



INIS CEALTRA

Volume 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Prepared for Clare County Council
by **Solearth Architecture**

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1 Introduction

This is the SEA Statement for the Visitor Management and Sustainable Tourism Plan for Inis Cealtra. The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process and to document how environmental considerations, the views of statutory consultees and other submissions received during consultation and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the Final Plan and the arrangements put in place for monitoring. As the Plan was also subject to Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive, a Natura Impact Report is also available.

This SEA Statement includes the following information:

- Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan (Section Two);
- Summary of how submissions received during consultation have been taken into account in the plan (Section Three);
- Reasons for choosing the recommended plan, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered (Section Four), and
- Measures that are to be undertaken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan (Section Five).

2 Summary of how Environmental Considerations and the SEA Environmental Report have been integrated into the Plan.

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to present a summary of how environmental considerations and consultation have informed the plan preparation process. Legislation and guidance relating to SEA recommends that the process of plan preparation, SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be integrated and prepared in an iterative process to facilitate the ongoing assessment and evaluation of environmental considerations during plan preparation. A multi-disciplinary team worked on the SEA and AA elements of the plan. Key tasks associated with the SEA were as follows:

TABLE 1 STAGES IN SEA

Stages in SEA	Comment
SEA Screening	SEA and AA Screening of the plan took place in May- June 2016. This screening was issued to statutory consultees. The screening process determined that full SEA and a Natura Impact Report was required for the plan.
SEA Scoping	Scoping Report issued July 2016. Responses received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Heritage Council. A scoping meeting to discuss content and scope of SEA was held with the EPA, NPWS, Clare County Council and environmental consultants in August 2016.
Preparation of SEA ER	June 2016 to March 2017.
Display of Plan and proposed amendments.	Issued to statutory authorities and put on public display. A total of 18 submissions received including one submission from the

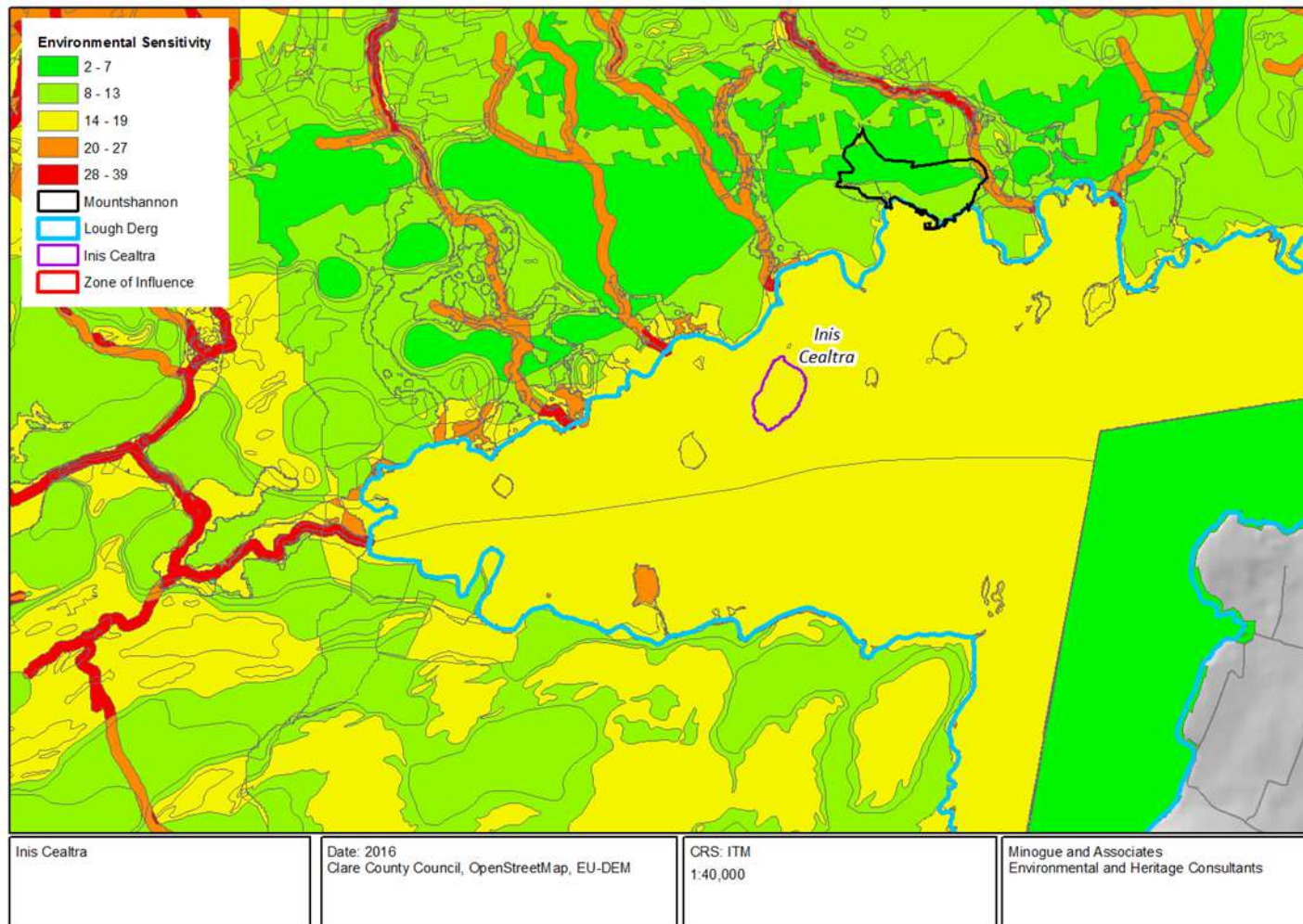
Stages in SEA	Comment
	EPA. SEA and AA Screening of proposed changes to plan arising from public display period.
Updating and refinement of SEA ER and NIR	Additional baseline information on foot of submission by EPA. Additional text in relation to consideration of alternatives.
SEA Statement	Upon endorsement of Plan by Clare County Council in July 2017, this SEA Statement concludes the SEA process..

2.2 Baseline Data, Geographical Information System and environmental sensitivity mapping.

Baseline data has been collected based on the environmental topics described in the SEA Directive i.e. biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape. A Geographical Information System (GIS) was established to spatially analyse this data; to identify areas of particular environmental sensitivity and to help understand how potential actions/objectives could impact on the environmental resources within the sphere of influence of the plan. Ecological survey work include bat surveys and habitat surveys were undertaken on Inis Cealtra and this further refined and augmented the environmental baseline.

Figure 1 shows the environmental sensitivity map prepared for the plan. Further detailed information can be found in the SEA ER.

Figure 1 Environmental Sensitivity Map



2.3 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where the environmental assessment identifies significant adverse effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such impacts or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be generally divided into those that:

- Avoid effects;
- Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect;
- Repair effects after they have occurred, and
- Compensate for effects, by balancing out negative impacts with positive ones.

A primary mitigation measure in the SEA of this plan has been the preparation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which is built upon the identification of potential effects identified through the SEA and HDA processes. In particular potential adverse effects relating to increased visitor numbers on the island, and the provision of tourism infrastructure such as paths on the island were identified as potentially giving rise to adverse effects.

In the first instance, mitigation measures sought to direct any physical interventions away from areas of greatest sensitivity, particularly archaeologically and ecologically sensitive areas. Thereafter, the EMP presents mitigation measures and guidance across a range of topics including physical proposals to awareness raising and community engagement and liaison. . In addition to these thematic mitigation measures, the EMP also provides for monitoring of potential environmental impacts associated with the plan.

2.4 Summary of how Environmental Considerations have been incorporated into the Plan.

The following table summarises how environmental considerations have been incorporated into the Plan. Section 8 of the SEA ER and Natura Impact Report provide the full text of the Environmental Management Plan.

Table 2 Summary of how Environmental Considerations have been incorporated into the Final Plan

Strategic Environmental Objectives	Potential Significant Effects from plan implementation	Mitigation Measures developed through SEA and AA.
Cultural Heritage		
<p>CH1 – Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and unrecorded monuments), architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).</p> <p>CH2 – To protect, conserve and enhance local folklore, traditions and placenames within the Plan area.</p> <p>CH3 – To ensure the restoration and re-use of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible opposed to demolition and new build (to promote sustainability and reduce landfill)</p>	<p>Greater visitor numbers increases the risk of damage to the monuments on the island.</p> <p>Certain areas are more vulnerable to damage from increased numbers and general footfall eg: The Saint’s Graveyard and earthworks.</p> <p>Increased boat traffic in and around the island could negatively impact upon known and unknown underwater archaeology.</p> <p>Intangible cultural heritage may be negatively affected if the island is seen to become a ‘product’ with subsequent loss of community ownership and sense of place/attachment to Inis Cealtra.</p>	<p>The Burra Charter –overall principles for archaeology. Measures C1 to C10.</p> <p>Management Structure in particular MS1, MS4 and MS6.</p> <p>Awareness Raising and Education AR 1 to 6</p> <p>Interpretation I1 to I6</p> <p>Guide Service:GS1 to GS4</p> <p>Access and Transport AT1</p> <p>Physical Proposals in particular PP1 to PP14</p> <p>Shoreline and Pier Proposals SP1.</p> <p>Grazing and Woodland Management in particular GW1, GW2, GW6 , GW7.GW 18, 19 and 20.</p> <p>Pathways P1 to P4</p> <p>Signage S1 to S3</p> <p>Fencing F1 to F7</p> <p>Toilet Facilities TF4 and 5</p> <p>Shelters SH1</p> <p>CDP15.18Development Plan Objective: Sites,</p>

		<p>Features and Objects of Archaeological Interest</p> <p>CDP15.10 Development Plan Objective: Zones of Archaeological Protection</p> <p>CDP15.13 Development Plan Objective: Underwater Archaeology</p> <p>CDP 15.14 Development Plan Objective: Cultural Development</p>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
<p>B1 – Protect, conserve, enhance where possible and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of the broad range of habitats,</p> <p>B2 – To achieve the conservation objectives of European Sites (SACs and SPAs) and other sites of nature conservation. species and wildlife corridors.</p> <p>B3 - Conserve and protect other sites of nature conservation including NHAs, pNHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries as well as protected species outside these areas as covered by the Wildlife Act.</p> <p>B4 - Meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Shannon River Basin Management Plan/National River Basin Management Plan</p> <p>B5 – To minimise and, where possible, eliminate threats to bio-diversity including invasive species.</p> <p>B6 - Promote green infrastructure networks, including riparian zones and wildlife corridors</p>	<p>The potential impacts associated with increasing visitor numbers relate to potential disturbance to species and habitats, particularly during seasons when they are more sensitive to disturbance associated with human activity</p> <p>Construction activities and potential pollution incidents.</p> <p>Accidental introduction of alien and invasive species</p> <p>Increased footfall could give rise to effects associated with trampling, new informal paths into more sensitive archaeological and ecological areas, subsequent erosion of soil and increase in rank grass species.</p> <p>Disturbance to bat species</p> <p>Loss of habitats or declining quality of habitats.</p>	<p>Visitor Management Mitigation Measures in particular</p> <p>MM1 Seasonality</p> <p>Access and Transport AT2</p> <p>Physical Proposals in particular PP14 to PP18</p> <p>Shoreline and Pier Proposals SP2, SP6 and SP7</p> <p>Grazing and Woodland Management, in particular GW4, GW5 and GW 17</p> <p>Pathways in particular P5 and P6</p> <p>Toilet Facilities TF6</p> <p>CDP 14.2 Development Plan Objective: European Sites</p> <p>CDP 14.3 Development Plan Objective: Requirement for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive</p> <p>CDP 14.11 Development Plan Objective:</p>

Habitat Protection

CDP 14.13 Development Plan Objective:
Habitat Fragmentation

CDP 14.14 Development Plan Objective: Inland
Waterways and River Corridors

CDP 14.17 Development Plan Objective: Non-
Designated Sites

CDP 14.18 Development Plan Objective:
Natural Heritage and Infrastructure Schemes

Soil and Geology

S1 – To maximise the sustainable re-use of the existing built environment, derelict, disused and infill sites (brownfield sites), rather than greenfield sites

S2 – Minimise the excavation and movement of soils within site works

S3 – Minimise the consumption of non-renewable deposits on site.

S4 - Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.

Increased footfall and trampling of soil

Increased surface run off and soil loss

Reuse of existing buildings.

Grazing and Woodland Management, in particular GW12 and GW13 and GW21

Shelters SH1

Physical Proposals in particular PP9

Construction Environmental Management plan.

Water Resources		
<p>W1 – Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).</p> <p>W2 – Maintain or improve the quality of surface water and groundwater to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and POMS.</p> <p>W3 – Implement appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in the County.</p> <p>W4 – Reduce the impact of polluting substances to all waters and prevent pollution and contamination of ground water by adhering to aquifer protection plans and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.</p> <p>W5 - Promote sustainable water use and water conservation in the plan area and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.</p> <p>W6 –Protect flood plains and areas of flood risk from development through avoidance, mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p>W7 – To promote a responsible attitude to recreation and amenity use of water in relation to water quality and disturbance to species and to prevent pollution and contamination of designated bathing waters at <i>Mountshannon Harbour</i>.</p>	<p>The island is underlain by limestone bedrock which is quite permeable; this requires consideration in regard to the wastewater proposals.</p> <p>Increased surface run off</p> <p>Introduction or spread of alien invasive species.</p> <p>Existing wastewater and water supply capacity and potential demands arising from visitor centre and increased visitor numbers generally.</p> <p>Potential flood risk</p>	<p>Construction Environmental Management plan.</p> <p>Toilet Facilities TF6</p> <p>Physical Proposals in particular PP9</p> <p>CDP 8.21 Development Plan Objective: Water Framework Directive</p> <p>CDP8.22 Development Plan Objective: Protection of Water Resources</p> <p>CDP 18.6 Development Plan Objective: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>CDP 18.7 Development Plan Objective: CFRAMS</p>

Landscape		
<p>L1-Ensure no significant disruption of historic/cultural landscapes and features through the <i>implementation of the Inis Cealtra plan</i>.</p> <p>L2-No significant <i>adverse</i> visual impact from development proposals associated with the Inis Cealtra plan</p> <p>L3-Ensure no significant disruption of key characteristics of the Lough Derg Basin Landscape Character Area arising from the Inis Cealtra plan</p>	<p>Landscape character, cultural heritage, noise and ecology are all contribute together to create the distinctive experience of Inis Cealtra currently. Increased visitor numbers that may increase noise and human disturbance can detract from other visitors' experience.</p> <p>The character and setting of the island confer a strong and distinctive character, and proposals for the above elements must reflect and enhance character and reduce visual impact and clutter</p>	<p>Pathways P8 and P10</p> <p>Toilet Facilities in particular TF3</p> <p>Construction Environmental Management plan.</p> <p>Physical Proposals in particular PP9</p> <p>CDP 13.1 Development Plan Objective: Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p>CDP 13.5 Development Plan Objective: Heritage Landscapes</p> <p>CDP 13.7 Development Plan Objective: Scenic Routes</p>
Population and Human Health		
<p>P1- Protect, enhance and improve people's quality of life based on high quality residential, community, educational, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.</p> <p>P2-To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from incompatible land uses/developments.</p> <p>P3- Recognise and protect the spiritual and historic contribution that Inis Cealtra makes to the community.</p>	<p>The proposed visitor centre has been selected based on generating positive local economic benefits for Mountshannon; by locating it in the park it allows pedestrian access from the main street and also the possibility of park and ride with limited private car parking. Impacts identified for the Visitor Centre relate to new developments on greenfield sites and would be assessed for compliance with the relevant objectives of the Clare CDP 2017-2023.</p> <p>In relation to the proposed visitor numbers and in line with objective 8.25 Water Supply of the Clare CDP 2017-2023, additional capacity for drinking water will be required for</p>	<p>Awareness Raising and Education AR 1 to 6</p> <p>Guide Service GS1 to GS4</p> <p>Access and Transport AT3</p> <p>Burial Practices B1</p> <p>Pathways in particular P1</p> <p>Signage S1 to s3</p> <p>Toilet Facilities TF1</p> <p>CDP 3.5Development Plan Objective: Large Villages</p> <p>CDP 5.6 Development Plan Objective: Accessibility</p> <p>CDP 7.8Development Plan Objective: Large</p>

	<p>Mountshannon.</p> <p>Traffic management: consideration of effects of increased visitors and means of transport.</p> <p>Ensuring accessibility to visitor centre and to the island itself.</p>	<p>Villages</p> <p>CDP 19.3 Development Plan Objective: Compliance with Zoning</p> <p>CDP5.24 Development Plan Objective: Burial Grounds/Crematoria</p>
Material Assets		
T1 – Maximise sustainable modes of transport and encourage use of walkways/cycle paths as alternative routes to school, work, shops and Plan Area	<p>Traffic management: consideration of effects of increased visitors and means of transport.</p> <p>Increased use of resources in relation to wastewater and water supply.</p>	<p>Volume 3 Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>Construction Environmental Management Plan</p>
WA1 – Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.	<p>Current wastewater capacity is not sufficient for proposed visitor numbers to the centre in Mountshannon. To achieve the target figures by year five, the wastewater treatment capacity requires significant additional investigation into wastewater capacity and receiving waters will be required.</p>	<p>CDP8.24 Development Plan Objective: Water Services</p>
WS1 - To ensure adequate and clean drinking water supplies.		<p>CDP8.25 Development Plan Objective: Water Supply</p>
WS2 - Promote water conservation and sustainable water usage for long- term protection of available water resources.	<p>Wastewater capacity and supply of potable waters supplies.</p>	<p>CDP8.27 Development Plan Objective: Wastewater Treatment and disposal</p>
WW1 - To ensure that all zoned lands (existing and proposed) are connected to the public sewer network ensuring treatment of wastewater which meet EU requirements prior to discharge. .		
Climate Change		
CC1- ensure that proposals are adaptive to expected climate change patterns.	<p>Potential effects in relation to increased water levels in Lough Derg and shoreline and underwater archaeological resources.</p> <p>New physical infrastructure in areas of flood risk</p>	<p>Climate Concerns CC1 to CC3</p> <p>Volume 3 Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>CDP18.2 Development Plan Objective: Climate Change Adaptation</p>

3 Summary of how consultations were taken into account

Consultation took place with the EPA and NPWS during the plan preparation process and the public submission period also influenced the plan preparation and SEA process. A summary of these steps are provided below.

3.1 Screening

The SEA Regulations state that SEA is mandatory for certain plans while screening for SEA is required for other plans that fall below the specified thresholds. The emerging draft plan was screened to determine whether likely significant effects would arise in relation to the implementation of the plan. The screening process was undertaken under both the SEA Directive and the Habitats Directive. The latter assessment found that likely significant effects may arise on the conservation management objectives of Natura 2000 sites within the county, therefore a stage two appropriate assessment was required and under SI 435 of 2004, the draft plan must proceed to full SEA.

The SEA Screening report was issued to the relevant statutory authorities and a SEA Scoping Meeting was arranged to discuss the scope of the SEA and AA in more detail.

3.2 Scoping

The purpose of the SEA Scoping report is to identify the scope of the SEA and ensure that relevant data and environmental topics are included in the SEA. The Scoping report was issued to the following consultees in July 2016 and **Table 4** below summarises the main issues raised by consultees.

The scoping process was further augmented by a Scoping Meeting with the SEA and AA consultants, Clare County Council, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on 16th August 2016; this provided an opportunity for a more focused discussion on the SEA and AA processes and the plan. **Table 4** below summarises key points raised during this consultation phase and how the SEA responded to same.

Table 3 : Summary of Scoping Submissions Received and SEA Response.

Consultee	Key Issue Raised	Addressed in SEA
Cian O'Mahony, Environmental Protection Agency		
	The SEA ER should consider assessing the potential additional pressures, including seasonal pressures, on existing critical service infrastructure (drinking water/wastewater/waste) and transport related infrastructure. The Plan should include commitments for relevant infrastructure and any necessary associated upgrades/maintenance of existing infrastructure.	Noted, pressures and capacity of existing critical services are described and assessed in this SEA ER. Please see Chapter Four, Environmental Baseline. Recommendations in relation to same are also included in this SEA ER. Please see Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures.
	The SEA ER should ensure that the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in traffic volumes in the wider Mountshannon area resulting from implementation of the plan, is assessed and	Noted, detailed traffic and transport studies were not undertaken as part of the plan preparation; however, existing

	mitigated for where appropriate. The needs for additional parking during peak season should also be considered and assessed.	transport provision and potential environmental effects are discussed in Chapter Four and Seven respectively in this SEA ER.
Climate Change Resilience	Consideration of how resilient various elements of the Plan (and associated infrastructure) are to the effects of climate change. EPA publications: Local Authority adaptation guidelines research report 164, and Integration of Climate change into SEA referenced.	Noted, and included in Chapters Four and Seven.
Biodiversity	A specific commitment to protecting designated habitats and protected species (and associated ecological corridors) within and adjacent to the Plan area, and associated ecological linkages. Tourism related development needs to avoid or minimise potential for significant disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat mapping should be included in plan.	Agreed and included in Biodiversity SEOs.
Ecosystem services	Consider adopting an ecosystem services approach	Noted, report on ecosystem services provided by public trees in Mountshannon have been used as a baseline and a specific section highlighting ecosystem services is included in Chapter 4 of this ER.
Water Quality	Clear commitments to protect surface water, groundwater and associated habitats and species, including fisheries within and adjacent to plan area. Recommendations/concerns for water bodies within plan area should be considered.	Noted, and agreed. See Chapters Four, Seven and Eight.
	Individual water bodies within the WFD RBMP and specific objectives/measures should be provided for in the plan.	Agreed. See Chapters Four, Seven and Eight.
Invasive Alien Species Control & Management	Consider feasibility of providing biosecurity /IA awareness notices in range of languages re; access points, and fishing. Control and monitoring of IAS regarding maintenance activities	Agreed, and provided for in Chapter Eight.
Landscape	Landscape sensitivity including cultural landscapes need to be considered in any proposed development. Consider undertaking a LCA of the Plan and area.	Noted, this is a key consideration across a number of SEA parameters. LCA of County Clare was used as well as tree survey that assessed local townscape character, further commentary of landscape setting prepared as part of the plan - please see Chapter 4.
Assessment	Full range of effects as set out in Annex I of the SEA	Noted, see Chapter Seven for full

of Likely Significant Effects	Directive should be assessed and reported. Potential for cumulative effects with other plans/programmes and projects	reporting on assessment of effects including cumulative.
Alternatives	Clear justification for selection of alternatives and should consider both onshore and on island, including possible routes to be used for docking, interpretive centres, building materials, routes and accessibility options on the island etc. EPA Guidance document (2015) should be considered.	Noted, and agreed, Detailed alternatives assessment provided in Chapter Six.
Monitoring	A commitment to monitoring visitor numbers to Mountshannon and Inis Cealtra and visitor centre upon completion should be included. Incorporating this into the Plan and SEA related monitoring aspects to assess the potential environmental effects which may arise with increased tourism related impacts. It may assist with determining a preferred maximum number of given visitors to the Inis Cealtra site at a given time.	Agreed and included in this SEA ER and draft Plan.
Yvonne Nolan Development Applications Unit Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs.		
Archaeology	Underwater Archaeology. The Wreck Inventory of Ireland database lists 4 known wrecks in the waters adjacent to Inis Cealtra and a number of other wrecks for Lough Derg in general, these are protected under the National Monuments Acts 2030-2014. There may be other forms of underwater archaeology that may await discovery from earlier periods.	Noted, and described in Chapter Four. Addressed in Chapters Seven and Eight.
	Works such as upgrading piers or increased boat/visitor traffic has the potential to negatively impact known or potential submerged archaeology, and there will be a need for an appropriate level of assessment in these areas. Increase propeller wash action from repeat boat trips can be an impact. Should there be an increase in proposed boat trips to and from the island to Mountshannon, it is recommended that the ferry path be restricted to a single route. Depending on scale, there may be a need to carry out an underwater archaeology assessment. The SEA should address this issue and carry out a	Noted. Such potential impacts have been discussed with the archaeological team and highlighted through the SEA process. Impacts and mitigation measures presented in Chapters Seven and Eight of this ER. The archaeological sections of this SEA including baseline description, potential effects and mitigation have been prepared based on the research carried out by the archaeological team and

	full underwater archaeological assessment of the effects of the plan. The archaeological component of the SEA should be carried out by an archaeologist experienced in both terrestrial and underwater archaeology.	reviewed by same.
General Guidance	<p>1 All areas of archaeological heritage should be addressed where relevant, including;</p> <p>a) Immovable cultural heritage e.g., monuments and ancient field boundaries.</p> <p>b) Underwater cultural heritage such as river fording points, shipwrecks, fish weirs, fish traps and other underwater ruins such as submerged jetties.</p> <p>c) Movable cultural heritage e.g., loose carved stones, sculptures, architectural fragments etc.</p>	This has informed the baseline chapter, see Chapter Four
Nature Conservation	Consultation in respect of scope of the SEA as well as opportunity to make observations in relation to the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) or Natura Impact Report (NIR), and the AA.	Noted
	General duties of a public authority to safeguard European sites and comply with Birds and Habitats Directive and related national legislation.	Noted
Plan and Plan Area	<p>The need for additional development, works and services including during construction phases, should be considered and assessed e.g: lighting, site compounds, dredging, site investigations etc.</p> <p>Plan area appears to include the island, Mountshannon and the surrounds and interconnecting lake at a minimum. The outline of a significantly larger zone of influence is noted. The approach of subdividing part of a large water body (Lough Derg) as the zone of influence is questioned by the Department. Application and validity of same should be examined and justified on scientific grounds nothing this may vary for certain features in certain contexts.</p>	<p>Noted, agreed and such activities are considered in Chapters Seven of this SEA. Requirements for a Construction Environmental Management Plan included in Chapter Eight.</p> <p>This point is noted, the plan area and potential zone of influence is clarified further in Chapter Four of this SEA ER and for different parameters the zone of influence varies.</p>
Plan preparation and content	<p>Plan should contain objectives and targets for conserving, maintaining and restoring biodiversity, flora and fauna, key elements of which are listed in Appendix 1 of this submission.</p> <p>It should be demonstrated that there is consistency between protective ecological and environmental objectives and other objectives for development and changes in intensity of usage. Where potential conflicts arise, they should be examined sufficiently at plan level to show how future projects or problems will be approached, managed and</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Chapter Five presents same.</p> <p>Approach to assessment Chapter Seven addresses this comment and provides for subsequent mitigation as appropriate in Chapter Eight.</p>

	resolved.	
	<p>The SEA process and NIS/NIR should influence in a positive way, the plan during its preparation. It is the plan itself that should demonstrate compliance with the Directives and associated legislation. For AA it must be able to pass the tests of that process.</p> <p>If there is reliance on mitigation measures in an appendix or other source, clear, effective and repeated cross referencing will be required.</p>	Noted. Chapters One and Six of the plan summarise how SEA and AA influenced plan preparation and mitigation measures from same processes are replicated in Chapter Six of the plan.
	The plan should outline its relationship with future projects and visitor and tourism management and promotion. At plan level, targeted mitigation measures should be developed to guide future projects and demonstrate they will be captured for effective screening and project specific assessment, as well as a robust basis for assessment potential cumulative and in combination effects.	Noted, and where this information is currently available has been included in Chapters Three Seven and Eight of this SEA ER.
	SEA required to list existing environmental problems – invasive species, and water quality status as well as additional pressures on water quality arising from the plan and plan area will require examination.	Noted, Chapter Four presents this information.
Plan Status and Appropriate Assessment	Consider whether plan is to given effect through landuse planning process or is it a plan for purposes of EU birds and habitats regulations 2011.	The former regulations give effect to the plan ie; through the land use planning process.
	Reference to case law regarding obligations of decision making authority to resolve scientific uncertainties and AA to demonstrate how differing scientific opinions were addressed and reasons for selected one view over another	Noted, the AA process will present a clear, scientific basis for conclusions and determinations.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>Scope of the SEA should assess likely significant effects on all elements (see Appendix 1) including:</p> <p>European sites</p> <p>Proposed Natural Heritage Areas</p> <p>Annex IV species of flora and fauna</p> <p>Other species of flora and fauna and their habitats protected under Wildlife Acts, 1976-299</p> <p>Habitats directive and Birds Directive defined in the Environmental Liability Directive</p> <p>Stepping Stones and ecological corridor</p>	Noted, these are presented in Section 4.3 of this ER.
	Should be prepared by or in conjunction with suitably qualified ecologist. EPA's Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment of particular relevance.	Noted, prepared by Pat Doherty MCIEEM, with Ruth Minogue MCIEEM. Additional baseline by Dr Mary Turbridy. Guidelines have

		informed approach to assessment.
	Presence of annex 1 habitats is identified in plan area and scientific basis and justification for categorisation be presented.	Noted, NIR provides greater detail on this, Annex 1 habitats are presented in Section 4.3.1.
	Generally, no area should be identified or targeted for development without basic information on ecological sensitivities.	Noted, habitat map prepared and presented.
	Strategic Environmental objectives should be included for all nature conservation sites (not just European sites), protect species, and ecological corridors and stepping stones as outlined above.	Noted. SEO shall reflect same.
Beatrice Kelly Heritage Council	Intangible heritage also should be considered especially as Ireland has ratified the Convention on Intangible Heritage, UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (entered into force March 2016).	Noted, and agreed. This will be referenced in Chapter Three and a discussion on same included in Chapters Four, Seven and Eight.
	Inter-relationships between the different elements of landscape and heritage	Agreed, this will be addressed in particular in Chapters Seven and Eight of this SEA ER.
	Conservation Plan for Dalkey Island may offer useful elements.	Noted, this has been reviewed as part of this SEA

3.3 Consultation on Plan, SEA ER and NIR

The draft plan, SEA ER and NIR were put on public display in March 2017. 18 submissions were received. These were assessed and considered through the SEA and AA process, and any recommended changes were subject to SEA and AA screening as part of this process. See Annex B of the SEA ER. A summary of key issues and the response to same is provided below in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Public Consultation and responses to same

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
Location of interpretative centre -Consider using the Rectory-unoccupied, visual link to island from 1 st floor, adequate land/space for parking, planning not a problem, and likely to be available at a competitive price	Add Rectory as a site no 12 (table 3-1 page 44), and reassess. Add language to Objective 5 to allow Rectory building, or south part of its site be considered (at the time of design of the VMSTDP), should the previously identified site be unfeasible.	The SEA will assess the Rectory site as part of updating the Consideration of Alternatives Section of the SEA ER. The site will be assessed in line with the SEOs prepared for the SEA ER. Objective 5 will be assessed as part of the SEA screening process also upon receipt of additional text.
Walking Trail/Pilgrim path -	Add a map (or change	Support for walking /pilgrim paths are

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
include a walking trail/pilgrim path in the plan.	existing) to VMSTDP ?	provided for in the Clare CDP 2017-2023 for example through CDP9.22 Tourism in East Clare. New trails would require project level assessment and be subject to detailed design and compliance with existing provisions of the above CDP 2017-2023 as well as those developed for the VMSTP as appropriate. At this stage no significant adverse environmental effects are identified for this proposal.
<p>Location of Visitor Centre/Embarkement – Knockaphort a better site with historical usage. Issues raised are more applicable to Mountshannon and no issues with currents in 30 years. There is no “important woodland habitat” opposite Knockaphort.</p> <p>Right of Way -The “Pilgrim Path” from the pier on the north west to the main monument section is a recognized right of way and restricting access likely to be challenged.</p>	<p>No change to VMSTDP SEA comment: NPWS Native Woodlands Survey 2003-2007 (updated 2011) identified native woodland habitat in the shoreline around Knockaphort particularly to the west. The fringe marsh habitat and woodland/scrub habitat present on the Island also occurs in areas across from Knockaphort. See Section 4.3.5 of the SEA ER.</p>	<p>Noted. No change, no interaction with SEOs</p> <p>As above</p>
<p>Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) Welcomes the commitment to prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan in advance of the physical elements of the Plan being implemented, in particular, the proposed mitigation measures to be included in the CEMP.</p>		<p>Noted, Chapter 4 of the SEA ER updated to reflect this.</p>

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
<p>Plan Development Where relevant and appropriate, there is merit in providing a timeframe over which the Plan is to be implemented. In implementing the Plan, in particular in relation to any tourism related development such as the proposed new visitors centre and new/upgraded jetty facilities on Inis Cealtra, the requirements of the Water Framework, Floods, EIA and Habitats Directives should be taken into account.</p> <p>Critical Service Infrastructure In implementing the Plan, any proposed development such as the new visitor centre should be supported by the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure, in collaboration with Irish Water and any other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Transportation There is merit in reviewing the Mid-West Regional Model, which includes the Plan area, in the context of determining traffic related effects which may arise from implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Objectives We note the inclusion of <i>Table 12 Strategic Environmental Objectives for the Inis Cealtra</i></p>	<p>noted, no change to plan</p>	<p>Timing if in line with CCC requirements can be added into Final SEA ER. No adverse effects on SEOs identified.</p> <p>Critical Services infrastructure are already addressed in the SEA ER and the Clare CDP 2017-2023, in particular through a number of objectives such as CDP 8.22 Development Plan Objective: Protection of Water Resources and CDP 8.27 Development Plan Objective: Wastewater Treatment and disposal. If it is recommended to include more text about upgrading of paths etc, such measures would be subject to existing provisions of the SEA ER and the Clare CDP 2017-2023.</p> <p>Noted and agreed, will update Baseline Transport with reference to NTA modelling.</p> <p>Noted, SEA ER will be updated with additional column</p>

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
<p><i>Plan.</i> There is merit in including an additional column in <i>Table 12</i> summarising the key related policies and objectives in the <i>Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023</i> for each SEO identified, as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>Monitoring We welcome the commitment given in 9.2 <i>Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting</i>, to annual monitoring of the Plan pre and post visitor seasons in years 1-5.. There is also merit in outlining specific responsibilities in respect of the targets set out in <i>Table 24</i> and in linking the SEA monitoring and reporting and the Plan implementation monitoring and reporting.</p>		<p>Existing column identifying responsibilities will be amended in SEA ER.</p>
<p>Supports the purchase of the island and works undertaken to make</p> <p>Inis Cealtra a central icon of the Lough Derg region providing a snapshot of life in early Christian Ireland.</p> <p>a. Need to take into account the spiritual significance of the island to the local communities, including North Tipperary, which must be prioritised over the interests of tourists</p> <p>b. Preserve the unique character by controlling visitor numbers and by not building on the island, protect the Christian story for future generations, include a</p>		<p>No change, no interaction with SEOs.</p> <p>E, f.: this are outside the scope of the plan currently.</p>

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
<p>contemplative space within the centre for pilgrims and explore the concept of "spiritual capital" to attract spiritual tourists.</p> <p>c. Encourage "visit and stay" tourism, over short visit coach tourism.</p> <p>d. Link Inis Cealtra with other early Christian Churches in the area, e.g. Terryglass in Tipperary, the village of Lorrha and the 6th century monastic foundation of St Ruadhán, the remains of 12th/13th century Dominican and Augustinian Abbeys, St Cronan's – 6th century foundation in Tuamgraney..</p>		
<p>a. Existing Park - Concerned that the new visitor centre will do nothing to enhance the local park.</p> <p>b. Location of Visitor Centre -The best view of Holy Island from the park is from the roof top of the existing Aistear Centre which could be renovated.</p> <p>c. Holy Island Grave – Consideration to be given to local ties to graveyard</p>	No action	<p>These are most appropriately addressed at project level. The mitigation measures of the SEA ER and plan, in addition to objectives and policies contained in the Clare CDP 2017-2023 provide sufficient protection in terms of design at strategic level.</p> <p>c. No change, no interaction with SEOs</p>
<p>Lack of consultation-Asked to be kept informed 2 years and reiterates request.</p> <p>Access to Holy Island – Members of IWAI object to any diminution in rights of access.</p> <p>Floating Jetty – Should include a floating remote jetty which could be used with</p>	<p>a-d. no changes to VMSTDP.</p> <p>c. See 15e below</p>	<p>a-d: No changes, no interaction with SEOs.</p>

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
dinghy.		
<p>a. Bus/car impact on the Main Street – The planned bus stops would have a big impact on Mountshannon Main Street. Locate instead on the north side of the village with screening so visitors can walk through village into the Aistear.</p> <p>b. Rectory – Include the rectory grounds in the development/visitor centre.</p> <p>c. Pedestrian – connect the Aistear/rectory grounds and the waters edge by eliminating motorized vehicles using tunnel, bridge, etc.</p> <p>d. Max Boat No's – 25 per boat to restrict large numbers on island.</p> <p>e. Reed Bed – Inappropriate. Consider other options like wooden structure upon a flat boat which can be pumped.</p>	<p>a. explore a specific site for peripheral parking and with agreement of owners add to VMSTDP</p> <p>c. Add creation of share surface carriageway along part of lake front road (<i>Traffic Management and Parking</i> section 3.3.5).</p> <p>d.no change</p> <p>e. No change to VMSTDP</p>	<p>a. Identification of a site for peripheral parking if included in the updated plan will require assessment through SEA and AA processes.</p> <p>As above, this would require assessment as part of the SEA and AA process.</p> <p>d. Visitor numbers have been carefully considered and assessed through SEA process to date.</p> <p>e. no change, no interactions with SEOs</p>
f. Walking Routes – Further develop walking routes around the area, e.g. shorter looped walks, heritage trails, pilgrim trails, nature trails for families, food trails, etc which will appeal to visitors to Holy Island and keep visitor in East Clare for longer.		SEA response as per ge.
<p>Welcomes publication of draft and work done by Solearth.</p> <p>Link with Tuamgraney – Welcome the reference to Tuamgraney and St Cronan's and the potential for links between Tuamgraney and Holy Island.</p>	A to c. : no change	A to c; no change, no interaction with SEOs.

Summary of submission	Action/amendment proposed to the Plan documents	SEA and AA Response
<p>Viewing from water - Recommends inclusion of boat trips to view from the water & passing other points of interest.</p> <p>Community Element - Proposals regarding community forum, access for funerals and local access are welcome.</p>	<p>identify offshore location for a floating viewing pontoon for non local IWAI members and other passing boats.</p> <p>No changes to VMSTDP</p>	<p>such as location would require additional assessment through the SEA and AA process.</p> <p>no interaction with SEOs</p>
<p>OPW Site Hut – OPW would need to discuss the removal of the hut as it is crucial to the maintenance of the National Monument site.</p> <p>Running of Centre – unclear who will run the centre, OPW, Council or Local Management Company. At this time, OPW would not be in position to run it.</p> <p>Management by Local Group – implied on page 11. OPW would not relinquish control of any historic structures, particularly to an entity that might have a profit / enterprise agenda to the fore, as there would be a danger of fabric being compromised.</p> <p>Ferry Tender – Clarification required as there are confusing references to a ferry tender and then to multiple operators (2 boats).</p> <p>Power Supply – Is there a proposed power supply?</p> <p>Toilets – There is a reference to a "natural" toilet. Based on Skellig experience, this will be difficult.</p>	<p>No changes to VMSTDP</p> <p>No changes to VMSTDP</p> <p>No changes to VMSTDP</p> <p>No changes to VMSTDP</p> <p>Change the highlighted (see email) sections to being under 3.4.2</p> <p>No changes to VMSTDP</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

4 Reasons for choosing the recommended plan, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.

Through consultation on the plan and as the plan evolved a number of different alternative scenarios in relation to the plan were considered. These scenarios related to access options to and from the island, numbers of visitors to the island, visitor centre location, community access and interpretation. The alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives developed for the SEA (See Chapter Five of the SEA ER and and Table 6 of this report). This assessment helped refine the preferred options for the plan. Following the public consultation on the draft plan, a 12th location for the visitor centre was also assessed through the SEA process.

Table 5 below shows the preferred alternatives as identified through the SEA process and provides the reasons for their selection. These alternatives focus on elements that could give rise to land use impacts so do not address other plan elements such as marketing and branding.

Table 5 Preferred Options for Plan

Plan Proposal	Commentary
Visitor Numbers Medium	This option aligns more closely with national and regional tourism promotion as well as potential World Heritage Sites serial nominations associated with Early Christian Sites. It would promote the wider Lough Derg and early Christian sites thereby dispersing visitors to other sites. Economic viability of the plan is considered more realistic under this scenario.
Visitor Centre location	<p>Given the density of archaeological resources both above and below ground, the potential for underwater archaeology, the landscape setting of the island in addition to ecological considerations, physical interventions on the island must be very carefully considered and in line with the approach to the study, such interventions must be minimal. This is in line with international best practices and is reflected in the most fundamental key objective of the plan, as stated in Section 1.2.2 Plan Key Objectives. Therefore, consideration of a visitor centre on the island was excluded at an early stage of the plan preparation process, with potential sites on the mainland considered.</p> <p>Mountshannon Village, close to harbour is the preferred location, as it uses the existing village and facilitates potential movement through the Aistear Park. It would facilitate access from the main street of Mountshannon and could bring spin off benefits to the village itself. Following more detailed assessment, it is considered that Site 1 or 2 are the preferred locations primarily as they promote pedestrian movement and easier access from the main street, enjoy views to the island and are consistent with tourism landuse zonings in the Clare CDP 2017-2023. Mountshannon close to the harbour is the preferred location as it uses the existing village and facilitates potential movement through the Aistear Park. It would facilitate access from the main street of Mountshannon and could bring spin off benefits to the village itself.</p>
Car Parking:	Park and ride allows for movement of people via bus/coach.

Plan Proposal	Commentary
Park and Ride/ Park and Ride with some car parking	Impacts likely to be mitigated but would depend on location of park and ride (ie: greenfield lands)
Primary visitor access via ferry from visitor centre with permit style approach for small craft/local community	This option allows for local access, though permit style may require alteration and further consultation.
Boats	This option represents the continued transport means to the island and is consistent with the historical access route to this island; it requires the most minimal physical intervention of the three options. The recommended mode of access to the island is via a new ferry service that will operate between the proposed visitor centre at Mountshannon and Inis Cealtra.
Departure from Mountshannon	This option represents a continuation of the principal departure point for the island and is also a substantial harbour area that would require minimal or no physical interventions to continue access
Pier –new northeast, others to remain for private/micro-boat access	<p>The justification for this is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This location, sheltered from the prevailing wind, increases the number of days when the pier is accessible for visitors, and the local community. • Moves visitor traffic away from the area between the island and Knockaphort which is a well-used angling zone, particularly in April and May. <p>An assessment of pier options was undertaken by Arup Engineers: Based on both satellite images from Google Earth and the bathymetric data obtained, which show vegetated sandbanks in the vicinity of the northern tip, the most suitable location for the proposed new pier is at the eastern extent of the proposed zone. As noted elsewhere the reed beds associated with these shallows are significant from an ecological point of view and attempts to avoid them means the proposed new pier should be located at a safe distance from this area. However, the location of underwater archaeology 40m of the island is a known and this will require more detailed assessment and research.</p>
Floating pontoon preferred pier structure.	In terms of the new pier structure, the preferred option is for the installation of floating pontoons connected to the mainland using an extended gangway. The advantage of the floating pontoons is that they can facilitate vessel berthing under the full range of water levels (provided that there is sufficient water depth). The feasibility of using a gangway connection would primarily depend on the combination of the near-shore bathymetry and the range of water levels. However, prehistoric logboat recorded c40m northeast of the island, so known underwater archaeology.
Unscheduled landing	These options all relate to access to the island; given the proposed increase in

Plan Proposal	Commentary
–local access	visitor numbers generally local boats would reflect local access needs; unscheduled landings by other boats may give rise to visitor impacts and issues such as overnight camping. Also the risk of biosecurity associated with unscheduled landings may give rise to indirect or direct ecological impacts through introduction of invasive or alien species
Fences	Fences (retention of existing) or fences and no touching subject to guides etc
Paths –main route to principal sites, secondary loop around island	Detailed alignment of route and materials used would determine impacts. Again if visitor numbers increase considerably, informal paths away from main route will likely be created and this could result in unanticipated environmental impacts mostly around cultural heritage and ecological considerations (eg; through alluvial woodland close to shore). Alignment of paths to avoid sensitive underground archaeology such as the Pilgrim Paths and alluvial woodland. Path to main sites accessible for all and composed of locally sourced gravel.
Public furniture	Minimal benches to be placed at well located positions on the island to allow visitors, particularly the elderly, to rest. This contributes to wider accessibility for all. So as to avoid the generation of litter on the island, picnic benches will not be permitted.
Guide/emergency room- new unobtrusive pod	Location, proposed design, construction and materials would require further investigation. Note there are archaeological artefacts in and beside the shed and a management approach would be required to remove the shed and consider how to treat these artefacts.
Toilets (emergency)-	Additional information in terms of siting, design, population equivalent, maintenance and construction would be required for more detailed assessment. It is understood the toilets are for emergency use. However for solid waste removal will be required during peak season. It is to be communicated to visitors that toilet facilities are available at the visitor centre and ferry. Design considerations for appropriate population equivalent will be critical to ensuring that this option works environmentally.
Waste Management: Leave no Trace, no bins Reedbeds for emergency toilet, solid waste removal during peak season.	Additional information on siting, location, design, maintenance would be required for this option. Reedbeds would increase habitat associated with certain bird species and this is identified as a positive impact for Biodiversity SEOs.
Displaying small finds	Either move to National Monument or visitor centre represent the minimal landuse impacts as they require no additional physical intervention. Retaining finds <i>in-situ</i> is best practice where possible.
Power-PV panels with	This would provide small scale energy and batteries for use in emergencies. It is

Plan Proposal	Commentary
batter	assumed in this option, such panel would be associated with new elements such as the shelter/toilets. As such any impacts would be minimal as they would form part of the new infrastructure, PV panels would likely be oriented south/southwest
Storm shelter – refurbishment of fisherman’s hut.	This option would re-use an existing vernacular structure on the island.
Signage – very limited low impact orientation signage	Minimal approach with low visual impact is recommended.
Camping and picnics; No camping, picnics not encouraged	This represents the most environmentally benign option as it reduces potential anti-social behaviour or disturbance associated with overnight camping and littering/food scraps being associated with formal picnics.
Funerals- Allowed anytime, visitors curtailed if during ‘open’ hours	This option reflects the most sensitive and respectful approach to funerals on the island.
Graves-guidelines on materials, etc	This would give rise to landscape and cultural heritage positive impacts whilst facilitating the use of family plots on the island.
Opening Times and seasons: mid March to Early October	This reduces overall disturbance to overwintering birds, allows the lands on the island recovery time and avoids visitor numbers during the wetter months of the year.
Lighting-no lighting	This represents the least invasive option.

5 Monitoring

5.1 Introduction

Monitoring is an important part of the SEA process as it provides a framework to ascertain both how the plan is performing environmentally and also to gather data over the lifetime of the plan. Changes in the environment, particularly critical changes such as water quality can be captured this way. Monitoring focuses on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the Inis Cealtra plan.

The targets and indicators are derived from the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) discussed in Chapter Five of the SEA ER. The target underpins the objective whilst the indicators are used to track the progress of the objective and targets in terms of monitoring of impacts.

Given the proposed increase in visitor numbers envisaged through the Inis Cealtra plan the potential impacts of this increase is identified as a key potential environmental issue, particularly in relation to cultural heritage. Therefore as part of the EMP, annual monitoring is proposed pre and post peak visitor season for Years 1 to 5. Further detail is provided in Chapter Eight of the SEA ER.

Should new data or the following occur, additional monitoring will be required:

- Significant visitor impacts at archaeological features, upstanding or earthworks
- Trampling/disturbance to priority habitats

In turn the list below is subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data. Should the monitoring regime identify significant impacts (such as impacts on designated sites) early on in the plan implementation, this should trigger a review of the plan and monitoring regime. In addition, the identification of positive impacts from monitoring should also be reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental actions.

Finally, it is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion. It is recommended that this data be shared with neighbouring local authorities to assist in monitoring cross county effects and ensure consistency of monitoring. Table 19 below presents the SEA Monitoring Table.

Table 6 sets out the strategic environmental objectives, targets and indicators to applied in monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan, in accordance with Section 13J(2) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended. It is proposed that the SEA monitoring reporting should go parallel with the reviewing of the Clare CDP.

Table 6 Monitoring Programme for SEA of Plan

Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Target	Indicator	Data Source/Responsibility/
Cultural Heritage	CH1 – Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and unrecorded monuments), architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).	No permitted development associated with plan which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features.	No. of developments permitted during the lifetime of the plan which will result in the loss or partial loss of protected structures or sites of archaeological status. Development of cultural heritage areas for amenity resources	CCC
	CH2 – To protect, conserve and enhance local folklore, traditions and placenames within the Plan area.	Interpretation associated with Inis Cealtra that highlights intangible cultural heritage	Provision of same in Visitor Centre and part of interpretation on site	CCC, NMS, DAHG
	CH3 – To ensure the restoration and re-use of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible opposed to demolition and new build (to promote sustainability and reduce landfill)	To increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored opposed to demolition, particularly in relation to Fishermans Hut, Inis Cealtra	No. planning applications for restoration/re-use of vacant and derelict structures. No. planning applications for demolition and redevelopment of vacant and derelict sites.	CCC
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1 – Protect, conserve, enhance where possible and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of the broad range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors.	No reduce in length or loss of hedgerows associated with plan. Operators who conduct mechanical hedge cutting should have achieved the Teagasc proficiency standard MT 1302- Mechanical Hedge Trimming. No ecological networks or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity to be lost	Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in non-designated sites within the plan area of the plan over the lifetime of the Plan through trending of annual/bi-annual surveys. EIA and AA project level habitat survey and assessment associated with planning applications.	CCC OPW Coillte NPWS Shannon RBD/National RBD NPWS CCC OPW National Biodiversity Data Centre

		without remediation as a result of implementation of the plan		
	B2 – To achieve the conservation objectives of European Sites (SACs and SPAs) and other sites of nature conservation.	No loss of protected habitats and species associated proposals arising from the plan. No compromise in the favourable conservation condition of European sites in particular the Lough Derg SPA and wetland habitats associated with Inis Cealtra	Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in designated sites through plan planning applications. No./percentage of developments in/near Natura 2000 network.	CCC
	B3 - Conserve and protect other sites of nature conservation including NHAs, pNHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries as well as protected species outside these areas as covered by the Wildlife Act.	No loss of protected habitats & species during the lifetime of the plan. Submission of HDA for proposed developments with planning applications in/and/or near Natura 2000 sites	Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in designated sites through trending of annual surveys. Provision/No. of HDAs with developments proposed for sites in/and/or near Natura 2000 sites	CCC
	B4 - Meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Shannon River Basin Management Plan/National River Basin Management Plan	All waters within the plan area to achieve the requirements of the WFD and the relevant River Basin Management Plan by 2027. Ensure provision of riparian zones at project/site level	No of surface and groundwater bodies achieving "Good Status". No of waterbodies indicating deterioration in status. No of planning applications associated with plan (or EIA) with sufficient inclusion of buffer zones where necessary and applicable.	
	B5 – To minimise and, where possible, eliminate threats to bio-diversity including invasive species.	Prevent the introduction of new invasive or alien species to Inis Cealtra in particular. Control/manage new invasive species in line with Clare CDP 2017-2023	Prevent the introduction of new invasive or alien species on Inis Cealtra. Control/manage new invasive species associated with proposals for plan	CCC
	B6 - Promote green infrastructure networks, including riparian zones	Ensure new development is set back	No. planning permissions close to water.	CCC

	and wildlife corridors	<p>at from rivers.</p> <p>The recommended width for larger river channels (>10m) is 35m to 60m and for smaller channels (<10m) is 20m or greater. The determined width should be tailored to site specific, river reach or lakeshore characteristics and their associated habitats. It is important that the buffer zone is large enough to protect the ecological integrity of the river (including emergent vegetation), the riparian zone (bank side vegetation including trees) and takes into account the human history of the area.</p>		
Geology and Soil	S1 – To maximise the sustainable re-use of the existing built environment, derelict, disused and infill sites (brownfield sites), rather than greenfield sites	<p>Preference for development on brownfield site over green field.</p> <p>Limited and controlled development of greenfield sites.</p> <p>Re-use of soil from redeveloped sites where possible.</p> <p>No incidences of soil contamination.</p>	No/% of new developments on brownfield sites and. % of total greenfield land developed associated with plan.	CCC
	S2 – Minimise the excavation and movement of soils within site works	-	Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled	CCC
	S3 – Minimise the consumption of non-renewable deposits on site.	Promotion of construction and demolition waste management at plan level.	Management for or Construction and Demolition Waste as part of plan proposals.	CCC
	S4 - Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in	No loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological	Percentage of habitats, geological features, species etc. lost over the lifetime of the plan through monitoring provisions of plan.	CCC

	designated ecological sites.	sites.		
Water	W1 – Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).	To achieve a Q rating of 4 'good' quality status by 2021 for Lough Derg Water Management Unit	Biotic quality rating of river waters at EPA monitoring locations	EPA
	W2 – Maintain or improve the quality of surface water and groundwater to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and POMS.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface water quality by 2021	Changes in receiving water quality as identified during water quality monitoring for WFD, SRBMD conducted by CCC and EPA	CCC EPA
	W3 – Implement appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in the County.	New drainage systems to be compliant with SUDs associated with plan visitor centre if considered necessary by CCC.	No. of developments associated with plan granted planning permission that incorporate SUDs	CCC
	W4 – Reduce the impact of polluting substances to all waters and prevent pollution and contamination of ground water by adhering to aquifer protection plans and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface and groundwaters by 2021	Changes in receiving waters and groundwater quality as identified by water quality monitoring programmes conducted by CCC and EPA	CCC EPA
	W5 - Promote sustainable water use and water conservation in the plan area and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Pressure on water and waste water treatment plants particularly in Mountshannon.	Decrease in no. of water shortage notices issued during drought periods, Water conservation measures designed into plan visitor centre.	CCC
	W6 –Protect flood plains and areas of flood risk from development through avoidance, mitigation and adaptation measures.	In accordance with OPW/DOEHLG, all planning applications within designated Flood Risk zones A and B as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the plan	Flood risk assessment as part of plan planning applications- Visitor Centre potential site is outside flood zone A/B.	CCC

		are required to undertake Flood Risk assessment		
	W7 – To promote a responsible attitude to recreation and amenity use of water in relation to water quality and disturbance to species and to prevent pollution and contamination of designated bathing waters at Mountshannon Harbour.	Leave No Trace at Visitor Centre Invasive Species awareness raising as part of interpretation	-	CC
Landscape	L1-Ensure no significant disruption of historic/cultural landscapes and features through the implementation of the Inis Cealtra plan.	Ensure no significant disruption of historic/cultural landscapes and features through objectives of the County Development Plan and plan	No. of developments permitted and their impacts on cultural/historic landscapes. No. of developments located within Scenic Route or no degradation of areas designated as Heritage Landscapes (Locations in text and on maps) No. of developments located within a designated scenic view or route or high landscape area in County Clare that disrupt views (based on the LCA)	CCC
	L2-No significant adverse visual impact from development proposals associated with the Inis Cealtra plan	No significant visual impact from development associated with plan Ensure no significant disruption of high landscape values	No. of developments located within a high landscape area that disrupt views (based on LCA): Loss of vistas/views Loss of trees Loss of amenity woodland. No of large scale developments permitted	CCC
	L3-Ensure no significant disruption of key characteristics of the Lough Derg Basin Landscape Character Area arising from the Inis Cealtra plan	No significant loss of landscape characteristics associated with plan. Enhancement of landscape character through proposals associated with plan	Visual and landscape character assessment prepared as part of plan proposals by suitably qualified landscape specialist.	CCC
Population and Human health (including	P1- Protect, enhance and improve people's quality of life based on high quality residential,	Improved trends in perceived quality of life related to these	Improved trends in perceived quality of life related to these matters as gathered through	CSO

Quality of Life)	community, educational, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.	matters. Local economic benefit from plan to plan area. No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors.	surveys Increase in local bed nights and part/full time employment associated with plan by year 5. Occurrence of any decline in human health around the plan area.	
	P2-To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from incompatible land uses/developments.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors	Any occurrence of spatially concentrated deterioration in human health.	CSO CCC
	<i>P3- Recognise and protect the spiritual and historic contribution that Inis Cealtra makes to the community.</i>	<i>Continued use of Inis Cealtra for ritual and spiritual events by the wider community.</i>	<i>No of community events associated with Inis Cealtra</i>	CCC
Material Assets				
Transport	T1 – Maximise sustainable modes of transport and encourage use of walkways/cycle paths as alternative routes to school, work, shops and Plan Area	Park and ride facilities provided	Number of car parking spaces Number of bus/coach trips to plan area and Visitor Centre annually.	CCC
Waste	WA1 – Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.	Reduction in the quantities of waste sent to landfill. Compliance with the Southern Region Waste Management Plan	Quantity of Visitor Centre waste recycled.	
Water Supply	WS1 - To ensure adequate and clean drinking water supplies.	Upgrade existing water treatment plant within the plan area in advance of plan proposals around visitor centre	Upgrade undertaken within the plan area.	
	WS2 - Promote water conservation and sustainable water usage for long- term protection of available water resources.	Reduce the amount of water usage. Increase usage of water collected through water harvesting and designed into Visitor Centre.	Water meter readings. Fitting of rainwater harvesting units at Visitor Centre.	
Waste Water	WW1 - To ensure that all	Upgrade existing	Upgraded Waste Water	

	zoned lands (existing and proposed) are connected to the public sewer network ensuring treatment of wastewater which meet EU requirements prior to discharge. .	wastewater treatment plant infrastructure identified within the plan as being insufficient, based on existing and forecasted population equivalent associated with increased Visitor Numbers to meet EU requirements	Treatment Plants within the plan are	
	- Reduce the dependency on individual proprietary wastewater treatment facilities and ensure the highest standards possible in existing and future wastewater treatment facilities	Sustainable alternative individual proprietary WWT facilities. Measures to promote, encourage and incentivise a change from traditional WWTS to alternative sustainable system	Testing of individual WWT facilities. Types/usage/percentage using sustainable methods of WWT.	
Climate Change	<i>CC1- ensure that proposals are adaptive to expected climate change patterns.</i>	<i>A framework for monitoring climatic conditions that may affect the island should be developed.</i>	<i>Framework prepared by Year 1.</i>	<i>CCC with ICOMOS/DAHG</i>

5.2 Conclusion

This SEA Statement summarises how environmental parameters have been addressed in the plan preparation process. Consultation has been undertaken for the Screening, Scoping of the Environmental Report, the draft Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment.

The preparation of a specific Environmental Management Plan to accompany the Action Plan is the key output of the SEA and AA process to date.

Subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report including appropriate site level investigations; it is considered that significant adverse impacts on the environment will be avoided.



Clare County Council,
Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road, Ennis,
Co. Clare, V95 DXP2

Tel: +353 (65) 682 1616
Email: Planoff@clarecoco.ie
www.clarecoco.ie