Proposed Amendment No.1 to the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018

Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) has been appointed by Clare County Council to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) for a proposed amendment to the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 - 2018. It is proposed to change the zoning of part of the lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon, which are currently zoned as OS5 ‘Open Space’ to a revised land use zoning of ‘Community C18’, in order to facilitate an extension to the existing burial ground at this location.

1.2 Article 6(3) AA Screening Conclusion

An Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report was prepared and is provided in Appendix 1. The screening assessment concluded:

*It cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed amendment to the plan, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on the identified European sites.*

*Consequently, an appropriate assessment of the proposed amendment to the plan is required, and a Natura Impact Report will be prepared.*

1.3 Appropriate Assessment Methodology

This report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission guidance document ‘Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites’ (EC, 2001) and the Department of the Environment’s guidance “Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland”(DoEHLG, 2010).

The following relevant documents were considered in the preparation of this report:

2 DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

2.1 Background

The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 – 2018 sets out the land-use plan for the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement of Shannon and its environs. On 12th June 2017, the elected members of Clare County Council resolved to defer the making of a new Shannon Town and Environs LAP.

In conjunction with the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied), the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 provides the statutory basis for the consideration by Clare County Council of applications for planning permission within the LAP area.

2.2 Purpose of the Proposed Amendment

It is proposed to change the zoning of part of the lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon, which are currently zoned as O55 ‘Open Space’ to a revised land use zoning objective of ‘Community C18’ in order to facilitate an extension to the existing Burial Ground at this location. The amended land use zoning for part of the lands currently zoned as O55 is proposed as follows;

**Community C18**

‘The lands are zoned as Community to solely facilitate the extension of the Illaunmanagh Burial Ground. Any proposed development to extend the Burial Ground onto these lands shall be subject to the requirement to undertake an appropriate assessment at project level.’

The proposed Amendment site is located at the site of the current community allotments, adjacent to the existing Illaunamanagh burial ground. The only access is through the existing burial ground. There has been significant disturbance and cultivation of the allotment sites over the years for use as garden allotments. The proposed amendment site area measures 1.25 hectares.

Figure 2.1 illustrates the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012-2018 boundary and the location of the proposed Amendment site at Illaunmanagh.
3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION

The proposed amendment is specific to lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon and relate specifically to the revised land use zoning to facilitate an extension to the existing burial ground at this location.

The AA Screening Report, included as Appendix 1 of this document, uses a precautionary approach given the lack of detailed project level information associated with the proposed amendment, and screens in the potential for significant effects on a number of SACs and SPAs within the Likely Zone of Impact.

Table 3.1. Impact Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
<th>Residual Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Clare County Council intends to amend the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 - 2018, to change the zoning of part of the lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon, which are currently zoned as OS5 ‘Open Space’ to a revised land use zoning of ‘Community C18’ in order to facilitate an extension to the existing burial ground at this location. | The lands will be zoned as Community to solely facilitate the extension of the Illaunmanagh Burial Ground.  
Any proposed development to extend the Burial Ground onto these lands will be subject to appropriate assessment process at project level.  
The competent authority will only grant consent having ascertained that the project, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not be likely to significantly affect/adversely affect the integrity of any European site. | The implementation of the proposed amendment will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site. |
3.1.1 Recommended Appropriate Assessment Procedure

As required under the Habitats Directive and as set out under S.I.477 of 2011 Clare County Council (as the developing authority) must undertake ‘screening’ to assess whether or not the project - either individually or in combination with other plans or projects - is likely to have a significant effect on any SAC or SPA (whether surrounding, adjoining or remote), in view of both the conservation objectives of that Natura site and best scientific knowledge.

If a significant effect is likely or where uncertainty exists, Clare County Council must prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Upon receipt of the NIS, the consenting authority will undertake an ‘appropriate assessment’, primarily to gauge the nature of the impact and the effectiveness of any avoidance, amelioration or mitigation measures proposed to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura site(s) concerned.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and the Appropriate Assessment itself, will be carried out in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. When carrying out the Appropriate Assessment (if required), it must include a determination under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not the project would adversely affect the integrity of the Natura site(s) concerned. The assessment carried out under Article 6(3) cannot have any deficiencies or data / information gaps and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of a project on the Natura site(s) concerned.

The consenting authority can approve the application only after it has ascertained – either at screening or at Appropriate Assessment – that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on/adversely affect the integrity of any European site.
4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

4.1 Relationship with Other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 sits within a hierarchy of international, national, regional and county level policy guidelines, which feed progressively down to the Local Area Plan. The LAP adheres to policy and strategic options which are pre-determined by higher level plans and guidelines, particularly the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied) and a wider range of relevant plans and programmes.

A full list of all the relevant documents that were considered in this assessment is provided as Appendix 2. This includes international, national, county and local policy documents, strategies and guidance.

4.1.1 Conclusions of In-Combination Impact Assessment

Following consideration of the potential effects it is noted that the proposed amendment on its own, will not result in any adverse effects on any European Site.

In reviewing the plans/programmes listed above, it was noted that none had objectives that could lead to adverse effects on the natural environment and many contained policies that actively promoted the protection of it. Many also had specific objectives to protect European Sites.

No potential for adverse cumulative impacts were identified when the proposed amendment was considered in combination with any of the plans/programmes listed above.
5 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

5.1 Characteristics of the Proposed Plan

Description of Project
The proposed amendment is described in Section 2 of this report.

Is the plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?
The proposed amendment is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European Site.

Are there any other plans/projects or plans that together with the project being assessed could affect the site?
The proposed Amendment will have no individual or in combination impacts on any European site in any regard.

5.2 Assessment of Significance of Effects

Describe how the project is likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites
Any proposed development to extend the Burial Ground at Illaunmanagh Shannon will be subject to a requirement to undertake an appropriate assessment at project level.

There will be no adverse effect on any European site as a result of the implementation of the proposed amendment.

5.3 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- Review of NPWS published information on European Sites including Site Synopses, Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms, European Site mapping and Conservation Objectives for European Sites
- Review of other plans and projects within the area.

5.4 Integrity of the European Sites

Based on the objective information gathered and the predictions made about the changes that are likely to result from the implementation of the proposed amendment, the integrity of site checklist, as per Box 10 of EC, 2002, is completed in Table 5.1 below.
Table 5.1 Integrity of site checklist and assessment for European Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the plan have the potential to:</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Residual Impact: Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation objectives</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?</td>
<td>Implementation of the proposed amendment will not cause delays or interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the European Sites.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site?</td>
<td>Implementation of the proposed amendment will not disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site European Sites.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site?</td>
<td>Implementation of the proposed amendment will not interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition European Sites.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Indicators</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem?</td>
<td>Implementation of the proposed Amendment will not cause changes to the structure and function of the habitats or ecosystems of any European Sites.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change the dynamics of the relationships (between, for example, soil and water or plants and animals) that define the structure and/or function of the site?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site (such as water dynamics or chemical composition)?</td>
<td>No potential significant impacts on any QI of any European site has been identified.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the area of key habitats?</td>
<td>There will be no reduction in area of key habitat.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the population of key species?</td>
<td>Implementation of the proposed Amendment will not reduce the population of key species or change the balance between Key species. The proposed amendment is not anticipated to result in a reduction in diversity within any European site.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change the balance between key species?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce diversity of the site?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 5.5 Conclusion

It can be concluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the proposed Amendment No.1 to the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 – 2018, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does the plan have the potential to:</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Residual Impact: Yes/No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Result in disturbance that could affect population size or density or the balance between key species?</td>
<td>Implementation of the proposed Amendment will not result in fragmentation.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result in fragmentation?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result in loss or reduction of key features (e.g. tree cover, tidal exposure, annual flooding, etc.)?</td>
<td>No Key features will be lost as a result of the implementation of the proposed Amendment.</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Proposed Amendment to Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2012 - 2018
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Appendix 1 Relevant International, National & Other Policy Documents, Strategies & Guidance

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. - Planning & Environmental Consultants
1 INTRODUCTION

McCarthy Keville O’Sullivan Ltd. (MKO) has been appointed to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment for a proposed Amendment to the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 – 2018. It is proposed to change the zoning of part of the lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon, which are currently zoned as OS5 ‘Open Space’ to a revised land use zoning of ‘Community c18’, in order to facilitate an extension to the existing burial ground at this location.

The proposed plan is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European site, consequently the project has been subject to the appropriate assessment process. This report specifically assesses the potential for the proposed amendment to impact on European sites.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission guidance document ‘Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites’ (EC, 2001) and the Department of the Environment’s guidance “Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland” (DoEHLG, 2010).

The following relevant documents were considered in the preparation of this report:

2 DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

2.1 Background

The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 – 2018 sets out the land-use plan for the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlement of Shannon and its environs. On 12th June 2017, the elected members of Clare County Council resolved to defer the making of a new Shannon Town and Environs LAP.

In conjunction with the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied), the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 provides the statutory basis for the consideration by Clare County Council of applications for planning permission within the LAP area.

2.2 Purpose of the Proposed Amendment

Clare County Council intends to amend the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018. It is proposed to change the zoning of part of the lands at Illaunmanagh, Shannon, which are currently zoned as OS5 ‘Open Space’ to a revised land use zoning objective of ‘Community C18’ in order to facilitate an extension to the existing Burial Ground at this location. The amended land use zoning for part of the lands currently zoned as OS 5 is proposed as follows;

Community C18

The lands are zoned as Community to solely facilitate the extension of the Illaunmanagh Burial Ground. Any proposed development to extend the Burial Ground onto these lands shall be subject to the requirement to undertake an appropriate assessment at project level.”

The proposed Amendment site is located at the site of the current community allotments, adjacent to the existing Illaunmanagh burial ground. The only access is through the existing burial ground. There has been significant disturbance and cultivation of the allotment sites over the years for use as garden allotments. The Amendment site area measures 1.25 hectares.

Figure 2.1 illustrates the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012-2018 LAP boundary and the location of the proposed Amendment site at Illaunmanagh.
3 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 Background to European Sites

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (together with the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)) forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. It is built around two pillars: the Natura 2000 network of protected sites and the strict system of species protection. The Directive protects over 1,000 animal and plant species and over 200 "habitat types" (e.g. special types of forests, meadows, wetlands, etc.), which are of European importance.

With the introduction of the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive which were transposed into Irish law as S.I. No. 94/1997 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997, the European Union formally recognised the significance of protecting rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, and also, more importantly, their habitats. The 1997 Regulations and their amendments were subsequently revised and consolidated in S.I. No. 477/2011- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. This legislation requires the establishment and conservation of a network of sites of particular conservation value that are to be termed 'European Sites'.

Habitats Directive/Special Areas of Conservation

Articles 3 – 9 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) provide the EU legislative framework of protecting rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, and habitats. Annex I of the Directive lists habitat types whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Priority habitats, such as Turloughs, which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory are also listed in Annex I. Annex II of the Directive lists animal and plant species (e.g. Marsh Fritillary, Atlantic Salmon, and Killarney Fern) whose conservation also requires the designation of SACs.

Birds Directive/Special Protection Areas

Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) has been substantially amended several times. In the interests of clarity and rationality the said Directive was codified in 2009 and is now cited as Directive 2009/147/EC. The Directive instructs Member States to take measures to maintain populations of all bird species naturally occurring in the wild state in the EU (Article 2). Such measures may include the maintenance and/or re-establishment of habitats in order to sustain these bird populations (Article 3).

A subset of bird species has been identified in the Directive and are listed in Annex I as requiring special conservation measures in relation to their habitats. These species have been listed on account of inter alia: their risk of extinction; vulnerability to specific changes in their habitat; and/or due to their relatively small population size or restricted distribution. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are to be identified and classified for these Annex I listed species and for regularly occurring migratory species, paying particular attention to the protection of wetlands (Article 4).
3.2 European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact

The most up to date GIS spatial datasets for surface water catchments and European designated sites were downloaded from the EPA website (www.epa.ie) and NPWS website (www.npws.ie), respectively on the 03/04/2019. Using the GIS software, MapInfo (V.10.0), European sites within the Likely Zone of Impact of the LAP boundary were identified. The following rationale was used to identify the Likely Zone of Impact.

Initially, sites within a 15 km radius of the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012-2018 LAP boundary were identified (DoEHLG, 2010). In addition, using the precautionary principle, European sites located outside the 15 km buffer zone were also taken into account and assessed where potential pathways for impact were identified and particularly where hydrological connectivity could be established. In this case, no potential for impacts on European sites located outside the 15 km buffer radius were identified. Figure 3.1 shows the location of the LAP boundary in relation to all European sites within 15 km.

Table 3.1 lists all European sites that were considered to be within the Likely Zone of Impact. The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website (www.npws.ie), were considered at the time of preparation of this report (03/04/2019). Details of these sites, including their distance from the LAP boundary and from the proposed Amendment site at Illaunmanagh, are provided in Table 3.1 below.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Site</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European Site has been designated (<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> 03/04/2019)</th>
<th>Conservation Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Lower River Shannon SAC [002165]      | Within & outside LAP boundary. 0.009 km from proposed Amendment site | ▪ 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 bays [1160]  
▪ Reefs [1170]  
▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]  
▪ Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]  
▪ Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]  
▪ Atlantic salt meadows (*Glaucophacemelisa maritimae*) [1330]  
▪ Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]  
▪ Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]  
▪ Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410]  
▪ Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]  
▪ *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]  
▪ *Petromyzon marinus* (Sea Lamprey) [1095]  
▪ *Lampetra planeri* (Brook Lamprey) [1096]  
▪ *Lampetra fluviatilis* (River Lamprey) [1099]  
▪ *Salmo salar* (Salmon) [1106]  
▪ *Tursiops truncatus* (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]  
▪ *Lutra lutra* (Otter) [1355]  
|                                      |               | Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, August 2012) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie |
| Lough Gash Turlough SAC (000051)      | 3.2km from LAP boundary | ▪ Turloughs [3180]  
▪ Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodion rubri p. p.* and *Bidention p. p.* vegetation [3270]  
<p>|                                      |               | Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, November 2017) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Site</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European Site has been designated (<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> 03/04/2019)</th>
<th>Conservation Objectives</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (002279)</td>
<td>6.5km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪ Calcareous fens with <em>Cladium mariscus</em> and species of the <em>Carex davallianae</em> [7210] ▪ Alkaline fens [7230]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, May 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.1km from LAP boundary 7.3km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪ Caves not open to the public [8310] ▪ <em>Rhinolophus hipposideros</em> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratty River Cave SAC (002316)</td>
<td>6.6km from LAP boundary 9.4km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪ Alluvial forests with <em>Alnus glutinosa</em> and <em>Fraxinus excelsior</em> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] ▪ <em>Taxus baccata</em> woods of the British Isles [91J0] ▪ <em>Rhinolophus hipposideros</em> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curraghchase Woods SAC (000174)</td>
<td>7.1km from LAP boundary 8.7km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪ <em>Juniperus communis</em> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] ▪ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<em>Festuco-Brometalia</em>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, February 2019) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrigone SAC (000432)</td>
<td>8.4km from LAP boundary 14.9km from proposed</td>
<td>▪ <em>Juniperus communis</em> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] ▪ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<em>Festuco-Brometalia</em>) (* important orchid sites) [6210]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, February 2019) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Site</td>
<td>Distance (km)</td>
<td>Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European Site has been designated (<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> 03/04/2019)</td>
<td>Conservation Objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Knockanira House SAC (002318)                | 8.8km from LAP boundary | • Limestone pavements [8240]  
• *Euphydryas aurinia* (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]                                                                 | Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie |
| Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC (002091)    | 9.2km from LAP boundary  
14.4km from proposed Amendment site | • *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]                                                    | Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie |
| Poulinaigordon Cave (Quin) SAC (000064)      | 9.7km from LAP boundary  
12.8km from proposed Amendment site | • Caves not open to the public [8310]  
• *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]                                                   | Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie |
| Kilkishen House SAC (002319)                 | 10.9km from LAP boundary  
13.6km from proposed Amendment site | • *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]                                                   | Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at www.npws.ie |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European Site</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European Site has been designated (<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> 03/04/2019)</th>
<th>Conservation Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Old Domestic Building (Keevaugh) SAC (000353)</td>
<td>11.6km from LAP boundary. 14.9km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪  Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, September 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC (000030)</td>
<td>12.4km from LAP boundary. 15.1km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪  Caves not open to the public [8310]  ▪  Old sessile oak woods with <em>ilex</em> and <em>Blechnum</em> in the British Isles [91A0]  ▪  <em>Rhinolophus hipposideros</em> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pouladatig Cave SAC (000037)</td>
<td>13.1km from LAP boundary. 18.6km from proposed Amendment site</td>
<td>▪  Caves not open to the public [8310]  ▪  <em>Rhinolophus hipposideros</em> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</td>
<td>Detailed conservation objectives for this site (Version 1, July 2018) were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Protection Area (SPA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Site</td>
<td>Distance (km)</td>
<td>Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European Site has been designated (<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> 03/04/2019)</td>
<td>Conservation Objectives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Golden Plover (<em>Pluvialis apricaria</em>) [A140]</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Grey Plover (<em>Pluvialis squatarola</em>) [A141]</td>
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<td>- Lapwing (<em>Vanellus vanellus</em>) [A142]</td>
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<td>- Knot (<em>Calidris canutus</em>) [A143]</td>
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<td>- Dunlin (<em>Calidris alpina</em>) [A149]</td>
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<td>- Black-tailed Godwit (<em>Limosa limosa</em>) [A156]</td>
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<td>- Bar-tailed Godwit (<em>Limosa lapponica</em>) [A157]</td>
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<td>- Curlew (<em>Numenius arquata</em>) [A160]</td>
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<td>- Redshank (<em>Tringa totanus</em>) [A162]</td>
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<td>- Greenshank (<em>Tringa nebularia</em>) [A164]</td>
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<td>- Black-headed Gull (<em>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</em>) [A179]</td>
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<td>- Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4 ARTICLE 6(3) SCREENING ASSESSMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the assessment, the following sources were used to gather information:

- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, mapping and Conservation Objectives for the various European Sites within the Likely Zone of Impact.
- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the LAP area and site of the proposed amendment lands.
- Review of Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 and proposed amendment from Clare County Council.

4.2 Overall Conclusions

Table 3.1 above lists the European sites within the Likely Zone of Impact of the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 boundary. The screening assessment uses a precautionary approach, given the lack of detailed project level information associated with the proposed Amendment.

It cannot be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the proposed amendment to the plan, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on the identified European sites. Consequently, an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Amendment to the plan is required, and a Natura Impact Report will be prepared.
5 BIBLIOGRAPHY


Appendix 1

Relevant International, National & Other
Policy Documents, Strategies & Guidance
RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

The Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2012 – 2018 sits within a hierarchy of legislation, plans, programmes and strategies, which includes international, EU, national, regional and local levels. The principle requirements in relation to international Plans and Programmes have been incorporated into the national and regional Plans and Programmes. The LAP must comply with relevant higher-level legislation, plans and strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions.

The Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 was prepared with cognisance of the relevant spatial planning policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2011 – 2017 (i.e. the Plan in place at the time of its preparation), which was subject to SEA prior to its adoption. The Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012-2018 is also required to comply with the current Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied), which was also subject to SEA.

The SEA Environmental Report for the Shannon Town and Environs LAP 2012 – 2018 provided a review of the plans and programmes with which the Plan interacts, and included those summarised below at international, national and regional/local level.

International and European Plans/Programmes:
- Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive
- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- Directive 2007/60/EC Flood Risk Management Assessment and Management of Flood Risk
- Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)
- Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants (2001/81/EC)
EU Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC)
EU Directive on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources (2009/28/EC) and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 30/EC
EU Drinking Water directive (98/83/EC)
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
EU Surface Water Directive (75/440/EEC)
EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection
EU Urban Wastewater Directive (91/271/EEC)
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
European Climate Change Programme Aims to reduce emissions;
European Communities (Bird and Natural Habitats) Regulations
European Convention for Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1992
European Landscape Convention (2000)
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)
Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)
Granada Convention for Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985
Kyoto Protocol (1997) and the Paris (Climate Change) Agreement
Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EEC
The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004- 2010
The Gothenburg Strategy Communication from the Commission on Sustainable Europe for a Better World 2001
The Stockholm Convention 2001
UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992

National Plans/Programmes:
- 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021
- Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)
- Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities, 2007
- Design Standards and New Apartments Guidelines, DOEHLG, 2007
- Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines 2000
- Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2009
- Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (2017-2021)
- Irish Water Services Strategic Plan SEA and AA (2015)
- Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines, EPA (2016)
- National Heritage Plan 2002
- National Housing Strategy for people with a disability, Building for Everyone (BFE) 2009
- National Landscape Strategy (2015-2025)
National Spatial Strategy 2002 – 2020
Our Sustainable Future - A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland 2012
National Development Plan 2018-2027
Sectoral Planning Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation, (2018)
Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020
Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and accompanying Urban Design Manual, (DoEHLG) 2009
Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005
The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009
The Right Living Space – The housing and accommodation needs of people with disabilities 2008
The Role of Data Centres in Ireland’s Enterprise Strategy, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, 2018
Water Services (Amendment) Act (2012)
Water Services Act (2007)
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2014-2020

Regional/Local Plans:
Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 - 2023
Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied)
Clare County Heritage Plan 2017 - 2023
Clare County Local Economic and Community Plan 2017 – 2022
Clare Landscape Character Assessment 2003
Clare Wind Energy Strategy 2017 - 2023
County Clare Enterprise Strategy
Noise Action Plan 2018
Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region
Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanala on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments – August 2018
Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines, 2010-2022
Record of Monuments and Places, County Clare
Ennis Municipal District Written Statement & Settlement Plans (Vol 3a of Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied))
Shannon Municipal District Written Statement & Settlement Plans (Vol 3b of Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied))
Killaloe Municipal District Written Statement & Settlement Plans (Vol 3c of Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied))
West Clare Municipal District Written Statement & Settlement Plans (Vol 3d of Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (as varied))