

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF DURATION OF THE CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2023 (AS VARIED)

In order to provide a further period of time to complete the
development plan review and to prepare and make a new
Clare County Development Plan

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

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OCTOBER 2021



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Clare County
Development Plan

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CDP	County Development Plan
CCC	Clare County Council
DCCAE	Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment
DH	District Heating
EC	European Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EFW	Energy from Waste
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NHA, pNHA	Natural Heritage Area, proposed Natural Heritage Area
NIS, NIR	Natura Impact Statement, Natura Impact Report
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NPF	National Planning Framework
OREDP	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
PHES	Pumped Hydroelectric Energy Storage
RES	Renewable Energy Strategy
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this AA Screening

Clare County Council (CCC) is currently proposing to avail of the new legislation as set out in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and to initiate the process to extend the period to prepare the new Clare County Development Plan. A necessary consequence of this is to first extend the duration of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and in the first instance to examine the impact of the proposed extension of duration of the existing development plan with regard to the effects on the integrity of European sites.

The Planning Authority is seeking an additional period of up to 7 months to prepare the new Clare County Development Plan, which would result in the new Plan coming into effect by the 30th April 2023. The appropriate plan period of the current Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, ends on the 19th March 2023 (includes the 54 days as set out in accordance with the provisions of section 251 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which is covered by the SEA/AA of the current Development Plan).

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment therefore comprises an examination of potential significant effects on Natura 2000 sites by extending the duration of the plan period of the current Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 from the 19th March 2023 to 30th April 2023.

1.2 Overlap with SEA Process and Existing Reports

An SEA Screening exercise is being carried out concurrently with the AA Screening process. The purpose of the SEA screening is to evaluate at an early stage, the range of environmental consequences that may occur as a result of implementing the proposed extension of duration to the current CDP. There is a degree of overlap between the requirements of both the SEA Screening and Screening for Appropriate Assessment and in accordance with best practice, an integrated process of sharing gathered data, such as that potentially affecting the integrity (threats and sensitivities) of European Sites has been carried out. These processes together will inform and shape the extension of duration associated with the CDP.

The Screening Stage is based upon the following documents prepared as part of the preparation of the existing CDP 2017-2023 and the proposed CDP and any submission received from statutory consultees on these documents.

- Strategic Issues Paper (prepared by CCC, 2021);
- AA Screening of the 2017-2023 CDP (CCC, 2017)
- Natura Impact Report of the 2017-2023 CDP (CCC, Jan 2017 and March 2017);
- Ministerial Direction (Appendix E of the NIR);
- SEA of the 2017-2023 CDP (CCC, 2017);
- AA and SEA of Variation No.1 (CCC, 2019);
- Strategic Issues Paper (prepared by CCC September 2020);
- AA Screening Report prepared on the Draft CDP (prepared by CCC November 2020);
- AA Screening Report prepared on the Draft CDP and Renewable Energy Strategy (RPS, May 2021);
- SEA Scoping Report for the CDP (prepared by CCC October 2020); and
- SEA Scoping Report prepared separately for the RES (prepared by RPS April 2021).

Further information and related documentation on the new CDP can be found at: <https://clarecdp2022-2028.clarecoco.ie/> and of the existing 2017-2023 CDP and at <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/publications/clare-county-development-plan-2017-2023-volume-10a-natura-impact-report-24140.pdf>

It is also noted that there are issues relevant to the Habitats Directive that are not strictly related to Appropriate Assessment (AA). These include Article 10 and 12 of the Directive. In these cases, the issues have been brought forward to the biodiversity, flora and fauna section of the SEA Screening and have been addressed in that context as part of the wider environmental assessments informing the CDP.

1.3 Legislative Context for Appropriate Assessment

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as the “Habitats Directive” provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as the Natura 2000 Network. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive), collectively referred to as European Sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European Sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

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

Article 6(4) states:

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [European] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended. In the context of the NPF, the governing legislation is principally Article 27 of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations which sets out the duties of public authorities (in this case the DHPCLG) relating to nature conservation and Article 42 which addresses screening for AA and/or AA of implications for European Sites. If screening determines the likelihood for significant effects on a European Site, then full AA must be carried out for the plan, including the compilation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to inform the decision making process.

2 OVERVIEW OF THE CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT Plan 2017-2023

2.1 Background to the Current Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023

Clare County Council has prepared the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied. This Plan set out objectives and technical guidance which has been used since 2017 to guide the development of the area.

In January 2017 the NIR concluded that based on the resolution by the Elected Members to zone lands at Ardclloony for Tourism against the recommendation of the Chief Executive and the Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and taking into consideration the previously unseen reports entitled "Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) of the Zoning of Lands at Ardclloony, Co. Clare for Integrated Tourism" dated December 2016 and documents submitted as part of the members resolution of the 19th December 2016 it cannot be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Lower River Shannon cSAC specifically and therefore the Plan contravenes Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

Subsequently on the 28th of March 2017 the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney T.D. issued a Ministerial Direction pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the adopted Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The Minister directed that:-

- (i) Remove written objective TOU7 Ardclloony and accompanying text, page 19, from Volume 3C: Killaloe Municipal District – Writing Statement and Maps – Interim Version
- (ii) (Amend the maps for Killaloe which set out the objectives for Ardclloony by changing the zoning objective for lands currently indicated as "TOU7" (tourism) to un-zoned

A revised NIR was prepared in March 2017 to assess the proposed ministerial recommendations and the plan was subsequently adopted as the NIR concluded that the,

" NIR has reviewed the impacts arising from the proposed Variation and has determined that, assuming the successful inclusion of the mitigation measures proposed in this NIR, taken together with the objectives of the Written Statement of the County Development Plan and compliance with the Municipal District Settlement Statements and Plans, the proposed Variation will have no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites in the area."

The Plan was varied on the 11th of March 2019 so as to give effect to the Government Policy Statement on the Development of Data Centres in Ireland by identifying in a plan led manner the preferred location of a Data Centre in County Clare.

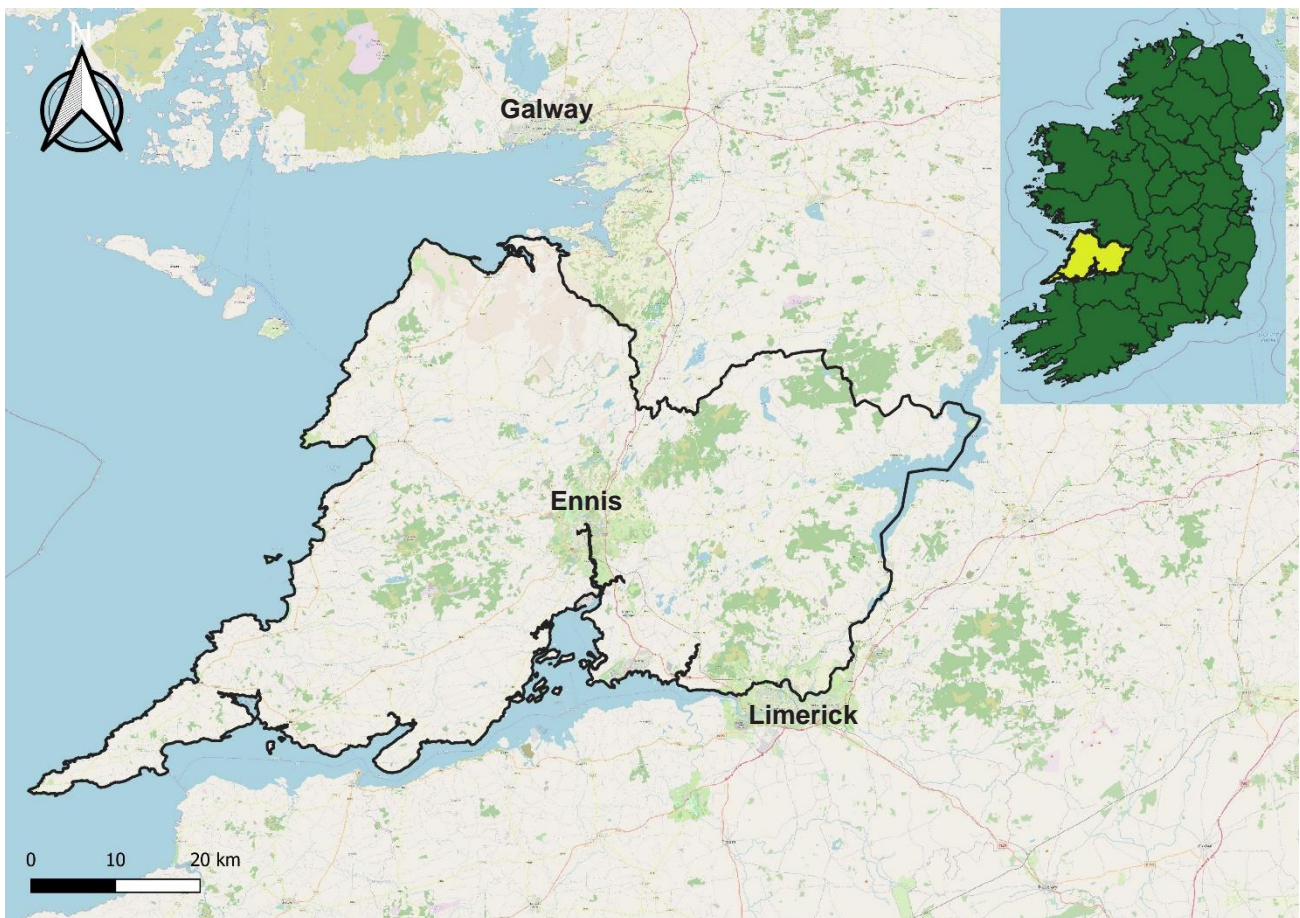
3 OVERVIEW OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

County Clare is situated on the west coast of Ireland, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Shannon Estuary to the south, Lough Derg to the east and Galway Bay to the north.

The County has a diverse topography varying from limestone pavement, to the extensive upland forested areas, estuarial mudflats, high Atlantic cliffs, inland lakes and waterways and fertile plains.

Much of the County is underlain with limestone which is highly permeable. Habitats and species of particular note within the County include: limestone pavements, associated orchid and calcareous species rich grassland, estuarine habitats, turloughs, Lesser Horseshoe bats, Barnacle Geese and the Bottlenose Dolphin. The Draft Plan covers an area of 344,871 ha, with a coastline of 500km in length. The County has a population of 118,817 (CSO, 2016). It has a well-developed road and rail infrastructure, an International Airport and a network of villages and large towns. It has a strong industrial base and is in close proximity to the cities of Limerick and Galway. A map of County Clare is shown below in **Figure 3-1**.

Figure 3-1: Map of County Clare



4 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

4.1 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

The European Commission's publication *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites* (2001) provides methodological guidance for Screening for Appropriate Assessment. The guidance publication outlines the stages involved in undertaking a Screening assessment of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for the Screening assessment of this proposal is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages: 4 The AA process progresses through four stages. If at any stage in the process it is determined that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of a European Site in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives, the process is effectively completed. The four stages are as follows:

- Stage 1 – Screening of the proposed plan or project for AA;
- Stage 2 – An AA of the proposed plan or project;
- Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions; and
- Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)/ Derogation.

Stage 1: Screening for AA

The aim of screening is to assess firstly if the plan or project is directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Site(s); or in view of best scientific knowledge, if the plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This is done by examining the proposed plan or project and the Conservation Objectives of any European Sites that might potentially be affected. If screening determines that there is a likelihood of significant effects or there is uncertainty regarding the significance of effects, then it will be recommended that the plan is brought forward to the next stage of the AA process.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

The aim of Stage 2 of the AA process is to identify any adverse impacts that the plan or project might have on the integrity of relevant European Sites. As part of the assessment, a key consideration is 'in combination' effects with other plans or projects. Where adverse impacts are identified, mitigation measures can be proposed that would avoid, reduce, or remedy any such negative impacts and the plan or project should then be amended accordingly, thereby avoiding the need to progress to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Alternative Solutions

If it is not possible during Stage 2 of the AA process to conclude that there will be no adverse effects on site integrity, Stage 3 of the process must be undertaken which is to objectively assess whether alternative solutions exist by which the objectives of the plan or project can be achieved. Explicitly, this means alternative solutions that do not have adverse impacts on the integrity of a European Site. It should also be noted that EU guidance on this stage of the process states that, 'other assessment criteria, such as economic criteria, cannot be seen as overruling ecological criteria' (EC, 2002). In other words, if alternative solutions exist that do not have adverse impacts on European Sites, they should be adopted regardless of economic considerations. This stage of the AA process should result in the identification of the least damaging options for the plan or project.

Stage 4: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

This stage of the AA process is undertaken when it has been determined that a plan or project will have adverse effects on the integrity of a European Site, but that no alternatives exist. At this stage of the AA process, it is the characteristics of the plan or project itself that will determine whether or not the competent authority can allow it to progress. This is the determination of 'over-riding public interest'. It is important to note that in the case of European Sites that include in their qualifying features 'priority' habitats or species (Special Areas of Conservation), as defined in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive, the demonstration of 'over-riding public interest' is not sufficient and it must be demonstrated that the plan or project is necessary for 'human health or public safety considerations'. Where plans or projects meet these criteria, they can be allowed, provided adequate compensatory measures are proposed. Stage 4 of the process defines and describes these compensation measures.

4.2 Guidance Documents on Appropriate Assessment

The AA requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Communities, 2001) follow a sequential approach as outlined in the following legislation and guidance documents/ Departmental Circulars, namely:

European and National Legislation

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (also known as the 'Habitats Directive');
- Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, codified version (also known as the 'Birds Directive');
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended; and
- Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

Guidance

- Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Rulings of the European Court of Justice. Final Draft September 2014;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Local Authorities (revision 10/02/10) (DEHLG, 2009);
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans. Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (2006).
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive. Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000b);
- Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle. European Commission (2000).
- EC Natura 2000 Spatial Planning. European Commission (2017);
- EC study on evaluating and improving permitting procedures related to Natura 2000 requirements under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2013);
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the concepts of: Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission (European Commission, 2007);
- Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans Under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- The implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in estuaries and coastal zones with particular attention to port development and dredging. European Commission (2011);
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC¹ (European Commission, 2000a);
- Marine Natura Impacts Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation. A working Document (DAHG, 2012); and
- Wind Energy Developments and Natura 2000. European Commission (2011).

¹ The Commission has notified its intent to revise this guidance and a draft revised document was published in April 2015. It would appear that this has not been finalised to date, with no revised guidance document available on the Commissions website.

Departmental/NPWS Circulars

- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10.
- Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans. Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08.
- Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Directive. Circular Letter NPWS 2/07.
- Compliance Conditions in respect of Developments requiring (1) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); or (2) having potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Circular Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07.
- Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments. Circular L8/08.

4.3 Guiding Principles and Case Law

Over time legal interpretation has been sought on the practical application of the legislation concerning AA as some terminology has been found to be unclear. European and National case law has clarified a number of issues and some aspects of the published guidance documents have been superseded by case law. Case law has been considered in the preparation of this screening of the CDP for a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023.

Of particular relevance to this AA is the published opinion of Advocate General Juliane Kokott in relation to the Shannon LNG application in 2020². Within it the CJEU stated that an assessment made under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive a competent authority would be entitled to rely upon a previous AA provided the following requirements were met:

1. It contained complete, precise and definitive conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the works;
2. There had been no changes in the relevant environmental and scientific data;
3. There had been no changes to the project; and
4. There were no new plans or projects that must be taken into account.

The opinion gives some guidance on how to go about ensuring the Habitats Directive requirements are adhered to in these scenarios. It suggests that a limited preliminary examination could suffice where the initial assessment was robust which is in fact the case with the CDP.

4.4 Information Sources Consulted

The following sources of information have been consulted:

- Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government – online land use mapping www.myplan.ie/en/index.html;
- GeoHive online mapping <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>;
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland – online mapping and aerial photography www.osi.ie;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service – online European Site information www.npws.ie;
- Environmental Protection Agency maps and water data <https://gis.epa.ie/> ;
- Geological Survey of Ireland geology, soils and hydrogeology www.gsi.ie;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre online biodiversity mapping <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map>
- Local authority mapping regarding habitats and species available from <https://www.heritagemaps.ie/>

²

<https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=226000&mode=lst&pageIndex=1&dir=&occ=first&part=1&text=&doclang=E&cid=2216146>

- National Parks and Wildlife Service – Article 17 Status of EU protected habitats in Ireland reporting (NPWS 2019a & 2019b);
- Ireland's Article 12 submission to the EU Commission on the Status and Trends of Bird Species (2008-2012);
- Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026 (Gilbert et al 2021)
- Irelands Prioritised Framework for the Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive (2014)
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region, January 2020;
- Draft National Marine Planning Framework (DHPLG 2021)
- Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as amended);
- Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 Natura Impact Report;
- Clare County Council internal “Environmental Database” (GIS linked database);
- European Union Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (EC 2020);
- Irelands National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (DCHG, 2017);
- River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (DHPLG 2018);
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 (NBDC 2021);
- Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment Practitioner's Manual (EPA, 2013); and
- National Peatlands Strategy (DCHG 2015) currently public consultation on the mid-term review of the National Peatlands Strategy is underway.

4.5 Statement of Authority

This report was prepared by an RPS Ecologist with a degree in Ecology and reviewed by a RPS Ecologist with a degree in Environmental Science, PhD in Freshwater Ecology and over eight years' experience in reporting to assessments in accordance Articles 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

4.6 Timing of Screening

There is no legal requirement as to when the screening of any plan, or variation thereof, for likely significant effects should take place, apart from that it must be done before the Plan is “made”. Good practice agreed amongst AA professionals is that it should be a *relatively brief* stage at the beginning of the review process. Its aim is to decide if the proposed plan needs to be taken forward to a more detailed level of assessment (Appropriate Assessment or AA) and to identify which European sites may be potentially affected. Screening is not the same as an AA – it only requires sufficient information to decide if a significant effect is likely. An AA goes into more detail to test whether those effects could result in damage to the European site. This Screening stage was undertaken to consider the proposed timeframe extension to the existing CDP 2017-2023 to the decision makers to understand if by extending the plan period there would be any potential for significant effects to European sites.

5 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

In line with best practice guidance the AA Screening involves the following:

1. Description of the plan;
2. Identification of relevant European Sites;
3. Assessment of likely significant effects; and
4. Screening statement/determination with conclusions.

5.1 Description of the Plan

An overview of the current CDP, including background and context is provided in **Section 2** of this document.

5.2 Screening Steps

Best practice in AA Screening promotes a site-led approach to the process. The site-led approach puts the environmental conditions that maintain site integrity first. So the first steps in the screening stage are identifying the European sites within the “zone of influence” of the Plan and then collecting as much information as possible on the “Qualifying Interests” and how site integrity may be defined for each European site. The site-led approach focuses on how the site integrity can be maintained by avoiding impacts on key environmental conditions. This approach allows issues such as cumulative impacts to be identified.

The site-led approach is summarised as follows:

1. Which European sites lie within the zone of influence of the potential implications of the CDP?
2. What are the Qualifying Interests for each European site?
3. What are the underpinning ecological and environmental conditions to maintain these Qualifying Interests at Favourable Conservation Status?
4. What are the threats – actual or potential - that could affect the underpinning factors?
5. Are there aspects of the CDP that could give rise to these threats?
6. If, based upon the best currently available information, there are aspects of the CDP that could affect the European sites then they will require further analysis in the form of an Appropriate Assessment.

5.3 Identification of European Sites

In the Republic of Ireland, sites within the Natura 2000 Network are referred to as European sites and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). SACs are concerned with the protection of specific Qualifying Interests (QI) and SPA are concerned with the protection of specific Special Conservation Interests (SCI).

An initial distance of 15km² from the current CDP was selected for consideration of European sites for the purposes of the AA Screening exercise. Other criteria that were used for the selection of sites included analysis of drainage catchments and connectivity between sites. The ZoI encompasses European Sites within County Clare boundary, island/marine European Sites as well as transboundary or adjacent sites within the ZoI. This ZoI was deemed to be sufficient to cover all likely significant effects which may arise from the extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 on European sites. Spatial boundary data for the European site network used was the most up to date available (as per May 2021). The total number of European sites which were deemed to be within the Zone of Influence of the potential implications of the CDP are listed in **Table 5-1** below and presented in **Figure 5-1 and 5-2**. An inventory of all these European Sites are listed in **Appendices A – B**.

These European Sites cover a wide range of habitats from terrestrial upland mountain areas, woodlands and karst landscapes to aquatic lakes, rivers and transitional waters and finally coastal habitats consisting of sea cliffs, off-shore islands and reefs.

Table 5-1: Number of European Sites within the Zol of the CDP 2017-2023**European Sites within the Zol***

78 SACs

20 SPAs

* NPWS data revision as of August 2021.

5.3.1 Conservation Objectives

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to *maintain or restore the favourable conservation status* of habitats and species of community interest (the qualifying interest habitats and species for which a site has been designated).

Site specific Conservation Objectives aim to define favourable conservation condition for these habitats or species at the site level. Maintenance of favourable conservation condition of habitats and species at a site level in turn contributes to maintaining or restoring favourable conservation status of habitats and species at a national level and ultimately at the Natura 2000 Network level.

Given the number of European Sites that could potentially be impacted by the implementation of the CDP (**Appendix C**) it is not practical to list the Conservation Objectives of each site in the screening report. Rather the generic Conservation Objectives which have been developed by NPWS (as part of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), and encompass the spirit of site specific Conservation Objectives in the context of *maintain and restore* are presented:

For SACs:

- 'To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected'.

For SPAs:

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

Favourable Conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- The conservation status of its typical species is "favourable".

Favourable Conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long term basis.

In undertaking this screening of the 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023, consideration has been given to the potential to impact on the achievement of Conservation Objectives at this more general level in the first instance.

Figure 5-1: Special Areas of Conservation within the Zol

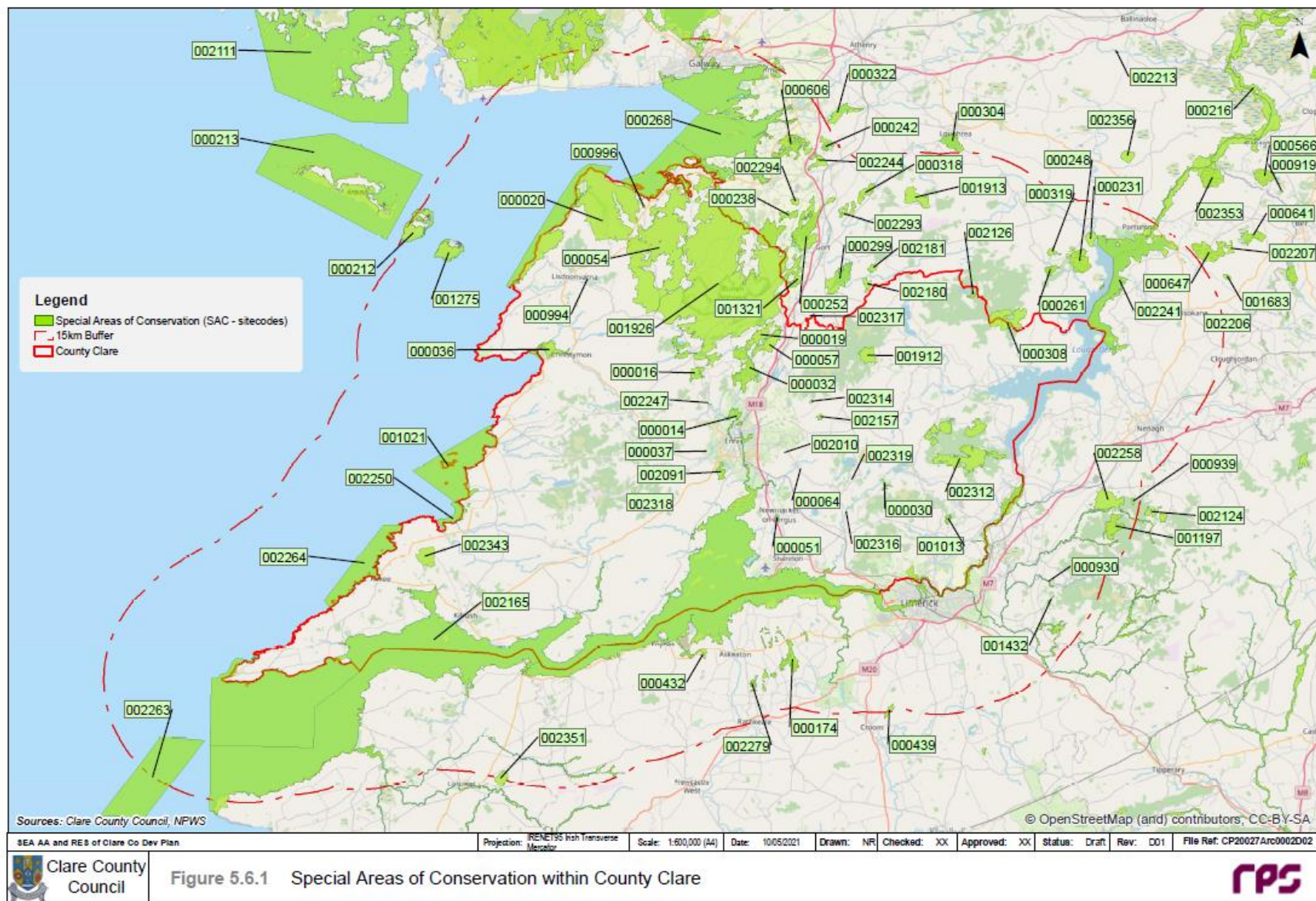
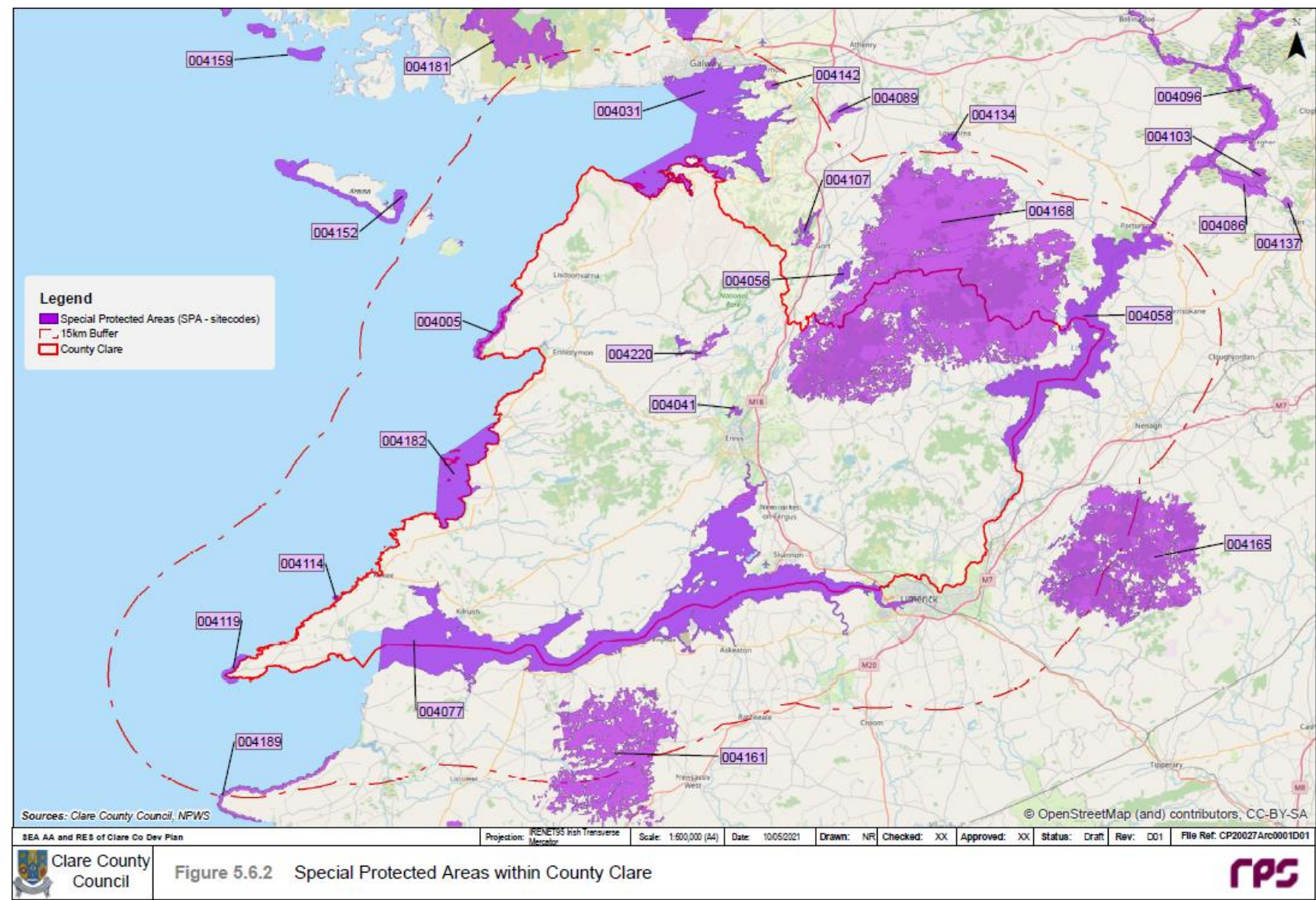


Figure 5-2:Special Protection Areas within the Zol



5.4 European Sites Importance and Threats

In order to identify whether European sites could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European sites in the context of:

- Why it has been designated - Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) for SPAs;
- Generic threats and pressures to QIs and SCIs; and
- The environmental and ecological conditions that achieve and/or maintain the condition of the QIs and SCIs.

The QIs and SCIs were downloaded from the NPWS website on the 2nd November 2020 (www.npws.ie). Threats and pressures for QIs were extracted from the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2019 Volumes 1-3), and for SCIs, from Irelands Article 12 submission to the EU Commission on the Status and trends of birds species (2008-2012)³. Information on the parameters contributing to achieving and/or maintaining favourable conservation condition were largely compiled from a range Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) downloaded from the NPWS website, but is also based on professional judgement.

The results of this desktop exercise are presented in **Appendix C**. This table lists each QI or SCI for European Sites within the zone of influence of the current CDP, generic threats and pressures for each QI/SCI, and the environmental conditions supporting each QI/SCI.

The following threats have been identified:

Rural/Agricultural activities

- Water pollution (ground/surface/transitional/coastal);
- Agricultural Intensification;
- Fertilisation;
- Grazing, (undergrazing /overgrazing);
- Restructuring agricultural land holdings leading to land reclamation;
- Burning of land;
- Removal of vegetation (hedges/copses/scrub);
- Forestry (afforestation/deforestation);
- Stock Feeding;
- Fences/fencing (upland & lowland);
- Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, wetlands;
- Drainage/flooding;
- Offshore/onshore aquaculture;
- Bottom/suspension culture;
- Intensive fish farming;
- Pair trawling;
- Pesticides; and
- Peat Extraction.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_birds/index_en.html

Economic, Enterprise, Retail and Infrastructural Development

- Water pollution (ground/surface/transitional/coastal);
- Water abstraction;
- Golf Courses;
- Roads, motorways;
- Coastal and River protection works (Hard Engineering);
- Sewage outflows;
- Housing developments;
- Communications Networks and installations;
- Quarries;
- Landfill/land reclamation;
- Disposal of household waste;
- River Channel Maintenance.
- Invasive Alien Species
- Renewable Energy Projects – Windfarms, Solar Farms, Tidal Energy etc
- Landslides, collapse due to infrastructural projects;
- Dredging;
- Sewage outflows;
- Housing developments (including demolition/renovation and/or construction);
- Light and air pollution;
- Geotechnical surveys; and
- Creation of barriers to migration.

Tourism, Recreation and Leisure

- Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles;
- Offshore motorised vehicles;
- Bait Digging;
- New Paths and Tracks;
- Increased tourism numbers leading to trampling and disturbance;
- Inappropriate infrastructure associated with tourism e.g. car parks, viewing points, signage, welfare facilities;
- Green and Blue Infrastructure – disturbance, loss of habitats and species, in-direct effects: and
- Human induced noise in the marine environments.

Towns and Villages/Rural Development

- Lack of infrastructure (Waste Water in particular) putting fresh water and in particular high status waterbodies and waterbodies requiring priority action at risk; and
- Flooding.

The key output of this stage was the identification of the types of threats to the integrity of the European sites. These can then be related to the consequences of prolonging the period of implementing the current Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 from **the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023** to see if there is a risk of any likely significant effects.

5.5 Identification of Potential Likely Significant Effects

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It used the information collected on the sensitivity of the QIs and SCIs of the European sites within the zone of influence of the current CDP boundary and describes any likely significant effects of implementation of the current CDP (as far as it could be predicted at the initial preparatory stage). This assumes the absence of any controls, conditions or assumption mitigation measures that may later be incorporated within the individual objectives or policies in the CDP.

As part of the Screening for AA, each European site will be assessed for a potential source-pathway-receptor link. In ecological and environmental impact assessment, for an impact to occur there must be a risk enabled by having a 'source' (e.g. infrastructure construction works), a 'receptor' (e.g. European sites), and a pathway between the source and the receptor (e.g. a watercourse which connects the source to a European site). The risk of the impact does not automatically mean it will occur, or that it will be significant. However, identification of the risk does mean that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the risk and the characteristics of the receptor.

5.5.1 Likely Significant Effects in Isolation

Table 5-2 below sets out the relationship between the current CDP 2017-2023 respectively and the threats to the key environmental and ecological conditions that achieve and/or maintain the condition of the QIs and SCIs of European sites as set out in **Appendix C**.

Table 5-2: Relationship between the CDP and the Potential Threats to the key environmental and ecological conditions required for QIs/SCIs

Aspects of the CDP	Potential Threats to Key Conditions by continuation of the CDP for extended period from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023
Provision of housing and directing population growth centers in proximity to European sites.	Promotion of many types of development at an inappropriate location or scale can lead to impacts, direct and indirect on European sites. Direct impacts are in the form of loss of habitat and loss of sites used by QIs/SCIs for feeding, resting and/or breeding and such impacts can easily threaten the integrity of the designation.
Supporting the provision of infrastructure within these areas of growth.	<p>Indirect impacts, especially from developments outside of the European site boundary take the form of impacts on surface water quality (especially during construction), resource use (e.g. water abstraction), waste disposal (e.g. wastewater treatment works if overcapacity), introduction of invasive species, as well as disturbance from increased recreation, lighting, noise and visual disturbances associated with increased human population in sensitive locations.</p> <p>However, in terms of the provision of housing it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives contained in the CDP which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Where WWTP infrastructure exists these plants have been considered to have adequate capacity for the projected population growth. Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>

Aspects of the CDP	Potential Threats to Key Conditions by continuation of the CDP for extended period from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023
<p>Promotion and development of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development (e.g. Attracting employment and enterprise to the greater Shannon Area located within the new Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area)</p>	<p>Direct and indirect impacts caused by disturbance of sensitive habitats and species (e.g. coastal recreation on sand dunes, angling facilities along sensitive riverbanks, maintenance of pathways) due to increased human presence.</p> <p>Promotion of many types on development at an inappropriate location or scale can lead to impacts, direct and indirect on European sites. Direct impacts are in the form of loss of habitat and loss of sites used by QIs/SCIs for feeding, resting and/or breeding and such impacts can easily threaten the integrity of the designation.</p> <p>However, in terms of the promotion and development of Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives proposed which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>
<p>Shannon International Airport and Shannon Free Zone.)</p>	<p>Indirect impacts, especially from developments outside of the European site boundary take the form of impact on water quality, including surface, ground and coastal water (especially during construction), resource use (e.g. water abstraction), waste disposal (e.g. wastewater treatment works if overcapacity), air quality, introduction of invasive species, as well as disturbance from increased recreation, lighting, noise (both above ground and submerged) and visual disturbances associated with increased human population in sensitive locations.</p> <p>Other indirect impacts in relation to the expansion of Shannon International Airport include impacts to flight lines and migration routes, increased risk of bird strike, noise disturbance and air quality impacts for SCIs.</p> <p>However, in terms of the development of the Shannon International Airport and Shannon Free Zone, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>

Aspects of the CDP	Potential Threats to Key Conditions by continuation of the CDP for extended period from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023
<p>Wild Atlantic Way, Shannon Estuary Way, Burren Way, West Clare Railway Greenway, Cliffs of Moher Strategy, Holy Island, water based recreational activities on Lough Derg and the Shannon Estuary.</p>	<p>Existing developments and land uses coupled with growing pressures from proposed tourism and leisure related activities and developments have the potential to lead to direct impacts on both habitats and species. Deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species can occur either directly or in- directly as a result of either inappropriate development or development which has not been appropriately assessed at project level.</p> <p>However, in terms of the development of greenways/blueways, tourism activities or water-based tourism, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives proposed which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>
<p>Supporting agriculture, forestry, agri-food, fishing and aquaculture as rural enterprise and rural development.</p>	<p>Direct impacts in terms of habitat loss, effects on surface, ground and coastal water quality, direct mortality (e.g. Bottlenose Dolphin entanglement in fishing gear), impacts on species migration (e.g. Salmon smolts migrating from sea to spawning grounds).</p> <p>Indirect impacts include acidification of certain sensitive habitats (e.g. peatlands and wetlands) due to emission of ammonia from increased production of animal waste (slurry), introduction of non-native and/or invasive species, transmission of diseases and sea lice to wild populations, reduction in gene pool strength due to escaping aquaculture stock mating with wild populations.</p> <p>However, in terms of supporting agriculture, forestry, agri-food, fishing and aquaculture as rural enterprise and rural development, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>

Aspects of the CDP	Potential Threats to Key Conditions by continuation of the CDP for extended period from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023
<p>Promotion of renewable energy production and the use of alternative forms of energy such as wind, tidal and solar.</p>	<p>The promotion of renewable energy and a reduction of the reliance upon fossil fuels could have a potential positive impact via improvement in water and/or air quality supporting European Sites. However, there is potential for direct and indirect impacts caused by energy projects if located in inappropriate sites or insensitively designed.</p> <p>Wind energy projects can have potential direct and indirect impacts including habitat loss, effects on birds and bats and surface water quality.</p> <p>Water based energy projects can have potential direct and indirect impacts including direct mortality of species (e.g. fish species killed by turbines), forming barriers to species movements, altering flow, erosion and deposition rates, disturbance to habitats and generating noise disturbance in the water environment.</p> <p>However, in terms of the promotion of renewable energy, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 which includes the Renewable Energy Strategy and Wind Energy Strategy was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>
<p>Identifying road network improvements, expansions and/or alternative access routes.</p>	<p>Impacts can be caused by both linear projects forming barriers to species moving between European sites. Direct and indirect impacts on European sites may occur depending on the precise routing.</p> <p>Upgrading of routes can lead to impacts on European sites including water quality impacts and disturbance to habitats and species. Indirect through the loss of linear features which act as 'stepping stones' or 'wildlife corridors' for protected species e.g. bats which are a stronghold in County Clare.</p> <p>However, in terms of the development of the road network, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>

Aspects of the CDP	Potential Threats to Key Conditions by continuation of the CDP for extended period from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023
<p>Securing a better-quality communications network throughout the County (e.g. expansion of the broadband network, construction of new telecommunication masts for 5G)</p>	<p>Direct impacts in terms of habitat loss if installing cables underground, impacts to bird flight lines if installing overhead lines. Construction related impacts (e.g. habitat loss, disturbance from noise/humans, impacts on water quality and water movement), operational related impact (e.g. such as potential habitat degradation associated with access for maintenance of the network, collision risk and barriers to movement both in-situ and ex-situ) and in- combination impacts (in particular, for above ground wireline or masts, in-combination impacts with existing overhead lines and masts).</p> <p>Indirect impacts on water quality (especially during construction).</p> <p>However, in terms of the communication network, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the current CDP and the objectives which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the current CDP 2017-2023 was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place. The National Broadband Plan is subject to the SEA and AA process.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>
<p>Promotion of extractive industries (Quarries, Forestry, land reclamation)</p>	<p>Direct impacts in terms of habitat loss, effects on surface and ground water quality and supply. Indirect impacts on noise-sensitive species.</p>
<p>Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Environment.</p>	<p>Direct impact in terms of habitat loss at riparian and coastal sites, indirect impacts due to changes in river/coastal geomorphology arising from engineered flood minimisation measures leading to erosion/deposition changes or changes to flood regime upstream in the catchment. Inappropriately renewable energy developments such as wind farms, solar farms and tidal and wave devices which may lead to the direct and in-direct loss of habitats and species together with in-direct effects on their key attributes.</p> <p>However, in terms of the promotion of climate change, renewable energy and environment, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan will ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. In addition, the CDP 2017-2023 includes the Renewable Energy Strategy and Wind Energy Strategy and was subject to the AA and SEA process. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>It is worth nothing that whilst the exiting CDP indirectly supports decarbonization the new CDP will contain more targeted objectives in relation to Climate which support decarbonization.</p> <p>However, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts with respect to decarbonization. Further an extension of 6 weeks will not delay the new CDP meeting the 2030 climate targets.</p>

Aspects of the CDP	Potential Threats to Key Conditions by continuation of the CDP for extended period from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023
	Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.
Protecting structures of historical and heritage value from disrepair	<p>Potential for direct impacts on Lesser Horseshoe Bats roosting/hibernating in old buildings.</p> <p>However, in terms of structures of historical and heritage ,it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change.</p> <p>The CDP contains specific objectives in relation to structure of historical and heritage value which supports protected structures while ensuring protection of European Sites. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April are excluded.</p>

Using the analysis of the threats to the integrity of the European sites and the lists of potential impacts that could arise as a result of the policy groupings, the impacts were grouped into the following categories which will be used to scope the terms of reference for the subsequent assessment if there is a risk posed to each site.

- **Direct Habitat Loss within European site** (e.g. roads and other development occurring on undeveloped sites, coastal protection works).
- **Indirect effects on the ecological networks supporting European sites** (e.g. roads and other linear developments forming barriers to movements of mobile species or loss of sites that support an overall population of species).
- **Indirect threat to quality including changes to surface and ground water quality and volumes** (E.g. wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, changes to agricultural drainage, changes to flood regime)
- **Direct/indirect disturbance of sensitive habitats/species** (E.g. recreation at coastal sites, riverside walkways etc.).
- **Direct/Indirect threats to European sites by invasive species.** (E.g. landscaping, forestry, urbanization).

5.5.2 In-combination Effects

The assessment of in-combination effects with other plans or projects is a crucial and often difficult aspect of Article 6(3) assessment, particularly at plan level. This step aims to consider how the extension of the current Clare County Development Plan by 6 weeks will result in any possible in-combination effects with other plans or projects during that timeframe. In theory, there are many other plans/projects that interact with or have the potential to combine pressures and threats to European sites; however, the in-combination assessment is a matter of applying a practical and realistic approach.

In line with MN2000 guidance, a stepwise approach has been taken to consideration of in-combination effects, outlined in , as follows:

- Identify plans/projects that might act in combination.
- Identify the types of impacts that might occur.
- Define boundaries of the assessment.
- Identify pathways for impact.
- Impact prediction and assessment.

Table 5-3: In-combination Impacts with other Plans and Strategies

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region</p> <p>Contains objectives for the delivery of the NPF with regional rather than national focus.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitats fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>This plan was subject to AA. Potential for in-combination effects as activity and development in the region may have indirect impacts on land use, population growth and scale of development outside their administrative boundary. AA will be undertaken at all levels in the planning hierarchy, evolving alongside greater certainty/details in proposals through the regional, county and local level, in all cases ensuring those proposals are in keeping with the objectives of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan)</p> <p>The National Planning Framework is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years and it will focus on ensuring compatibility between future growth of cities/ towns within Ireland alongside environmental sustainability. It is intended that the National Planning Framework will both provide the focus to guide and inform future planning and set the framework for integrated investment decisions. It is intended that the national policy will be detailed through the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies in order to set out long term national, regional and local</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alteration to air quality; and • Disturbance. 	<p>Potential for in-combination effects as it sets the policy framework on which RSES is based. However, it is a policy 13 of the National Planning Framework to ensure the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets. Linkage to wider policies such as for European Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive is recognised and the need to set high level planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of our natural environment. The plan has been subject to AA.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
development frameworks from within which sectors will work together to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic are being subject to the AA process.		<p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>National Development Plan 2018-2027</p> <p>The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF). This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introductions or spread of invasive species 	<p>The NDP is a high level budgetary and financed document which identifies priorities for capital investment. Given the nature of the capital investment the majority of the projects referenced and funded under the NDP have been or will be subject to EIA/AA. The NDP does not confer planning, it identifies strategic need.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Water Services Strategic Plan</p> <p>Irish Water has prepared a Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP, 2015), under Section 33 of the Water Service No. 2 Act of 2013 to address the delivery of strategic objectives which will contribute towards improved water quality and WFD requirements. The WSSP forms the highest tier of asset management plans (Tier 1) which</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>The WSSP has undergone SEA and AA, which highlighted the need for additional plan/project environmental assessments to be carried out at the tier 2 and tier 3 levels. No likely significant in- combination effects are envisaged.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>Irish Water prepare, and it sets the overarching framework for subsequent detailed implementation plans (Tier 2) and water services projects (Tier 3). The WSSP sets out the challenges we face as a country in relation to the provision of water services and identifies strategic national priorities. It includes Irish Water's short, medium- and long-term objectives and identifies strategies to achieve these objectives. As such, the plan provides the context for subsequent detailed implementation plans (Tier 2) which will document the approach to be used for key water service areas such as water resource management, wastewater compliance and sludge management. The WSSP also sets out the strategic objectives against which the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme is developed. The current version of the CIP outlines the proposals for capital expenditure in terms of upgrades and new builds within the Irish Water owned asset.</p>		<p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, under the Floods Directive</p> <p>The Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for the implementation of the Floods Directive 2007/60/EC which is being carried out through a Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme. As part of the directive Ireland is required to undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, to identify areas of existing or potentially significant future flood risk and to prepare flood hazard and risk maps for these areas. Following this, Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are developed for these areas setting objectives for managing the flood risk and setting out a prioritised set of measures to achieve the objectives. The CFRAM programme is currently being rolled out and Flood Risk Management Plans have been prepared.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Disturbance; • In-combination impacts within the same • Scheme; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>CFRAM Studies and their product Flood Risk Management Plans have undergone appropriate assessment. Any future flood plans will have to take into account the design and implementation of water management infrastructure as it has the potential to impact on hydromorphology and potentially on the ecological status and favorable conservation status of water bodies. The establishment where flooding is occurring is an important consideration for the RSES and spatial planning in general, with regard to the siting of houses, services and infrastructure. The AA of the CFRAMs considered the potential for impacts from hard engineering solutions and how they might affect hydrological connectivity and hydromorphological supporting conditions for protected habitats and species. No likely significant in-combination effects are envisaged.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
These plans have been subject AA.		<p>other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Culture 2025</p> <p>Culture 2025 is a Framework Policy to 2025 which sets the vision for the future of culture and the arts in Ireland and prioritises actions. It recognises the diverse and multi-faceted nature of culture in Ireland and the contribution of 'culture' to sense of self, national identity and the arts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Disturbance of species; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>This strategy includes a number of aims relating to regeneration and reuse of building stock. Potential in-combination impacts relate to urban regeneration, infill development and reuse of protected/ vacant / derelict buildings (e.g. potential habitats for bats). However, at a project level any project will be subject to AA and any necessary mitigation. Therefore, no potential for in-combination impacts are envisaged.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Healthy Ireland –a Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2015-2025</p> <p>The main aims of Healthy Ireland are: to increase the numbers of people experiencing good health (mental and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species disturbance 	<p>Healthy Ireland is a long-term strategy concerned with the health and wellbeing of people and communities, The plan encourages healthier lifestyles such as walking and cycling which, in combination with the Clare CDP policies for greenways (which will more than likely be</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>physical) at all life stages; reduce health inequalities with a focus on social factors; protect the public and increase preparedness for threats to public health; and to encourage every individual and society as a whole to collaboratively engage with its own health and wellbeing. The first Implementation Plan has been published covering 2015-2017.</p>		<p>included due to their presence in the RSES), could lead to species disturbance particularly along coasts and rivers. As noted elsewhere, robust route / site selection must be applied for all linear infrastructure to avoid potential for impacts.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon.</p>
<p>Towards Nearly Zero Energy Buildings in Ireland</p> <p>Planning for 2020 and Beyond Proposed approach to Irish compliance with the EPBD commitments, prepared by the DECLG in November 2012. By 2020 all new dwellings in Ireland will have a Maximum Permitted Energy Performance Coefficient (MPEPC) and Maximum Permitted Carbon Performance Coefficient (MPCPC) of 0.30 and 0.35 in accordance with the common general framework set out in Annex I of EPBD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>This framework includes a number of aims which are linked to the aims under the RSES related to climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy. Potential in-combination impacts relate to construction of infrastructure. However, at a project level each project will be subject to AA and any necessary mitigation. Therefore, no potential for in-combination impacts are envisaged.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
National Climate and Energy Plan 2021-2030 The plan brings together energy and climate planning and describes how Ireland will achieve the EU's main climate targets. The plan covers the key areas of (i) energy security; (ii) internal energy market; (iii) energy efficiency; (iv) decarbonisation; and (v) research, innovation and competitiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/ or water movement; • Disturbance; • In-combination impacts within the same scheme; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	The plan supports decarbonisation and as such the main thrust of the plan is positive as it addresses climate change aspects however renewable energies such as wind energy have potential for adverse effects on European sites and protected species. In the short to medium term, the move toward electrification of transport and heat will still rely on non-renewable sources of electricity generation. The Plan has also been subject to SEA and AA.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) Presents the national ambition to deliver a 20% reduction in energy demand across the whole of the economy by 2020, along with a 33% reduction in public sector energy use. Ireland's third NEEAP was published 2014 and the fourth was produced in early 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	This plan would not be expected to conflict with any aspects of the Clare CDP but to positively contribute to it going forward subject to AA of the 4th review. It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects. There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place. Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012 The framework provides strategic focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. There is a requirement for each government department to prepare sectoral plans. With the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to water quality and/ or water movement; • Disturbance; • In-combination impacts within the same 	Ireland will have to adhere to the goals and targets set by the EU in relation to climate and energy and the National Policy Position on climate action sets a fundamental national objective to achieve the transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. The policy states that greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change are to be addressed in parallel national strategies, through a series of National Mitigation Plans and a series of National Climate

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<p>establishment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 there is now a statutory basis on which National Climate Change Adaptation Frameworks and Sectoral Adaptation Plans are to be established. It is expected that the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework will be finalised later in 2017 followed by the development of sectoral adaptation plans. The policies and measures developed by the Adaptation Framework are likely to focus on infrastructural measures which have the potential to impact on hydromorphology which has specific relevance for the RSES and Natura Directives. In addition, a climate Mitigation Plan is also being prepared by the DCCAE and this too will contain specific measures to mitigate against climate change. The focus in this plan is the transport, energy, built environment and agriculture sectors.</p>	<p>scheme; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>Change Adaptation Frameworks respectively. Alongside the focus towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions Ireland also needs to increase its share of renewable energy. Renewable energy sources include a range of possibilities, although to date much of the focus has been on wind energy and the focus is often in remote and upland areas including peatlands and forestry. In both cases, environmental sensitivities which relate to water dependent habitats and species can be a significant issue at project level and this must be part of broader considerations on the inter-dependency of national policy positions, especially where defined targets have been set. As part of policies and frameworks being developed going forward, consideration should be given to these sensitive areas and guidance developed in terms of future development.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Energy Roadmap 2050</p> <p>This roadmap does not set specific energy targets at this point but does aim to achieve an 80% to 95% reduction in greenhouse gases compared to 1990 levels by 2050.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to air quality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water 	<p>The key aim of the Roadmap is a guide to a low carbon Europe. This plan will be complimentary to the Clare CDP and as such no significant in- combination impacts are envisaged.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any</p>

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	<p>movement; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP)</p> <p>The NREAP is produced as a requirement of the Renewable Energy Directive and sets out Ireland's "national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in transport electricity and heating and cooling in 2020".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive. 	<p>This plan was not subject to AA, but some actions arising out of it have since been subject to AA owing to judicial review. The plan is positive in that its aims are to accelerate the uptake on renewable energy, thereby reducing the dependence on fossil fuels. The Clare CDP through the review of the RES will contribute to reaching the targets set in the NREAP and as such the plans are complementary.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP)</p> <p>The OREDPP identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland's abundant offshore renewable energy resources for increasing indigenous production of renewable electricity, thereby contributing to reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions, improving the security of our energy supply and creating jobs in the green economy. The OREDPP sets out key principles, policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and 	<p>This plan was subject to AA. The Climate Action Plan requires a saving of c.16 Mt of carbon by 2030 therefore Offshore Wind will be required and is seen as a considerable opportunity in the Atlantic Ocean on the west coast of Ireland. While this may conflict with the OREDPP the Clare CDP element at this point will only involve the land-based infrastructure and connectivity elements. Projects arising from the OREDPP, and successors to the OREDPP, will be required to undergo AA. Therefore, unless projects can be provided for in line with the OREDPP there shouldn't be an in- combination effect with the Clare</p>

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<p>actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. In this way, the OREDP provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>CDP.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Harnessing our Ocean Wealth -an Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</p> <p>Ireland aims to have the ocean become a key component for economic recovery and sustainable growth. As a national asset the potential of the Irish Sea is seen as something to be harnessed as outlined in Harnessing our Ocean Wealth an Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012. Three high-level goals have been developed:</p> <p>Ireland will utilise market opportunities to improve the maritime economy and create sustainable growth;</p> <p>Improve the health of the sea ecosystems for economic benefit, and goods and services such as food, climate, health and well-being; and Encourage engagement with the sea to increase awareness of its value. There are two key targets: Double the value of our ocean wealth to 2.4% of GDP by 2030; and increase the turnover from our ocean economy to exceed €6.4bn by 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Hydromorphological impacts through infrastructure expansion; • Alterations to water quality • Disturbance to habitats and/or species; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species 	<p>This increased productivity and activity proposed in Harnessing our Ocean Wealth is likely to have implications for coastal areas e.g. impacts to coastal and marine European Sites as a result of a greater intensity of development and activity. The RSES includes a number of marine policies which also see greater productivity in the maritime space and as such there is potential for in - combination effects with it. Currently Local Authorities do not have a remit over the marine environment and therefore the CDP can only incorporate policies or objectives which relate to the land-based infrastructure or provide connectivity to the marine based elements. Therefore, any objectives or potentially zoning changes required in the CDP will need to carefully consider the potential for in-combination effects with HOOW.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a</p>

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		result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19 th March 2023 to the 30 th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.
<p>Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</p> <p>The Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022 provides an update to the 2016 programme. It looks to optimise the existing grid to minimize the need for new infrastructure, looks at all practical technology options and includes consultation with local communities and stakeholders which has been central to the process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; and • Disturbance to habitat/species. 	<p>These plans are subject to AA therefore no significant in-combination impacts are envisaged at plan level.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure in Transport 2017-2030</p> <p>Supports the provision of refueling infrastructure for alternative fuels, common technical standards and appropriate consumer information. The alternative fuel options could include electricity, hydrogen, biofuels and natural gas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Alterations to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>This plan underwent SEA and AA. The potential for in-combination effects is expected to be in relation to the production and generation of alternative fuels which could have resultant impacts such as emissions to air and land use change, and requirement for infrastructure. This plan would not be expected to conflict with any aspects of the Clare CDP but to positively contribute to it going forward.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a</p>

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		result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19 th March 2023 to the 30 th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.
<p>The Bioenergy Plan</p> <p>Aims to develop cost-effective harnessing of sustainable, indigenous, renewable energy resources. Also aims to reduce harmful emissions from traditional fuels. This plan will underpin the development of the sector in the period up to 2020 and lay foundations for its longer-term growth and in contributing to renewable energy targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat degradation or fragmentation; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alteration to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats and/or species; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>The potential for in-combination effects is expected to be in relation to the production of biomass for energy which can result in habitat loss and the associated ecological impacts as well as emissions to air during combustion. This plan could potentially conflict with the Clare CDP in terms of afforestation which may be required, or the transport routes associated with the deforestation to feed the industry.</p> <p>However, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>National Peatlands Strategy (NPS) and Raised Bog SAC Management Plans</p> <p>Establishes principles in relation to Irish peatlands in order to guide Government policy. Aims to provide a framework for which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution. Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic social and cultural needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Ammonia deposition; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alteration to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of Invasive species. 	<p>Potential for in combination effects as land use changes could have adverse impacts on peatland even where activities are undertaken at a considerable distance from a site. However, the RSES includes specific protection of peatlands in terms of land use (see RPO 101) and supports the sustainable use of peatlands in a manner which ensures there is no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development supported in this strategy. From a County perspective the policies pertaining to peatlands will be brought into the CDP where possible therefore ensuring land use activities are carefully assessed.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with</p>

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		<p>other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Food Wise 2025</p> <p>Food Wise 2025 strategy identifies significant growth opportunities across all subsectors of the Irish agri-food industry. Growth Projection includes increasing the value added in the Agri- food, fisheries and wood products sector by 70% to in excess of €13 billion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Land use change or intensification; • Water pollution; • Nitrogen deposition; and • Disturbance to habitats/species 	<p>Growth is to be achieved through sustainable intensification to maximise production efficiency whilst minimising the effects on the environment however there is increased risk of nutrient discharge to receiving waters and in turn a potential risk to biodiversity and European Sites if not controlled. With the required mitigation in the Food Wise Plan, no significant in-combination Impacts are predicted. Mitigation measures including cross compliance with 13 Statutory Management Requirements, EIA, Agricultural Regulations 2011, GLAS, and Screening for AA of licensing and permitting in the forestry and seafood sectors.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>

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<p>The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)</p> <p>A key agricultural policy with the main objectives of ensuring a decent standard of living for farmers and the provision of stable and safe food supply at affordable prices for consumers. The CAP through various iterations is the principal policy that drives agricultural management throughout the European Union. It recognises the economic and rural importance of agriculture through a system subsidies and support programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>Spatial planning under the RSES is closely aligned with land use change related to agriculture and rural growth and continued development of the rural economy. Some likely significant impacts are addressed through the Rural Development Plan 2014-2020 through the requirement for Appropriate Assessment, monitoring and introducing several pieces of legislation under the Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters (Regulations 2014, S.I. 31/2014). There is potential for in-combination impacts as the rural economy is promoted under the RSES. This will subsequently form a key component of the Clare CDP as the promotion of the rural economy will be central to providing a sustainable county into the future therefore the potential for in-combination effects may arise.</p> <p>However, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Action Plan for Rural Development</p> <p>Action Plan for Rural Development sets out the Government's approach for rural places in Ireland to grow and adapt through supportive measures which encourage innovation and build on the existing strengths of rural communities in Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and 	<p>No AA appears to have been carried out for the Action Plan for Rural Development which includes over 230 actions focused on developing the rural economy. As such there is potential for in combination impacts with the Clare CDP and other agricultural plan and policies. AA screening of the Action Plan is required to offset the potential for in-combination effects.</p> <p>However, it is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Rural Development Programme 2014-2020</p> <p>Provides a new suite of rural development measures designed to enhance the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, achieve more sustainable management of natural resources and ensure a more balanced development of rural areas. Includes provisions under Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS); Bio-Energy; nutrient management planning; “Carbon Navigator” software tool and Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS).</p> <p>Within the RDP are two targeted Agri-environment schemes; Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) and Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS). They provide the role of a supportive measure to improve water quality.</p> <p>The achievement of the objectives outlined within GLAS, to improve water quality, mitigate against climate change and promote biodiversity will be of direct positive benefit in achieving the objectives in particular in relation to the Water Framework Directive within the Clare CDP and the goals of the Natura Directives. The scheme has an expected participation for 2014-2020 of 50,000 farmers which have to engage in specific training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>The RDP for 2014 – 2020 has been subject to SEA14, and AA15. The AA assessed the potential for impacts from the RDP measures e.g. for the GLAS scheme to result in inappropriate management prescriptions; minimum stocking rates under the Areas of Natural Constraints measure leading to overgrazing in sensitive habitats with dependent species, and TAMS supporting intensification. Mitigation included project specific AA for individual building, tourism or agricultural reclamation projects, consultations with key stakeholders during detailed measure development, and site-based monitoring of the effects of RDP measures. With such measures in place, it was concluded that there would be no significant in-combination impacts on European sites.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>

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<p>and tasks in order to receive full payment.</p> <p>Farmers within the scheme must have a nutrient management plan which is a strategy for maximising the return from on and off-farm chemical and organic fertilizer resources. This has a direct positive contribution towards protecting waterbodies from pollution through limiting the amount of fertiliser that is placed on the land. The scheme prioritises farms in vulnerable catchments with 'high status' waterbodies and also focuses on educating farmers on best practices to try and improve efficiency along with environmental outcomes. The TAMS scheme is open to all farmers and is focused on supporting productive investment for modernisation. This financial grant for farmers is focused on the pig and poultry sectors, dairy equipment and the storage of slurry and other farmyard manures. Within the TAMS scheme are two further schemes; the Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme and the Low Emission Slurry Spreading Scheme. Both schemes are focused on productivity for farmers but have the ability to contribute towards a reduction in point and diffuse source pollution through improved nutrient management.</p>		
<p>Forest Policy Review: Forests, Products and People – A Renewed Vision (2014) / Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020</p> <p>Ireland's forestry sector is striving to increase forestry cover and one of the recommended policy actions in the Forest Policy Review: Forests, Products and People – A Renewed Vision (2014) is to increase the level of afforestation annually overtime and support afforestation and mobilisation measures under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020. Two key objectives within the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 that will</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Alterations to air quality; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>Ireland's Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 has undergone AA. A key recommendation is that all proposed forestry projects should be subject to an assessment of their impacts and the proximity of Natura 2000 habitats and species should be taken into account when proposals are generated.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>influence the RSES are to increase Ireland's forest cover to 18% and to establish 10,000 ha of new forests and woodlands per annum. As part of this programme there are a number of schemes that promote sustainable forest management and they include the Afforestation Scheme, the Woodland Improvement Scheme, the Forest Road Scheme and the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme. Under the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme funding is provided to restore existing native woodland which promotes Ireland's native woodland resource and associated biodiversity. Native woodlands provide wider ecosystem functions and services which once restored can contribute to the protection and enhancement of water quality and aquatic habitats. New guidance and plans are also being developed to address forestry adjacent to water bodies, Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plans for 8 priority catchments and a Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan (NPWS). The mitigation measures within these plans will be particularly important in terms of protecting sensitive habitats and species from such forestry increases.</p>		<p>Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and Nitrates Action Programme (currently being updated)</p> <p>This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further pollution. The NAP is Ireland's response to implementing the directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; • Nutrient enrichment; and • Alteration to air quality. 	<p>No risk of likely significant in-combination effects from the Directive as the primary purpose of is to improve environmental quality. Furthermore, it is noted that the latest update to the NAP is undergoing AA and an NIS is in preparation. This will ensure appropriate mitigation is included to prevent significant in combination effects from occurring.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
		<p>other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) and our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012) (national)</p> <p>The overarching sustainable development policy document in the EU. During the 2009 review the EU noted a number of unsustainable trends that require urgent action including a decrease in high energy consumption in the transport sector in linewith the 2020 Strategy. At national level, Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012) has followed the model used in the EU SDS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>There is potential for in-combination effects with the Clare CDP in terms of infrastructure requirements resulting in habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation and the associated ecological impacts. However, the main thrust of the plan is positive and would not be expected to conflict with any aspects of the Clare CDP but to positively influence it going forward.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Smarter Travel 'A New Transport Policy for Ireland' 2009-2020</p> <p>Sets out five key goals: to reduce overall travel demand; to maximise the efficiency of the transport network; to reduce reliance on fossil fuels; to reduce transport emissions; and to improve accessibility to transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Species mortality; • Alterations to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water 	<p>There is potential for in-combination effects with the Clare CDP in terms of infrastructure requirements resulting in habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation and the associated ecological impacts, potential collision impacts and/or disturbance. However, the main thrust of the plan is overall positive as it relates to reducing emissions and reliance on fossil fuels in the transport sector and therefore will positively influence/inform the CDP going forward.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
	<p>movement; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction or spread of invasive species. • 	<p>CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>The primary purpose of this Directive and the various pieces of national legislation that have enacted through the implementation of River Basin Management Plans, is to achieve good status for all water bodies, with no deterioration in water body status.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve ecological status. The proper management of agriculture, forestry and infrastructural development will contribute to achieving the objectives of the WFD as developed through the RBMP. The second cycle River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 has been published together with an NIS including mitigation to offset negative effects. The third cycle River Basin Management Plan is currently in preparation and will be subject to the AA process.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)</p> <p>The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) has adopted an ecosystem-based approach to protect and manage the marine environment. This forms an integral component of maritime spatial planning within the EU and requires Member States to develop a strategy to achieve or maintain good environmental status in their marine waters by 2020. Ireland has developed a Programme of Measures that will meet targets set in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status. This is of direct relevance to the RBMP which is required under the WFD which sets a goal of achieving good ecological status for all EU ground and surface waters (including intertidal, transitional and coastal waters), which directly complements the goal of good environmental status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>The MSFD Programme of Measures have not been subject to AA as all measures included within the POMs are currently being applied in Ireland under existing directive implementation e.g. WFD POMs, marine planning and licensing etc.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU</p> <p>The Maritime Spatial Planning Directive obliges all coastal Member States to establish maritime spatial plans as soon as possible and at the latest by 31st March 2021. This will help promote sustainable growth of maritime activities recognising the ever-increasing use and exploitation of the maritime space and its resources by a number of sectors such as fishing, shipping, leisure, aquaculture and renewable energy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Loss of ecosystem services, • Species mortality; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>Ireland is addressing its obligations under the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive through the preparation of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF).</p> <p>The (NMPF), was published in June 2021. The NMPF is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years which sits at the top of a hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area and sets the groundwork for the development of the marine waters surrounding Ireland. It is anticipated that lower tier plans will be developed under future revisions of the NMPF which will articulate the geographic and spatial aspects of marine planning. It is also intended under the Planning and Development Act 2018 that national, regional and local terrestrial plans are to be consistent with the NMPF</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
		<p>Mitigation was proposed under the AA to offset potential for adverse effects. The intention is these measures will cascade through the planning system and align with those already in place as a result of the AA for the National Planning Framework. Potential for in-combination effects as it sets policy framework on which relates to social, Economic and environmental issues which are directly relevant to the RSES. It is a policy of the Framework to ensure the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets. Linkage to wider policies such as for European Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Marine Framework Directive are recognised and the need to set high level planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of our natural environment.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</p> <p>This Directive establishes a regime, which sets groundwater quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat degradation; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
		Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.
<p>The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC)</p> <p>Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent in the first instance or to reduce emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat degradation; • Alterations to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>Particularly relevant to the electricity generation and transport sector. No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</p> <p>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy as per the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Strategy is to halt the loss of habitat and species. One target is to increase the contribution of agriculture and forest to biodiversity, integrating more biodiversity needs into CAP and forest management plans. Opportunities exist in the implementation of the Clare CDP to assist in achieving the objectives of the Strategy through consideration and integration of environmental issues throughout the spatial planning hierarchy.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
		<p>other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021</p> <p>Ireland's third iteration of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), for conserving and restoring Ireland's biodiversity covering the period 2017 to 2021.</p> <p>The aims are to achieve Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity through addressing issues ranging from improving the management of protected areas to increasing awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved habitat and species protection. 	<p>As the BAP is aimed at environmental protection, there are no in-combination effects.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>National Transport Strategy</p> <p>The NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services over the period 2016 - 2035.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat loss or destruction; Habitat fragmentation or degradation; Alterations to air quality; Disturbance to habitats/species; Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>This Transport Strategy will inform the Clare CDP. The RSES and the Clare CDP is required by legislation to be consistent with the National Transport Authority's Transportation Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. The strategy has undergone AA.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2010-2020</p> <p>The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2010-2020, prepared by the EPA identifies priority actions to prevent hazardous waste, improve the collection rate of hazardous waste in certain categories, movement towards self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management for Ireland and the identification and regulation of legacy issues in relation to hazardous waste. In addition, three Regional Waste Plans (Eastern-Midlands; Southern; and Connaught-Ulster) were published in 2015 to provide a framework for the prevention and management of wastes for the three defined regional areas. These documents include policies and actions which will be complementary to the Clare CDP, in particular those addressing remediation of historic and illegal landfills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of hazardous substances into the environment • Habitat loss or destruction; • Habitat fragmentation or degradation; • Alterations to air quality; • Disturbance to habitats/species; • Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and • Introduction or spread of invasive species. 	<p>result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p> <p>Non-compliance with the Environmental Quality Standards for Priority Substances and Priority Hazardous Substances in Ireland is very low and not of significant concern with the exception of two ubiquitous substances (mercury and PAHs).</p> <p>Good chemical status can only be achieved if there are no breaches of Environmental Quality Standards for any priority substance. In relation to the Clare CDP, this will influence for example, certain agricultural practices including the application of herbicides and pesticides and the use of sheep dip. The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan has been subject to Screening for AA. The revised plan has been screened out for AA, however, any specific plan or project proposal relating to or arising out of the recommendations in the revised plan will need to be subjected to the AA processes at the level of the more detailed sectoral plans and ultimately at individual project level. As such, no in-combination effects are expected with the Clare CDP.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>National Water Resources Plan</p> <p>This Framework will deliver a sustainable water supply on a catchment and water resource zone basis, meeting growth and demand requirements through drought and critical periods. The resources plan will need to take account of WFD objectives and the programme of measures proposed in the relevant catchments and water resource zones. Specific measures in the plan with relevance to Irish Water include those for urban wastewater and urban runoff and also as part of other measures in relation to the lead in drinking water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased abstractions leading to changes/pressure on existing hydrology/hydrogeological regimes. 	<p>The plan will seek to develop sustainable water supplies but must consider particularly critical drought periods when assimilation capacity for diffuse runoff may be reduced. The Plan has been subject to both SEA and AA. In the context of the Clare CDP it will need to adhere to the requirements of the NPF and in this regard will be required to allow the phasing of development / growth where the availability of services in advance of planning are shown. Therefore, Water and Wastewater Infrastructure will need to be provided for in line with the National Water Resources Plan before the Clare CDP can provide for this type of development. While there may be conflict between the CDP wanting to allow development the NWRS plan will ensure there is no risk of in combination effects.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan</p> <p>The Government published a National Strategy to reduce exposure to Lead in Drinking Water in June 2015. In support of this strategy Irish Water, as the national public water utility has prepared the Irish Water Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan in collaboration with the HSE and EPA. The plan proposes orthophosphate dosing of the water supply at various treatment sites as orthophosphate is a corrosion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of orthophosphate into the water environment/nutrient enrichment/eutrophication. 	<p>An AA of the Lead Mitigation Plan has been undertaken. Mitigation measures proposed included a lead services replacement Standard Operating Procedure to ensure best industry practice for the management of site operation.</p> <p>Another measure, Corrective Water Treatment i.e. orthophosphate treatment is proposed as an interim measure to reduce lead concentrations in drinking water. A bespoke environmental assessment methodology has been developed for the plan, in consultation with the EPA and NPWS, to ensure that risks to water bodies in the context of</p>

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
<p>inhibiter that creates a coating on lead and other metal pipes which prevents the lead dissolving into the water. Orthophosphate dosing takes a period of 6-18 months to develop a full coating, after which dosing must be maintained in order to sustain the protective coating.</p>		<p>achieving WFD objectives and Birds and Habitats Directives, can be assessed and mitigated as the dosing programme is rolled out. Subject to the AA process which has been specified for each dosing location, and appropriate mitigation measures being identified, it is expected that there will be no in combination effects on European sites.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change. Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>
<p>National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (2015)</p> <p>The National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan was prepared in 2015, outlining the measures needed to improve the management of wastewater sludge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss and disturbance from new / upgraded infrastructure; • Species disturbance; • Changes to water quality or quantity; and • Nutrient enrichment/eutrophication. 	<p>The plan was subject to both AA and SEA and includes a number of mitigation measures which were identified in relation to transport of materials, land spreading of sludge and additional education and research requirements. This plan does not specifically address domestic wastewater loads, only those relating to Irish Water facilities. A plan is proposed in relation to national drinking water sludge management to complement the NWSMP, but no details on the drinking water sludge plan are yet available. In relation to the plan as it stands, no in-combination effects are expected with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 will result in negative impacts in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>There are no changes to the CDP and the objectives within the plan which ensure the protection of European Sites, water quality and any other supporting habitats/features to European Sites will not change.</p>

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Plan/Programme/Policy	Key Types of Impacts	Potential for In-Combination Effects and Mitigation
		<p>Any mitigation has been fully incorporated and shall remain in place.</p> <p>Therefore, Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) upon European Sites as a result of the extension of duration of the period for the CDP from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April in combination with other plans and projects are excluded.</p>

6 CONCLUSION

The Screening process identified 77 SACs and 19 SPAs within the ZOI of the current Clare CDP with 37 SACs and 10 SPAs located within the current CDP boundary.

The potential impacts of a 6-week extension of duration of the current CDP 2017-2023 from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April have been considered in the context of; the European sites potentially affected; their qualifying interests and/or special conservation interests; and their conservation objectives. Through an assessment of the source-pathway-receptor model, which considered the zone of influence of effects from the proposed extension of duration and the potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects, the following findings were reported:

The proposed extension of duration is not predicted to result in Likely Significant Effects on any European Site. Therefore Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Report) is not required.

7 REFERENCES

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Appendix A **Special Areas of Conservation**

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Special Areas of Conservation	Site Code
Sites within Clare County Boundary	
Ballyallia Lake	000014
Ballycullinan Lake	000016
Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building	002246
Ballyogan Lough	000019
Ballyteige (Clare)	000994
Ballyvaughan Turlough	000996
Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex	000020
Carrowmore Dunes	002250
Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands	001021
Danes Hole, Poulnalecka	000030
Dromore Woods and Loughs	000032
East Burren Complex	001926
Galway Bay Complex	000268
Glendree Bog	001912
Glenomra Wood	001013
Inagh River Estuary	000036
Inishmore Island (included given proximity and association with other island European Sites and potential for off-shore developments)	000213
Kilkee Reefs	002264
Kilkishen House	002319
Knockanira House	002318
Lough Gash Turlough	000051
Loughatorick South Bog	000308
Lower River Shannon	002165
Moneen Mountain	000054
Moyree River System	000057
Newgrove House	002157
Newhall and Edenvale Complex	002091
Old Domestic Building, Keelvagh	002010
Old Domestic Building, Rylane	002314
Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan	002245
Pollagoona Bog	002126
Pouladatig Cave	000037
Poulnagordon Cave (Quin)	000064
Ratty River Cave	002316

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Special Areas of Conservation	Site Code
Slieve Bernagh Bog	002312
Termon Lough	001321
Toonagh Estate	002247
Tullaheer Lough and Bog	002343
Sites outside of Clare County boundary	
Ardrahan Grassland	002244
Askeaton Fen Complex	002279
Ballinduff Turlough	002295
Barrigone	000432
Barrougher Bog	000231
Caherglassaun Turlough	000238
Cahermore Turlough	002294
Carrowbaun, Newhall And Ballylee	002293
Castletaylor Complex	000242
Clare Glen	000930
Cloonmoylan Bog	000248
Connemara Bog Complex	002034
Coole-Garryland Complex	000252
Cregg House Stables, Crusheen	002317
Curraghchase Woods SAC	000174
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve	000261
Drummin Wood	002181
Glenstal Wood	001432
Gortacarnaun Wood	002180
Inisheer Island	001275
Inishmaan Island	000212
Keeper Hill	001197
Kerry Head Shoal	002263
Kiltartan Cave (Coole)	000286
Kiltiernan Turlough	001285
Lough Corrib	000297
Lough Coy	002117
Lough Cutra	000299
Lough Derg, North-East Shore	002241
Lough Fingall Complex	000606
Moanveanlagh Bog	002351
Peterswell Turlough	000318

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Special Areas of Conservation	Site Code
Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve	000319
River Shannon Callows	000216
Rosturra Wood	001313
Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog	002206
Silvermine Mountains	000939
Silvermines Mountains West	002258
Sonnagh Bog	001913
Tory Hill	000439



Appendix B **Special Protection Areas**

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Special Protection Area	Site Code
Sites within Clare County Boundary	
Ballyallia Lough	004041
Cliffs of Moher	004005
Corofin Wetlands	004220
Illlaunonearaun	004114
Inner Galway Bay	004031
Innishmore (included given proximity and association with other island European Sites and potential for off shore developments)	004152
Loop Head	004119
Lough Derg (Shannon)	004058
Mid-Clare Coast	004182
River Shannon and River Fergus	004077
Slieve Aughty Mountains	004168
Sites outside of Clare County Boundary	
Connemara Bog Complex	004181
Coole-Garryland	004107
Cregganna Marsh	004142
Kerry Head	004189
Lough Corrib	004042
Lough Cutra	004056
Middle Shannon Callows	004096
Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains	004165
Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle	004161

Appendix C

Details of European sites within Clare County

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Ballyallia Lake SAC (000014)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation [3150] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation – Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Air quality
Ballycullinan Lake SAC (000016)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> – Unfavourable Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels and flow Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate levels of disturbance Air quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures
Ballyogan Lough SAC (000019)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> – Unfavourable Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels and flow Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate levels of disturbance Air quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures

⁴ Sourced from Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2019) for SACs, and from Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2014-2019 (Colhoun and Cummins, 2014) for SPAs.

⁵ Sourced from Site Conservation Objectives (www.npws.ie accessed 24/11/20)

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Black Head Poulsallagh Complex SAC (000020)	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche</i>=<i>Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Alpine and boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous grasslands [6210] Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] *Limestone pavements [8240] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <p><u>Annex II Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petalwort <i>Petaphyllum ralfsii</i> 	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reefs [1170] – Inadequate Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] – Bad Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche</i>=<i>Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] – Inadequate Alpine and boreal heaths [4060] – Bad <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] – Favourable Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous grasslands [6210] – Bad Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] – Bad Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] – Inadequate *Limestone pavements [8240] – Inadequate Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] – Bad <p><u>Annex II Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petalwort <i>Petaphyllum ralfsii</i> [1395] – Favourable 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Water levels Calcium rich conditions Low nutrient waters Surface and ground water flow Scrub management Appropriate levels of disturbance Appropriate levels of grazing Maintenance of nursery, transitional and hibernation habitats Maintenance of foraging habitat Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Riparian habitat prone to flooding

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC (000030)	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public [8310] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] <p><u>Annex II Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public [8310] – Good Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] - Bad <p><u>Annex II Species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Connectivity between sites Maintenance of foraging habitat Appropriate levels of disturbance Appropriate levels of grazing
Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC (000032)	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation [3150] Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430] *Limestone pavements [8240] <p><u>Annex II species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] 	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation – Inadequate Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels – Unfavourable/Bad *Limestone pavements – Unfavourable/Inadequate <p><u>Annex II species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> - Favourable 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Water levels Surface water movements Scrub management Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of nursery habitats Maintenance of foraging habitat Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Inagh River Estuary SAC (000036)	<u>Annex I Habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows Juncetalia maritima [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • *Fixed coastal dunes along the shoreline with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	<u>Annex I Habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] - Good • Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima) [1330] – Unfavourable - Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows Juncetalia maritima [1410] – Unfavourable - Inadequate • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] – Inadequate • *Fixed coastal dunes along the shoreline with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] - Bad 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidal currents • Height and frequency of the tides • Water levels • Erosion and deposition rates • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Air quality • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures • Riparian habitat prone to flooding • River habitat • Water quality (Q4-5)
Pouladag Cave SAC (000037)	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] – Unfavourable/Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures • Connectivity between sites • Maintenance of foraging habitat • Appropriate levels of disturbance
Lough Gash Turlough SAC (00000051)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Turloughs [3180] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Turloughs – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and ground water flow • Water levels • Water quality • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
			in columnsto the left	
Moneen Mountain SAC [000054]	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Turloughs [3180] • Alpine and boreal heaths [4060] <p><i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous grasslands [6210] • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] • *Limestone pavements [8240] <p><u>Annex II Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> [1065] • Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Turloughs [3180] - Inadequate • Alpine and boreal heaths [4060] - Bad • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] - Inadequate • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] – Unfavourable - Inadequate • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous grasslands [6210] – Bad • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] - Inadequate • *Limestone pavements [8240] - Inadequate <p><u>Annex II Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> [1065] - Inadequate • Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] – Unfavourable Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columnsto the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and ground water flow • Water levels • Water quality • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures • Connectivity between sites • Maintenance of foraging habitat • Appropriate levels of disturbance

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Moyree River System SAC (000057)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Alkaline fens [7230] *Limestone pavements [8240] Caves not open to the public [8310] <u>Annex II Species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] - Inadequate Alkaline fens [7230] - Bad *Limestone pavements [8240] - Inadequate Caves not open to the public [8310] - Good <u>Annex II Species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Air quality Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Riparian habitat prone to flooding River habitat Water quality (Q4-5) Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Connectivity between sites Maintenance of foraging habitat
Poulnagordon Cave (Quin) SAC (000064)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public [8310] <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public - Good <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of hibernation habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality Groundwater levels/movements
Galway Bay Complex SAC (000268)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] *Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] – Unfavourable - Inadequate *Coastal lagoons [1150] - Bad Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] – Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal currents Height and frequency of the tides Water levels Erosion and deposition rates Foraging Habitat Food supply Appropriate levels of disturbance Air quality Water quality including nutrient levels,

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	<p>stony banks [1220]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinettalia maritima) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritima) [1410] • *Turloughs [3180] • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous grasslands (Festuco-Brometalia) (*Important orchid sites) [6210] • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davalliana [7210] • Alkaline fens [7230] <p><u>Annex II Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] • Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> [1365] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] - Inadequate • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] – Inadequate • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] – Inadequate • Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinettalia maritima) [1330] - Inadequate • Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritima) [1410] - Inadequate • *Turloughs [3180] – Unfavourable - Inadequate • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] - Inadequate • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous grasslands (Festuco-Brometalia) (*Important orchid sites) [6210] - Bad • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davalliana [7210] - Bad • Alkaline fens [7230] - Bad <p><u>Annex II Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] - Favourable • Harbour seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i> 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives are available for this site, see www.npws.ie</p>	<p>water clarity, sediment levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures • Riparian habitat prone to flooding • River habitat • Water quality (Q4-5) • Unhindered migratory routes

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
		[1365] - Favourable		
Loughatoric South Bog SAC (000308)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (*if active bog) [7130] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (*if active bog) [7130] – Bad 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface and ground water flow Water levels Water quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of disturbance (including recreation, harvesting and commercial activities) Air quality
Ballyteige (Clare) SAC (000994)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] – Bad 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Air quality
Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC (000996)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Turloughs [3180] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Turloughs [3180] – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity.
Glenomra Wood SAC (001013)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] – Bad 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of disturbance Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC (001021)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Coastal lagoons [1150] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] *Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Coastal lagoons [1150] - Bad Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] - Inadequate *Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left <p>Detailed conservation objectives are available for this site, see www.npws.ie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures. Air quality Tidal currents Height and frequency of the tides
Termon Lough SAC (001321)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Turloughs [3180] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Turloughs [3180] – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity.
Glendree Bog SAC (001912)	<u>Annex I habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket Bog (* if active only) [7130] 	<u>Annex I habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket Bog – Unfavourable/Bad 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface and ground water flow Water levels Water quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of disturbance (including recreation, harvesting and commercial activities) Air quality

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
East Burren Complex SAC (001926)	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] • *Turloughs [3180] • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] • Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)(*important orchid sites) [6210] • Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510] • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210] • Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220] • Alkaline fens [7230] • Limestone pavements [8240] • Caves not open to the public [8310] 	<p><u>Annex I habitats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. – Unfavourable/Bad • *Turloughs – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Alpine and Boreal heaths – Unfavourable/Bad • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands – Unfavourable/Inadequate • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)(*important orchid sites) – Unfavourable/Bad • Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) – Unfavourable/Bad • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> – Unfavourable/Bad • Petrifying springs with tufa formation 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <p>The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels • Water levels • Calcium rich conditions • Low nutrient waters • Surface and ground water flow • Scrub management • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Appropriate levels of grazing • Maintenance of nursery, transitional and hibernation habitats • Maintenance of foraging habitat • Food supply • Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity • Connectivity between sites • Vegetation cover • Air quality • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures • Riparian habitat prone to flooding

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <p><u>Annex II species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> [1065] Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355] 	<p>(<i>Cratoneurion</i>) – Unfavourable/Inadequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alkaline fens – Unfavourable/Bad Limestone pavements – Unfavourable/Inadequate Caves not open to the public - Good *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) - Unfavourable/Bad <p><u>Annex II species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> – Unfavourable/Inadequate Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable- Inadequate Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> - Favourable 		
Old Domestic Building, Keevagh SAC (002010)	<p><u>Annex II species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<p><u>Annex II species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of breeding habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC (002091)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public [8310] <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public - Good <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable- Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of breeding, foraging and hibernation habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality Groundwater levels/movements
Pollagoona Bog SAC (002126)	<u>Annex I habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket Bog (* if active only) [7130] 	<u>Annex I habitats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket Bog – Unfavourable/Bad 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface and ground water flow Water levels Water quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of disturbance (including recreation, harvesting and commercial activities) Air quality
Newgrove House SAC (002157)	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of hibernation habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality
Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] *Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time - Favourable Estuaries – Unfavourable/Inadequate Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide - Unfavourable/Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidal currents Height and frequency of the tides Water levels Erosion and deposition rates Foraging Habitat Food supply Spawning habitat Appropriate levels of disturbance Air quality Water quality including nutrient levels, water clarity, sediment levels

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) [6410] *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnus incana</i>, <i>Salix alba</i>) [91E0] <p><u>Annex II species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> [1029] Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Coastal lagoons - Unfavourable/Bad Large shallow inlets and bays - Unfavourable/Inadequate Reefs - Inadequate Perennial vegetation of stony banks - Unfavourable/Inadequate Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts - Unfavourable/Inadequate <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand - Unfavourable/Inadequate Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) - Unfavourable/Inadequate Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) - Unfavourable/Inadequate Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation - Unfavourable/Inadequate <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) - Unfavourable/Bad 	<p>Detailed conservation objectives are available for this site, see www.npws.ie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Riparian habitat prone to flooding River habitat Water quality (Q4-5) Riverbed breeding gravels <p>Unhindered migratory routes</p>

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	<p>[1095]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> <p>[1096]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> <p>[1099]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (only in fresh water) <p>[1106]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> <p>[1349]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> <p>[1355]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) - Unfavourable/Bad <p><u>Annex II species:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> - Unfavourable/Bad Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> - Unfavourable/Bad Brook Lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> - Favourable River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> - Favourable Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (only in fresh water) – Unfavourable/Inadequate Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> - Favourable Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> - Favourable 		
Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC (002245)	<p><u>Annex II species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<p><u>Annex II species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable- Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of breeding habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC (002246)	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable- Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Maintenance of breeding habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity • Connectivity between sites • Vegetation cover • Air quality
Toonagh Estate SAC (002247)	<u>Annex II species:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable- Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Maintenance of nursery habitats • Food supply • Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity • Connectivity between sites • Vegetation cover • Air quality
Carrowmore Dunes SAC (002250)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] - Inadequate • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] - 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion and deposition rates • Appropriate levels of disturbance • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] <u>Annex II Species:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> 	Inadequate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] - Inadequate • *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] - Bad <u>Annex II Species:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> - Inadequate 	for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation cover • Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Kilkee Reefs SAC (002264)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] - Inadequate Reefs [1170] - Inadequate Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] – Bad 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left <p>Detailed conservation objectives are available for this site, see www.npws.ie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Erosion and deposition rates Appropriate levels of disturbance
Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC (002312)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] - Bad European dry heaths [4030] - Bad Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] - Bad 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface and ground water flow Water levels Water quality Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures Appropriate levels of disturbance (including recreation, harvesting and commercial activities) Air quality
Old Domestic Building, Rylane SAC (002314)	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable- Inadequate 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of breeding and hibernation habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Ratty River Cave SAC (002316)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public [8310] <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public - Good <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of breeding and hibernation habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality Groundwater levels/movements
Knockanira House SAC (002318)	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of breeding habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality
Kilkishen House SAC (002319)	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of summer and winter roosts habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality
Pouladati Cave SAC (000037)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public [8310] <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> [1303] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caves not open to the public - Good <u>Annex II species</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> – Unfavourable - Inadequate 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate levels of disturbance Maintenance of hibernation habitats Food supply Appropriate levels of development in the vicinity Connectivity between sites Vegetation cover Air quality Groundwater levels/movements

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Details of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status ⁴	Conservation Management Objectives ⁵	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Tullaheer Lough and Bog SAC (002343)	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bogs [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] 	<u>Annex I habitats:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bogs [7110] - Bad • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] - Bad • Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] - Bad • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] - Bad 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface and ground water flow • Water levels • Water quality • Appropriate agricultural practices including grazing pressures • Appropriate levels of disturbance (including recreation, harvesting and commercial activities) • Air quality

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status	Conservation Management Objectives	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Cliffs of Moher SPA (004005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [A009] breeding • Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188] breeding • Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199] breeding • Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A200] breeding • Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> [A204] breeding • Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> [A346] breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulmar <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> [A009] - Green • Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188] - Amber • Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199] - Amber • Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> [A200] - Amber • Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> [A204] - Amber • Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> [A346] - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <p>The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Breeding habitat • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance
Inner Galway Bay SPA (004031)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great northern diver <i>Gavia immer</i> [A003] wintering • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] wintering + breeding • Grey heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i> [A028] • Light-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] wintering • Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> [A050] - wintering • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] wintering • Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] wintering • Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A069] wintering • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] wintering • Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140] wintering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great northern diver <i>Gavia immer</i> [A003] - Amber • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] - Amber • Grey heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i> [A028] - Green • Light-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] - Amber • Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> [A050] - Red • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] - Amber • Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] - Red • Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> [A069] - Amber • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] - Green • Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [A140] - Red 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Breeding habitat • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status	Conservation Management Objectives	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142] wintering Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] wintering Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] wintering Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160] wintering Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> [A162] wintering Black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] wintering Common gull <i>Larus canus</i> [A182] wintering Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> [A191] breeding Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] breeding <p>Wetland and water birds [A999]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142] - Red Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] - Red Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] - Amber Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160] - Red Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> [A162] - Red Black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] - Red Common gull <i>Larus canus</i> [A182] - Amber Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> [A191] - Amber Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] - Amber <p>Wetland and water birds [A999]</p>		
Ballyallia Lough SPA (004041)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] wintering Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> [A051] Wintering Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] wintering Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> [A053] wintering Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] wintering Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> [A125] wintering Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156] wintering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> – Red Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> - Amber Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> - Amber Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> - Green Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> - Red Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> - Amber Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food supply Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas Water quality Appropriate levels of disturbance

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status	Conservation Management Objectives	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]			
Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (004058)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] breeding + wintering • Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> [A061] wintering + breeding • Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [A067] wintering + breeding • Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] Breeding Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] - Amber • Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> [A061] - Red • Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [A067] - Red • Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [A193] - Amber Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <p>The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Breeding habitat • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance
River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] breeding + wintering • Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A038] wintering • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [A046] wintering • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [A048] wintering • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] wintering • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] wintering • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> [A054] wintering • Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> [A056] wintering • Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i> [A062] wintering • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] wintering • Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> - Amber • Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> - Amber • Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> - Amber • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> - Amber • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> - Red • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> - Amber • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> - Green • Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> - Red • Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i> - Amber • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> - Green • Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> - Red • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> - Amber • Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> - Red • Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left <p>Detailed conservation objectives are available for this site, see www.npws.ie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Breeding habitat • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Flooding regime of coastal grasslands • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status	Conservation Management Objectives	Conditions underpinning site integrity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>apricaria</i> [A140] wintering Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [A141] wintering Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [A142] wintering Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> [A143] wintering Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] wintering Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156] wintering Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [A157] wintering Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> [A160] wintering Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> [A162] wintering Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> [A164] wintering Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> [A179] wintering Wetlands [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> - Red Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> - Amber Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> - Amber Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> - Red Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> - Red Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> - Green Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> - Red 		
Ilaunonearaun SPA [004114]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> [A045] wintering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> [A045] - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food supply Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas Water quality Appropriate levels of disturbance

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status	Conservation Management Objectives	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Loop Head SPA (004119)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188] - Breeding • Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199] - Breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> [A188] - Amber • Guillemot <i>Uria aalge</i> [A199] - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Breeding habitat • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance
Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (004168)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> [A082] breeding • Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> [A098] breeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> - Amber • Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in column to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply and foraging habitat • Undisturbed breeding habitat • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance
Mid-Clare Coast SPA (004182)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [A017] breeding • Barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> [A045] wintering • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] wintering • Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] wintering • Purple sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> [A148] wintering • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] wintering • Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A169] turnstone • Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> - Amber • Barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i> [A045] - Amber • Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> [A137] - Green • Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> [A144] - Sanderling • Purple sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> [A148] - Green • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i> [A149] - Red • Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> [A169] - Green • Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance

SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Details of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within County Clare

Site Name and Code	Qualifying Interests	Current Conservation Status	Conservation Management Objectives	Conditions underpinning site integrity
Corofin Wetlands SPA (004220)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> [A004] wintering • Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [A038] wintering • Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> [A050] wintering • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> [A052] wintering • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> [A156] wintering Wetlands and Waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> – Amber • Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> – Amber • Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> – Red • Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> – Amber • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i> • - Amber 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualifying interests of the European site as listed in columns to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food supply • Undisturbed roosting sites close to feeding areas • Water quality • Appropriate levels of disturbance



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Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment under Section 177U, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended)

In relation to the Extension of Duration of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied)

Clare County Council has taken the decision to avail of the new legislation as set out in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and Section 11D of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to initiate the process to extend the duration of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, in order to provide a further period of time to complete the review of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, and prepare and make a new Clare County Development Plan. In initiating the process to extend the duration of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, it is necessary in the first instance to examine the impact of the proposed extension of-regarding the effects on the integrity of European sites.

In doing so, the Planning Authority of Clare County Council is seeking an additional period of up to 7 months to prepare the new Clare County Development Plan which would result in the new Plan coming into effect by the 30th of April 2023. The appropriate plan period of the current Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, ends on the 19th of March 2023 (This includes for the 54 days as set out in accordance with the provisions of Section 251 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which is covered by the SEA/AA of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, (as varied)).

As part of the extension of duration to the current Plan, the Council has carried out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive and Section 177U, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. This determination is a record of the Planning Authority's decision.

This decision has been informed by Screening for Appropriate Assessment which has been prepared by RPS on behalf of Clare County Council. The Screening Statement dated 14th September 2021 describes the nature of the proposed extension of duration, the nature of the European sites within its zone of influence and the relationship between the two such that any impact pathways could be identified. It identifies any potential for direct, in-direct or cumulative impacts of the proposed extension of duration on all relevant European Sites.

The Council has examined likely significant effects on European Sites within the zone of influence, considering the specific Qualifying Interest Features, Special Conservation Interests and their associated conservation objectives.

The potential impacts of a 6-week extension of duration of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, from the 19th March 2023 to the 30th April 2023 have been considered in the context of; the European sites potentially affected; their qualifying interests and/or special conservation interests; and their conservation objectives. Through an assessment of the source-pathway-receptor model, which considered the zone of influence of effects from the proposed extension of duration and the potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects, the following findings were reported:

The proposed extension of duration is not predicted to result in Likely Significant Effects on any European Site. Therefore, Clare County Council, as the Competent Authority, has determined that Appropriate Assessment and the associated preparation of a Natura Impact Report is not required.



Helen Quinn
Acting Senior Planner

Date: 17/09/2021



Sheila Downes
Environmental Assessment Officer

Date: 17/09/2021

