroga.		<p>No development shall be permitted or specific policy adopted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>
Ballycullinan Lake	Clare	A calcareous lake situated approximately 2 km south of Corrofin. A <i>Cladium</i> fen site. Includes a series of smaller lakes to the north-east.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be</p>

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				satisfactorily mitigated
Ballyogan Lough	Clare	A complex of limestone pavement, scrub woodland, lake and fen situated about 10 km east of Corrofin. <i>Cladium</i> fen.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>
Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex	Clare	Encompasses a complete range of rocky Burren habitats from coastal, glacially planed limestone pavements to high level heaths. Includes the Caher River and Fanore dunes. Of international scientific interest.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no</p>



SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
<u>Danes Hole, Poulnalecka</u>	Clare	A small fossil cave in the banks of the Ahaclare River situated within a wood approximately 4 km west of Broadford. Site of international importance for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. A nearby summer roost for the bat and the commuting routes between the two are also included.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
<u>Dromore Woods and Loughs</u>	Clare	Situated in central Clare 9 km north-north-west of Ennis. Contains a mosaic of different habitats. Includes several lakes which are mostly linked by the River Fergus. Habitat for Pine Marten, Otter and a Lesser Horseshoe Bat population of international importance.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
<u>Inagh River Estuary</u>	Clare	An estuarine channel that flows westwards to the sea from Ennistimon. Holds examples of five habitat types listed in the EU Habitats Directive.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Pouladatig Cave	Clare	A natural limestone cave, west of Ennis. A hibernating site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. Of international importance.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Lough Gash Turlough	Clare	West of Newmarket-on-Fergus. One of the latest turloughs to dry out in any year. Habitat to two rare plant species.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Moneen Mountain	Clare	A large, composite site situated in north County Clare. Extends inland from Muckinish Point and includes all of the higher ground between Ballyvaughan and Bell Harbour in a southerly direction for approximately 20km. The bulk of the site is made up of limestone pavement. Contains a breeding colony of Lesser Horseshoe Bats. Of international scientific importance.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Moyree River System	Clare	Situated in a sheltered valley on the south-eastern fringe of the Burren. Contains good examples of four habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Internationally important summer roosting and hibernation site for Lesser Horseshoe Bats.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>
Poulnagordon Cave (Quin)	Clare	A natural limestone cave used as a hibernation site by the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Galway Bay Complex	Clare	Comprises the inner, shallow part of the large Galway Bay. Includes a diverse range of marine, coastal and terrestrial habitats. Of immense conservation importance, with many habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative</p>

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Loughatorick South Bog	Clare	Blanket bog about 8 km north-west of Mountshannon, straddling the Clare/Galway border.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Ballyteige	Clare	Wet meadow and heath, located 2 km west of Lisdoonvarna.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Ballyvaughan Turlough	Clare	A turlough situated about 1.5 km south-west of Ballyvaughan.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Glenomra Wood	Clare	Deciduous wood located in south-east Clare, about 10 km north of Limerick City.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Carrowmore Point To Spanish Point and Islands	Clare	Extends along the Clare coastline from Spanish Point (3 km west of Milltown Malbay), in a south-south-westerly direction to Carrowmore Point. The presence of a lagoon and petrifying springs are of particular significance.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>
Termon Lough	Clare	A turlough situated approximately 6 km south-west of Gort.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Glendree Bog	Clare	Highland blanket bog located in the Slieve Aughty range 13 km west-north-west of Scarriff.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
East Burren Complex	Clare	This large site incorporates all of the high ground in the east Burren, and extends south-eastwards to include a complex of calcareous wetlands. Of international scientific interest.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated  No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Old Domestic Building (Keevagh)	Clare	Breeding site of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat near the village of Quin.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Newhall and Edenvale Complex	Clare	Natural fossil limestone caves south of Ennis, used by the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. One of the most important sites in Europe		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		for the species.		concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Pollagoona Bog	Clare	Small blanket bog beside Lough Atorick, close to the Clare-Galway county boundary.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
<u>Newgrove House</u>	Clare	A hibernating site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, near Tulla.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Lower River Shannon	Clare and Limerick	This very large site stretches along the Shannon valley from Killaloe to Loop Head/ Kerry Head, a distance of some 120 km. The site thus encompasses the Shannon, Feale, Mulkear and Fergus Estuaries, the freshwater lower reaches of the River Shannon (between Killaloe and Limerick), the freshwater stretches of much of the Feale and Mulkear catchments and the marine area between Loop Head and Kerry Head. This site is of great ecological interest as it contains a high number of habitats and species listed on Annexes I and II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Most of the estuarine part of the site has been designated a SPA.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>

<b>SAC</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan	Clare	Breeding site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, near Ruan.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building	Clare	Breeding site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, east of Ballycullinan Lough.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Toonagh Estate	Clare	Nursery roost for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, north-west of Ennis.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Carrowmore Dunes	Clare	Situated on the south-western coast of County Clare, roughly midway between Milltown Malbay and Kilkee, and extends from Carrowmore Point in the north to Doonbeg Bay in the south. Of considerable conservation significance. Supports a population of rare snail.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Kilkee Reefs	Clare	Situated north of the River Shannon estuary on the Co. Clare coast. The site stretches for approximately 12 km from Ballard Bay to Castle Point.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated



SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Slieve Bernagh Bog	Clare	Situated to the west of Lough Derg, in the south-east of Co. Clare.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
<u>Old Domestic Buildings, Rylane</u>	Clare	Breeding site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, near Ruan.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Ratty River Cave	Clare	North of Sixmilebridge. An important winter roost and a breeding site of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Knockanira House	Clare	South-west of Ennis. An important site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Kilkishen House	Clare	North of Sixmilebridge. An important site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Tullaheer Lough and Bog	Clare	Located 4 km south-east of Doonbeg. A diverse site comprising of raised bog, wet grassland, improved grassland, scrub woodland, alkaline fen and lake.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>
Curraghchase Woods	Limerick	Approximately 7 km east of Askeaton. Consists largely of mixed woodland and a series of wetlands. Hibernation site of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				that might exist can be mitigated
Barrigone	Limerick	Approximately 5km west of Askeaton. An area of dry, species-rich, calcareous grassland and patches of scrub. Rare species of plants and invertebrates present.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Tory Hill	Limerick	An isolated wooded limestone hill situated about 2 km north east of Croom. Includes Lough Nagirra and its associated wetland vegetation. Has good examples of three habitats listed in the E.U. Habitats Directive.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Galtee Mountains	Limerick	Ireland's highest range of inland mountains. Supports breeding Peregrine falcons.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated  No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Clare Glen	Limerick	On the Limerick-Tipperary border, in the western foothills of the Slievefelim Mountains, about 10 km northwest of Cappamore. The Killarney Fern is present.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Glen Bog	Limerick	Situated 3 km north-east of Bruff. Comprises a wet (alluvial) woodland occupying the site of a former lake and the summit and southern side of Knockderc.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Glenstal Wood	Limerick	In the western foothills of the Slievefelim Mountains, about 8 km north-west of Cappamore. Associated with Glenstal Abbey. Killarney Fern is present.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Ballyhoura Mountains	Limerick	The mountains straddle the Co. Limerick/Co. Cork border and are situated about 10 km south of Kilmallock. Contain wet heath, dry heath and blanket bog habitats. The heathland and surrounding afforested slopes are important for Hen Harrier and Peregrine.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Carrigeenamronety Hill	Limerick	3 km south-east of the village of Ballyorgan. A good population of Killarney Fern is present.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

SAC	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)	Limerick	One of the largest rivers in Ireland, draining a major part of Co. Cork and five ranges of mountains. Contains 10 habitats and 9 species listed in the Habitats Directive.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated  No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Askeaton Fen Complex	Limerick	Consists of a number of small fen areas to the east and south east of Askeaton. Important for its <i>Cladium</i> fen and alkaline fen.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

**Table 1.1. – Analysis of Natura 2000 Sites - SACs**

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Cliffs of Moher	Clare	One of the most important seabird colonies in the country. Extends a distance of some 9.5 km along the north Clare coast		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		from Faunmore in the north to just south of Cancregga Point in the south. Of special conservation interest for the following species: Chough, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill and Puffin; and for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 breeding seabirds		concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Inner Galway Bay	Clare	One of the most important ornithological sites in the western region. Has internationally important wintering populations of Great Northern Diver and Brent Goose, and nationally important populations of an additional sixteen species. Has breeding colonies of Sandwich Tern, Common Tern and Cormorant that are of national importance		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated  No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Ballyallia Lake Wildfowl Sanctuary	Clare	Located on the River Fergus, a little north of Ennis. An important site for wintering waterfowl, having seven species with		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		populations of national importance. Also of importance is the occurrence of Whooper Swan.		<p>concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>
Lough Derg	Clare	Supports nationally important breeding populations of Common Tern, Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, and probably Tufted Duck and Black-headed Gull. In winter, it has nationally important populations of Tufted Duck and Goldeneye. The presence of Common Tern, Whooper Swan and Greenland White-fronted Goose is of particular note as these are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or</p>

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
				that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
River Shannon & River Fergus Estuaries	Clare and Limerick	<p>The most important coastal wetland site in the country. The site comprises all of the estuarine habitat west from Limerick City and south from Ennis, extending west as far as Killadysert and Foynes on the north and south shores respectively. Also included are several areas in the outer Shannon estuary, notably Clonderalaw Bay and Poulnasherry Bay, as well as the intertidal areas on the south shore of the Shannon between Tarbert and Beal Point. Of international importance for the numbers of wintering birds it supports.</p> <p>Also supports internationally important numbers of Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Redshank. In addition, there are 16 species that have populations of national importance. For several of the bird species, it is the top site in the country. Also of note is that three of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.</p>		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated</p>



SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
Illeannonearaun	Clare	<p>The island is a regular haunt for wintering Barnacle Geese. Flock size varies as birds move between here and Mutton Island to the north. Up to 200 have been recorded (as in spring 1988) but numbers are usually less, with 22 in spring 1994 and 107 in 1997.</p> <p>The island is also important as a seabird colony. A Cormorant colony was established in the 1970s and in 1995 60 individuals were counted. Other species include Fulmar (10 pairs in 1993), Great Black-backed Gull (c. 25 pairs) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (35 pairs in 1999).</p>		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Loop Head	Clare	<p>The cliffs support large numbers of breeding seabirds. A survey in 1987 recorded the following: Fulmar 66 pairs; Kittiwake 690 pairs; Guillemot 4,010 individuals and Razorbill 105 individuals. A further survey in 2000, which was not complete due to blind spots, gave the following: Fulmar (45 pairs), Guillemot (5000 individuals), Razorbill (20 individuals) and Kittiwake (260 pairs). The Kittiwake and Guillemot populations are of National Importance. The seabirds utilise the marine</p>		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an</p>

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		areas within the site for feeding, bathing and socialising. The site supports breeding Chough, a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. A survey in 1992 recorded 3 breeding pairs, plus seven flock birds. The Choughs nest on the cliffs and feed on the overlying maritime grassland and heath. Loop Head is a traditional site for Peregrine, also an Annex I species.		EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Slieve Aughty Mountains	Clare	The SPA is a stronghold for Hen Harriers and supports the second largest concentration in the country. A survey in 2005 resulted in 24 confirmed and 3 possible breeding pairs, which represents over 17% of the national total. A somewhat lower count of between 15 and 23 pairs in the 1998-2000 period is considered to reflect poorer coverage then. The mix of forestry and open areas provides optimum habitat conditions for this rare bird, which is listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive. The early stages of new and second rotation conifer plantations are the most frequently used nesting sites, though some pairs may still nest in tall heather of unplanted bogs and heath. Hen Harriers will forage up to c. 5 km from the nest site,		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		<p>utilising open bog and moorland, young conifer plantations and hill farmland that is not too rank. Birds will often forage in openings and gaps within forests. In Ireland, small birds and small mammals appear to be the most frequently taken prey.</p> <p>The site also supports a breeding population of Merlin, a species that is also listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The population size is not well known but is likely to exceed five pairs. Red Grouse is found on many of the unplanted areas of bog and heath – this is a species that has declined in Ireland and is now Red-listed.</p>		
Mid-Clare Coast	Clare	<p>The stretch of coastline between Quilty and Lurga Point has extensive areas of mud and sand flats and supports nationally important bird populations. Further intertidal flats occur at Doughmore Bay and Doonbeg Bay</p> <p>The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Cormorant, Barnacle Goose,</p>		<p>No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated</p> <p>No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be</p>

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin and Turnstone. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.		permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated
Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle	Limerick	The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Hen Harrier. This SPA is a stronghold for Hen Harrier and supports the largest concentration of the species in the country.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains	Limerick	The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Hen Harrier. This SPA is one of the strongholds for Hen Harrier in the country.		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated
Lough Derg	Clare	Lough Derg SPA is of high ornithological importance as it supports nationally important breeding populations of Common Tern, Cormorant, Great Crested Grebe, and probably Tufted Duck and Black-headed Gull. In winter, it has		No development or activity shall be permitted unless an EHDA has been carried out and it has been concluded that no threat to the habitat exists or that any threat that might exist can be mitigated

SPA	County	Description	Mitigation	Condition
		<p>nationally important populations of Tufted Duck and Goldeneye, as well as a range of other species including Whooper Swan. The site is still used on occasions by Greenland</p> <p>White-fronted Goose. The presence of Common Tern, Whooper Swan and Greenland White-fronted Goose is of particular note as these are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.</p>		No effluent discharge that would be liable to have a negative impact on the habitat shall be permitted unless and until an EHDA has been carried and this has concluded either that no negative impact would arise or that any such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated

**Table 1.2. – Analysis of Natura 2000 Sites - SPAs**