



# Draft Natura Impact Report



# PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1 TO DÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2028

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## Draft Natura Impact Report

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**Prepared for:**

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council



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**Abstract:** Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Draft Natura Impact Report to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council for Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022 - 2028.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) has prepared Variation No. 1 to the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 (herein referred to as the 'CDP'). The Proposed Variation No. 1 is herein referred to as the 'Proposed Variation' or the 'Variation'. The Variation comprises proposed rezonings and Long-Term Strategic Development Sites, for the purpose of this assessment, the specific lands which the Proposed Variation relates to are herein referred to as the 'Relevant Lands'.

This Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) has been prepared in support of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Variation in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

### 1.2 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

*"6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the 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."*

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a Screening for AA to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the Proposed Variation, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, an AA of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where a proposed plan or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the Proposed Variation is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site(s).





### 1.3 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28. European Commission 2013;
- Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.
- Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2019). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019.
- 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, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg (European Commission, 2002). This document was updated by Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

### 1.4 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the potential for likely significant effects from a proposed plan or project on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (SPR) model. In order for a likely significant effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential likely significant effect is not of any relevance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element (Relevant Lands) of the Proposed Variation that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)<sup>1</sup> for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)<sup>2</sup> for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

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<sup>1</sup> SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

<sup>2</sup> SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally



The assessment commences with a description of the Proposed Variation, and the associated sources for impacts to the receiving environment. The type of impacts that are likely due to the Proposed Variation (Source) are identified having regard to the spatial and temporal scale of the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation and CDP, resource requirements and likely emissions. These sources are then used to define the ZoI of the Proposed Variation.

The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely ZoI of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The ZoI of the Proposed Variation is the Relevant Lands and the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have potential likely significant effects on the QIs of a European site. The OPR (2021) practice note states that the ZoI must be established on a case-by-case basis using the SPR framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km). Section 3 sets out the detailed rationale for the identification of relevant European sites within the ZoI based on the sources of impacts arising from the Proposed Variation. Subsequently, an assessment is undertaken with respect to potential connectivity (Pathways) to European Sites and their qualifying interests/special conservation interests are identified.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the Proposed Variation along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The potential for likely significant effects on the European Sites within the ZoI is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the Proposed Variation on its own and in-combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2021) the:

*“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”*

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the potential for likely significant effects, an NIR will need to be prepared for the Proposed Variation.

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important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



The scope and content of the assessment in this instance was informed by the following:

- The submissions received on the scope of the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment<sup>3</sup> (SEA) process being undertaken on the Proposed Variation, including a submission received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on 26/11/2025 and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) on 09/12/2025.
- The SEA Scoping Report prepared by Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) for the Proposed Variation.
- The EPA's AA Geo Tool (this can be found here - <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>).
- The National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.
- The current DLR CDP and associated NIR and SEA Environmental Report.

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<sup>3</sup> SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.



## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED VARIATION

### 2.1 Overview

The Proposed Variation to the CDP is being made in response to recent changes in national planning policy, namely:

- The preparation of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (January 2024).
- The publication of the National Planning Framework (NPF) First Revision (April 2025).
- The preparation of NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 2025).
- The preparation of the Design Standards for Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 2025).

The overarching purpose of the Proposed Variation is to respond in a plan-led, strategic and environmentally responsible manner to the national requirement to increase the supply of zoned land so new homes can be delivered at pace and in the right places.

### 2.2 Proposed Variation Content

The Proposed Variation proposes zoning objective changes at 22 sites in the County. These include the following:

- Residential use being 'open for consideration' at 2 sites in the Sandyford area which currently have the following zoning objective - MIC - To consolidate and complete the development of mixed use inner core to enhance and reinforce sustainable development..
- Specific Land Use Zoning Objectives for 2 sites in Sandyford being changed from OE - 'To provide for office and enterprise development,' to A2 - 'To provide for the creation of sustainable residential neighbourhoods and preserve and protect residential amenity.'
- Providing 4 Long-Term Strategic and Sustainable Development Sites in the Kiltiernan and Rathmichael areas.
- Changing a zoning objective for a site in Old Connaught to GB - 'To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas' to A1 - 'To provide for new residential communities and Sustainable Neighbourhood Infrastructure in accordance with approved local area plans.'
- To rezone lands at 12 sites in the Woodbrook area to promote residential development.
- To rezone a site in Sandyford from 'To provide for office and enterprise development,' to F - 'To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary recreational activities.'



## 2.3 Relationship of the Plan with other Relevant Plans and Programmes

The Proposed Variation sits within a hierarchy of legislation, plans, programmes, and strategies, which includes international, EU, national, regional and local levels. The principal requirements in relation to international Plans and Programmes have been incorporated into the national and regional Plans and Programmes. The Proposed Variation must comply with relevant higher-level legislation, plans and strategic actions.

The Proposed Variation has been prepared in a manner that ensures it appropriately aligns with the CDP, which was subject to its own SEA and AA prior to adoption.



### 3. REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

#### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Proposed Variation is likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. It is used to inform the competent authorities AA Screening Determination. The following is considered during this assessment:

- Whether the Proposed Variation introduces any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether the Proposed Variation can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether the Proposed Variation will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential likely significant effects.

Plans or projects (or a Proposed Variation in this instance) are screened out for AA based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that likely significant effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential likely significant effects that may arise from a plan or project.

#### 3.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Variation on the receiving environment

An assessment of potential sources of environmental impact associated with proposed rezonings and objective variations defined in the Proposed Variation - that may lead to likely significant effects on European sites - has been carried out. This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the following source of impact criteria defined in the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note.

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species



This assessment is presented in Appendix 1. All Proposed Variation proposed rezonings and objectives variations have the potential to generate environmental impacts that may result in likely significant effects on European sites have been identified. An overview of the potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Proposed Variation is presented in the bullet points below:

- *Environmental effects due both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure.*
- *Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna.*
- *Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.*
- *Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.*
- *Potential interactions of effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air.*
- *Adverse effects from amenity and recreation.*
- *Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.*
- *Adverse effects upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.*
- *Increase in the risk of flooding.*
- *Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts).*
- *Emissions to air including dust and other emissions.*

These impacts are further examined in defining the ZoI of the Proposed Variation to identify likely significant effects through a SPR assessment.

All policies and objectives defined in the Proposed Variation are considered in this assessment with respect to the integrity of all relevant European sites identified - considering the sensitivities/vulnerabilities of the QIs and SCIs in relation to all potential sources for effects and potential pathways for such effects. Where sources and pathways for effects are identified potential effects will be assessed in relation to the SSCOs.

### 3.3 European Sites within the Zone of Influence

The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that the ZoI must be established on a case-by-case basis using the SPR model. The SPR model has been used to identify the ZoI to ensure that relevant European sites are identified. The SPR model minimises the risk of overlooking distant or obscure effect pathways, while also avoiding an over reliance on buffer zones (e.g. 15 km), within which all European sites should be considered. This approach follows the DoEHLG (2009 rev 2010) guidance on AA which states that:

*“For projects, the distance could be much less than 15 km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”*

In order for a likely significant effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for the significant effect to occur. Proposed Variation impacts are essentially the ‘source’ in the SPR model.



These impacts may be very localised and confined to defined area with no potential connectivity to a European site and therefore no potential for likely significant effects. Alternatively, where an ecological or functional pathway exists they may give rise to a potential likely significant effect to a Qualifying Interest of a European site.

The potential sources of impact associated with the Proposed Variation's zoning changes and objective variations have been considered when defining the ZoI of the Proposed Variation (as identified in Appendix 1).

The dominant ecological pathways that have been considered are presented below:

- Direct physical interactions or changes to the local environment;
- air dispersal (noise, dust, odour emissions etc.);
- hydrological interactions; and,
- dispersal patterns of mobile species.

Having regard to the above, and considering the Precautionary Principle, the ZoI of the Proposed Variation has been defined as:

- All European sites located either solely or partially in the CDP area;
- all European sites within 15 km of the CDP area;
- all European Sites hydrologically or ecologically connected to the CDP;
- all SPA's within 25 km of the CDP Greylag Goose listed as an SCI.

Further detail on criteria used to define the ZoI of the Proposed Variation can be found in Appendix 2.

European sites in and surrounding the CDP area are mapped in Figure 3-1. A map showing hydrological connectivity between the CDP area and European sites immediately surrounding the CDP area is provided in Figure 3-2.

Background information (such as that within Ireland's Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered during the assessment, as necessary.

Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following National Parks and Wildlife Service documents:

- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Ballyman Glen SAC [IE0000713] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Knocksink Wood SAC [IE0000725] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Bray Head SAC [IE0000714] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC [IE0003000] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SAC [IE0002122] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [IE0004040] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives: Glen of the Downs SAC [000719]. Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Dalkey Islands SPA [IE0004172] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA [IE0004024] Version 1.

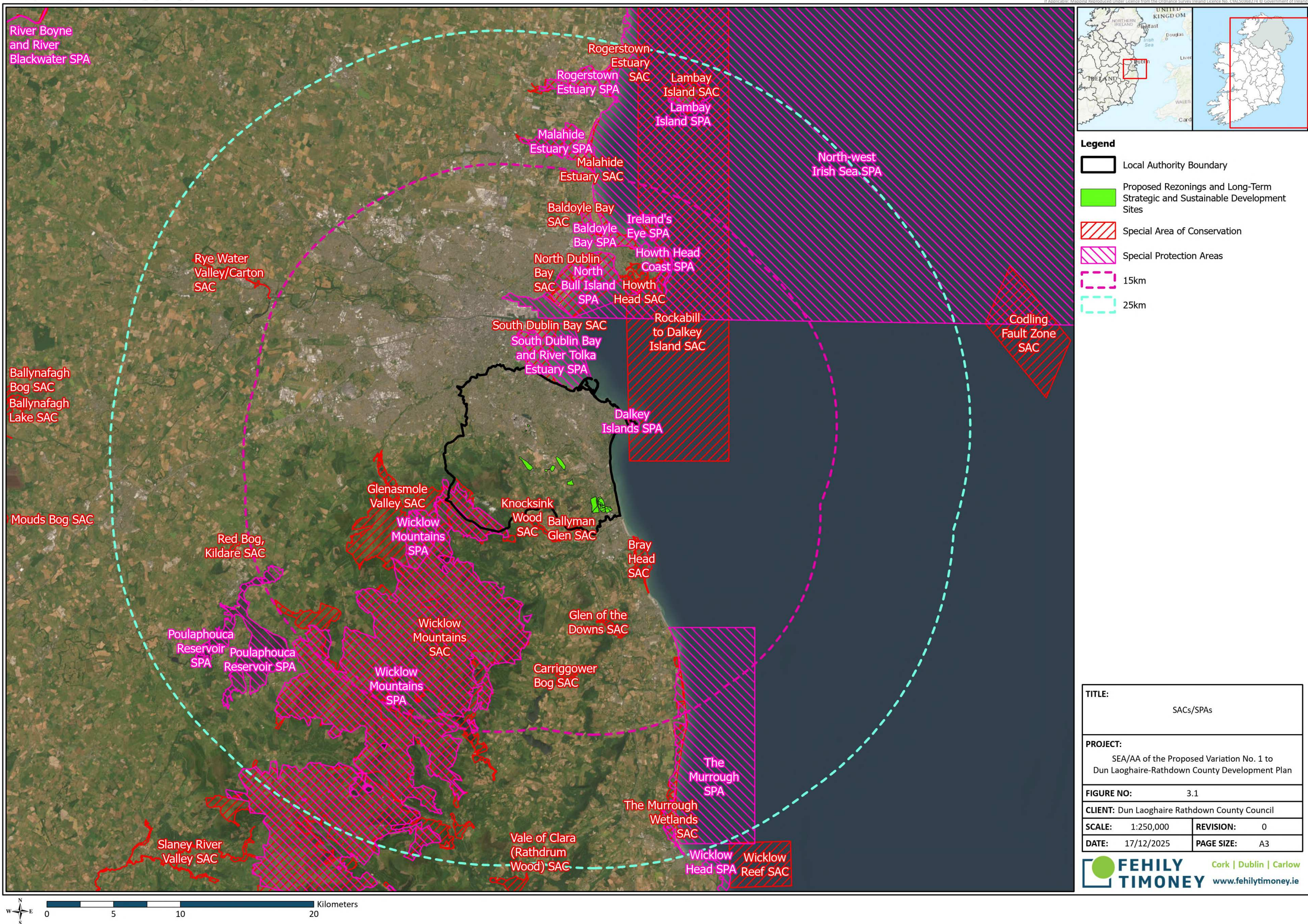




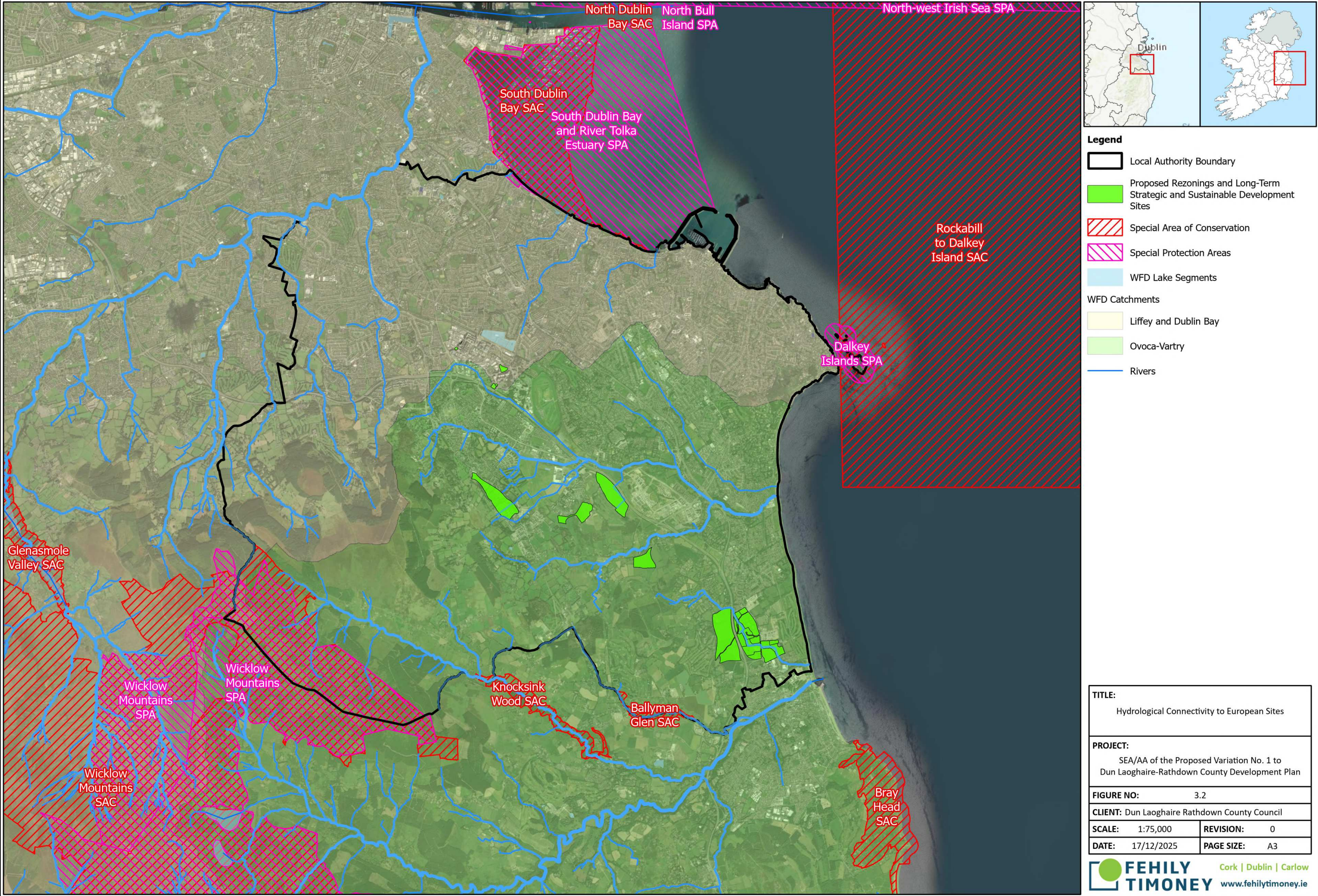
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for South Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000210] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Carriggower Bog SAC [IE0000716] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for The Murrough Wetlands SAC [IE0002249] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for The Murrough SPA [IE0004186] Version 1.
- NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives for North Bull Island SPA [IE0004006] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for North Dublin Bay SAC [IE0000206] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Glenasmole Valley SAC [IE0001209] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-west Irish Sea SPA [004236] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063] Version 1.
- NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head SAC [000202] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Howth Head Coast SPA [004113] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SAC [000199] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Baldoyle Bay SPA [004016] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SAC [002193] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Ireland's Eye SPA [004117] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Malahide Estuary SAC [000205] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Rogerstown Estuary SPA [004015] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Lambay Island SPA [004069] Version 1.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential likely significant effects of the Proposed Variation against the QIs/SCIs of each site (having regard to identified potential sources of impact associated with Proposed Variation of the CDP policies/objectives). The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.













### 3.4 In-Combination Effects With Other Plans And Programmes

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites. All plans, programmes and legislation that has the potential to interact with the Proposed Variation and cause such likely significant in-combination effects to European sites have been identified and are presented in Appendix 3. The environmental effects of these plans, programmes and legislation were considered throughout the assessment.

The CDP and Proposed Variation sit within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, recreation, environmental protection and environmental management, which have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant. The Proposed Variation must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions.

The National Planning Framework (NPF)(as revised) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the next 20 years. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier County Development Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the CDP and Proposed Variation. As required by the Planning and Development Acts, as amended, the Proposed Variation is consistent with the objectives of the CDP, the RSE and the NPF.

In order to be realised, projects supported by the Proposed Variation (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier AA, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

All projects within the Proposed Variation and receiving environment will be considered in combination with any and all lower tier projects that may arise due to the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Given the uncertainties that exist with regard to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Proposed Variation, it is recognised that the identification of likely significant in-combination effects is limited and that the assessment of likely significant in-combination effects will need to be undertaken at project-level.



### 3.5 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Table 3-1 examines whether there is potential for Likely Significant Effects on identified European sites considering the information provided above and the background information on the relevant European sites.



**Table 3-1: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects to European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Variation**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	0.00	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]  Alkaline fens [7230]	The SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.  This European Site is located within the CDP area and 1.3 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There are also no hydrological ( surface water ) connections between this European site and the Relevant Lands of the Variation. There is no SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation for Likely significant effects.	N	N	N
000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	0.00	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]  Alkaline fens [7230]	The SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.  This European Site is located within the CDP area and 1.3 km from Relevant. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There are also no hydrological ( surface water ) connections between this European site and Relevant Lands. There is no SPR connectivity between this European Site and Proposed Variation for Likely significant effects.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	0.0	<p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p> <p>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> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</p>	<p>The SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, surface water interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.</p> <p>The European Site is located within the CDP area and 3.1 km from Relevant Lands. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There are also no hydrological ( surface water ) connections between this European site and Relevant Lands of the Variation. There is no SPR connectivity between this European Site and the Proposed Variation for Likely significant effects.</p>	N	N	N
000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	0.0	<p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p>	<p>The European Site is located within the CDP area and 3.6 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation. This SAC is designated for estuarine/coastal habitats which are influenced by the sea. Relevant Lands (Site IDs: 1-5) of the Variation are located within the BREWERY STREAM_010 WFD Sub-basin (Code: IE_EA_09B130400) which outfalls to Dublin Bay, which forms part of South Dublin Bay SAC.</p>	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]  Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	The Proposed Variation as it relates to these Relevant Lands (Site IDs: 1-5) is to support the use and development of built/brownfield sites and will not introduce a source beyond what was considered in the CDP (which has been subject to its own SEA and AA processes).			
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	0.0	Reefs [1170]  Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> ) [1351]	The European Site is located within the CDP area and 3.4 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation. This SAC is designated for reef (coastal/marine) habitat and Harbour porpoise (a coastal/marine species). This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities.  Relevant Lands (Site IDs 6 - 22 ) are located within the SHANGANAGH_010 Sub-basin (code: IE_EA_10S010600 ) and DARGLE_040 sub-basin ((code: IE_EA_10S010600 ), which outfalls to the Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay. This SAC does not adjoin the outfall to sea and is instead located ca. 1.5 km (direct distance) from the closest outfall in open waters. The Variation of Relevant Lands (Site IDs 6 - 22 ) supports development of greenfield sites that may result in environmental impacts, including the discharge of polluting material to surface water bodies.	N	N	N





Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				<p>However, given the scale and nature (largely residential developments and associated infrastructure) of the Variation as it related to Site IDs 6 - 22, any discharges entering the coastal waters of Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay will be limited and highly diluted. Hydrological connectivity is negligible and likely significant effects on the water quality of this SPA are be ruled.</p> <p>Likely significant effects on this SAC and QIs can are ruled out.</p>			
002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	0.0	<p>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</p> <p>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]</p>	<p>The European Site's northern boundary overlaps with the CDP area, and is located 4.5 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation. The SAC is sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connection between Relevant Lands and the SAC. This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no SPR connectivity between this European Site and the Proposed Variation for likely significant effects.</p>	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]  Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]  Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]  Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230]  Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0],				



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]  Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]  European dry heaths [4030]  Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains ( <i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i> ) [3110]  Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]				



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	0.0	<p>Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</p> <p>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</p>	<p>The European Site's northern boundary overlaps within the CDP area and is located 4.5 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation.</p> <p>As per Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), 2016, the core foraging ranges for the SCIs Merlin and Peregrine are 5 km and 2 km respectively. Relevant Lands are located within the core foraging range of Merlin.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites which may reduce ex-situ foraging habitat for SCI Merlin.</p> <p>Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species Merlin, an SCI of this European site.</p>	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	0.0	Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194]  Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192]  Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193]	The European Site is located within the CDP area and 5.7 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation. This coastal/marine SPA is sensitive to disturbance effects and direct land use management activities.  There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA. Whilst Relevant Lands are theoretically located within the foraging ranges of avian SCIs Arctic tern, Roseate tern, and Common tern, these are marine species and the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation do not contain suitable foraging or roosting habitat for tern species. Therefore SPR connectivity for likely significant effects can be ruled out.	N	N	N
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	0.0	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]  Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137]  Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]  Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]	The European Site is located within the CDP area and 3.6 km from Relevant Lands of the Variation. This SPA is designated for estuarine/coastal habitats which are influenced by the sea. Relevant Lands (Site IDs: 1-5) are located within the BREWERY STREAM_010 WFD Sub-basin (Code: IE_EA_09B130400) which outfalls to Dublin Bay, which forms part of South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.  The Proposed Variation as it relates to these Relevant Lands (Site IDs: 1-5) is to support the use and development of built/brownfield sites and will not introduce a source beyond what was considered in the CDP (which has been subject to its own SEA and AA processes).	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<p>Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192]</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</p> <p>Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</p>	<p>The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-headed Gull, and Tern species, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Dunlin and Plover species have core ranges of 500 m and 3 km, respectively (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016).</p> <p>Note that while the Relevant Lands of the Variation are theoretically located within foraging ranges of tern species, tern species are a coastal/marine species and the Relevant Lands of the Variation do not provide foraging or roosting habitat for tern species.</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed as 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016) and Black-headed Gull has a foraging range is 18.5 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019<sup>4</sup>). As such, these species foraging ranges theoretically overlap with Relevant Lands. Such species have been recorded using inland grasslands in South Dublin. It is possible such species may use greenfield areas of Relevant Lands of greenfield sites within the ZoI of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging).</p>			

<sup>4</sup> Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179]	The Proposed Variation supports the carrying out of development on greenfield sites, that may result in habitat lost, habitat deterioration or disturbance to Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull. Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			
000714	Bray Head SAC	1.82	European dry heaths [4030] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts [1230]	There is a separation distance of approximately 1.82 km between this European Site and the CDP area and 2.5 km between the European Site and Relevant Lands of the Variation. Given the 2.5 km separation distance, this SAC is located outside the ZoI of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	4.68	<p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Humid dune slacks [2190], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>) [1395]</p>	<p>There is a separation distance of approximately 4.68 km between this European Site and the CDP area and 8.6 km between the European Site and Relevant Lands of the Variation.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands of the Variation and SAC. Furthermore the SAC is located outside of the ZoI of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for likely significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.</p>	N	N	N





Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p>				
001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	3.47	<p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</p> <p>Petrifying springs with tufa formation</p>	<p>The CDP area is located 3.47 km from this European Site. The Relevant Lands of the Variation are located 9.3 km from this SAC.</p> <p>The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There are also no surface water connections between the SAC and Relevant Lands. The SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation.</p>	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210]	There is no SPR connectivity for likely significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	6.16	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	There is a separation distance of approximately 6.16 km between this European Site and the CDP area. There is a separation distance of 7.7 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SAC.  With a separation distance of 7.7 km, this SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
000202	Howth Head SAC	7.13	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]  European dry heaths [4030]	There is a separation distance of approximately 7.13 km between this European Site and the CDP area. There is a separation distance of 12.7 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SAC.  With a separation distance of 12.7 km, this SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
				There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	9.86	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]</p> <p>Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]</p>	There is a separation distance of approximately 9.86 km between this European Site and the CDP area. There is a separation distance of 14.2 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SAC. There is no hydrological connection between and this SAC. This SAC is located outside the ZOI of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	10.17	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	<p>The CDP area is located 10.17 km from this European Site. There is a separation distance of 11.7 km between Relevant Lands and the Variation and this SAC. The SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, surface water interactions and ground water interactions.</p> <p>This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE. There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands and this SAC.</p> <p>This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation. There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.</p>	N	N	N
002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	10.98	<p>Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</p> <p>Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]</p>	<p>The CDP area is ca. 10.98 km from this European Site. There is a separation distance of 11.9 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SAC.</p> <p>The habitats of the SAC are sensitive to disturbance effects, direct land use management activities groundwater and hydrological interactions.</p> <p>This European Site is located outside the Zol for impacts to GWDTE and there is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands and this SAC. This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation.</p>	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<p>Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</p> <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</p>	There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.			
004186	The Murrough SPA	8.9	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001]</p> <p>Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</p> <p>Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</p>	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 8.9 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 9.7 km between Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation and this SPA.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connectivity between Relevant Lands and the SPA.</p> <p>The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. Light-bellied Brent Goose and the gull species have been recorded using inland areas (specifically grassland) in South Dublin. It is possible such species may use greenfield sites of the Relevant Lands and may be present within greenfield sites located within the ZOI of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging).</p>	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195]  Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179]  Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]  Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050]  Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]	<p>The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites that may result in environmental impacts, such as habitat loss/ change, deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance of Light-bellied Brent Goose and the gull species.</p> <p>Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has the potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.</p>			
004006	North Bull Island SPA	4.64	Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054]  Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]  Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]	<p>The CDP area is located approximately 4.64 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 8.6 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connectivity between the SPA and Relevant Lands.</p> <p>The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species.</p>	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<p>Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</p> <p>Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]</p> <p>Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</p>	<p>With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Dunlin and Plover species have core ranges of 500 m and 3 km, respectively (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016).</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed to be 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016) and Black-headed Gull has a foraging range is 18.5 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019<sup>5</sup>) and as such, these species foraging ranges could theoretically overlap with the Relevant Lands of the Variation.</p> <p>Such species have been recorded using inland areas (specifically grassland) in South Dublin. It is possible such species may use greenfield Relevant Lands or greenfield sites located within the ZOI of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging).</p> <p>The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration or ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance to Light-bellied Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull.</p>			

<sup>5</sup> Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]  Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144]  Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160]  Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]  Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052]  Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]  Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157]  Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048]	Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			





Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]  Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056]				
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	4.49	Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001] Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003] Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013] Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018] Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065] Little Gull ( <i>Larus minutus</i> ) [A177]	The CDP area is located ca. 4.49 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 4.5 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA.  Relevant Lands (Site IDs: 6 - 22) are located within the SHANGANAGH_010 Sub-basin (code: IE_EA_10S010600 ) and DARGLE_040 sub-basin ((code: IE_EA_10S010600 ), which outfalls to the Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay. This SPA does not adjoin the outfall to sea and is instead located ca. 1.5 km (direct distance) from the closest outfall in open waters. The Proposed Variation supports development that may result in environmental impacts, including the discharge of polluting material to surface water bodies. However, given the scale and nature (largely residential developments and associated infrastructure) of the Variation and Relevant Lands, any discharges entering the coastal waters of Southwestern Irish Sea - Killiney Bay will be limited and highly diluted. Hydrological connectivity is negligible and likely significant effects on the water quality of this SPA are ruled out.	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179] Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus) [A187] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Roseate Tern (Sterna dougallii) [A192] Common Tern (Sterna hirundo) [A193] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194] Little Tern (Sterna albifrons) [A195]	This SPA is designated for marine/coastal birds, most of which have large foraging ranges which theoretically overlap with Relevant Lands of the Variation. Of the avian SCIs, only the gull species are likely to forage inland on greenfield sites. The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat, or disturbance of gull species.  Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species related to this European site.			



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200] Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]				
004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	8.12	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 8.12 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 14.5 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connection between the Relevant Lands and this coastal/marine SPA.</p> <p>The kittiwake has a foraging range of 300.6 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019<sup>6</sup>) and Relevant Lands of the Variation are theoretically located within the foraging range of kittiwake. However, Kittiwake are a marine species and the Relevant Lands of the Variation do not provide suitable foraging habitat for this species.</p> <p>There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects on this SPA or SCI kittiwake.</p>	N	N	N

<sup>6</sup> Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	9.86	<p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</p> <p>Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]</p> <p>Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</p> <p>Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</p> <p>Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</p> <p>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</p>	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 9.86 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 14.2 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connection between Relevant Lands and this SPA.</p> <p>The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Plover species has a core range of 3 km (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016).</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed to be 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016) and have been recorded using inland grassland in South Dublin. It is possible such species may use greenfield site of Relevant Lands and greenfield sites present within the Zol of the Proposed Variation (e.g., for foraging).</p> <p>The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance to Light-bellied Brent.</p> <p>Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on SCI Light-bellied Brent Goose related to this European site.</p>	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	11.21	<p>Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]</p> <p>Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184]</p> <p>Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]</p> <p>Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199]</p> <p>Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200]</p>	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 11.21 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 16.5 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connection between Relevant Lands and this SPA.</p> <p>This SPA is designated for marine/coastal birds, most of which have large foraging ranges which theoretically overlap with the Relevant Lands of the Variation. Of the avian SCIs, only Herring Gull has the potential to use inland open sites. The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites (Relevant Lands), that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance of Herring Gull.</p> <p>Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on Herring Gull an SCI of this European site.</p>	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	11.59	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]  Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	The CDP area is located ca. 11.59 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 19.6 km between Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation and this SAC. This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation.  There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N
000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	14.39	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]  Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]  Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]	The CDP area is located ca. 14.39 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 16.5 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SAC. There is no hydrological connectivity between the SAC and Relevant Lands. This SAC is located outside the Zol of the Proposed Variation.  There is no SPR connectivity for significant effects to this European Site and its QIs as a result of activities proposed under the Proposed Variation.	N	N	N



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			<p>Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]</p> <p>Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</p>				



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	13.22	Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 11.21 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 19.6 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA. There is no hydrological connection between the SPA and Relevant Lands.</p> <p>Greylag Goose has a foraging range of 15 - 20 km (SNH, 2016), whilst Lesser Black-backed Gull has a foraging range of 236 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019<sup>7</sup>). Both species could potentially use inland grassland areas to forage.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, that may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance of Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull.</p> <p>Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on mobile species Greylag Goose and Lesser Black-backed Gull SCIs of this European site.</p>	Y	Y	Y

<sup>7</sup> Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.





Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	20.67	<p>Greylag Goose (Anser anser) [A043]</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose (Branta bernicla hrota) [A046]</p> <p>Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna) [A048]</p> <p>Oystercatcher (Haematopus ostralegus) [A130]</p> <p>Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]</p> <p>Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]</p>	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 20.67 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 24.8 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA. There is no hydrological connection between the SPA and Relevant Lands .</p> <p>The bird species present within this European Site are coastal bird species. With the exception of the Light-bellied Brent Goose and Greylag Goose, the bird species of the SPA have short foraging ranges; e.g. Dunlin and Plover species have core ranges of 500 m and 3 km, respectively (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2016).</p> <p>Greylag Goose has a foraging range of 15 - 20 km (SNH, 2016) and does not overlap with the Relevant Lands of the Variation and SPR connectivity can be ruled out.</p> <p>Light-bellied Brent Goose has a foraging range assumed to be 15 - 25 km (having regard to foraging ranges of other geese, as prescribed in SNH, 2016) which theoretically overlaps with Relevant Lands of the Variation. This species has been recorded in South Dublin and may feed inland on greenfield sites. The Proposed Variation supports the development of greenfield sites, which may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance of Light-bellied Brent Goose.</p>	Y	Y	Y



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]  Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149]  Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156]  Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162]  Shoveler ( <i>Spatula clypeata</i> ) [A857]  Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on Light-bellied Brent Goose and SCIs of this European site.			



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
004069	Lambay Island SPA	20.76	<p>Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</p> <p>Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</p> <p>Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]</p> <p>Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043]</p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</p> <p>Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</p>	<p>The CDP area is located ca. 20.76 km from this European site. There is a separation distance of 25.7 km between Relevant Lands of the Variation and this SPA. There is no hydrological connection between the SPA and Relevant Lands.</p> <p>Of the SCIs, only Greylag Goose, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Herring Gull are likely to forage inland on greenfield sites.</p> <p>Greylag Goose has a foraging range of 15 - 20 km (SNH, 2016) and which does not overlap with the Relevant Lands of the Variation and SPR connectivity can be ruled out.</p> <p>Lesser Black-backed Gull has a foraging range of 236 km and Herring Gull has a foraging range of 85.6 km (Woodward <i>et al.</i>, 2019<sup>8</sup>) and these species foraging ranges overlap with the Relevant Lands of the Variation. The Proposed Variation supports development of greenfield sites, which may result in habitat loss or habitat deterioration of ex-situ foraging habitat or disturbance of Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull.</p>	Y	Y	Y

<sup>8</sup> Woodward *et al.* (2019). Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report 724. Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E., Cook, A.S.C.P. 2019.



Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	Potential for Likely Significant Effects	Pathway for Likely Significant Effects	Potential for In-Combination Effects	Likely Significant Effects (Y/N)
			Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188]  Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199]  Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200]  Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]	Having regard to the 'Precautionary Principle' underpinning EU and Irish Environmental Law, it is assessed that implementation of the Proposed Variation has some potential to result in likely significant effects on Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull, SCIs of this European site.			



### 3.6 AA Screening Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of the AA Screening exercises, it is concluded that the Proposed Variation:

- Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.
- Individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on 10 European sites, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge.

Therefore, an NIR must be prepared for the Proposed Variation.



## 4. NATURA IMPACT REPORT

### 4.1 Introduction

The NIR assesses whether the Proposed Variation alone, or in-combination with other plans, programmes, and/or projects, would result in adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites brought forward from screening (those considered in Section 3 for which there is potential for 'Likely Significant Effects,' with respect to site structure, function and/or conservation objectives).

### 4.2 Characterisation of European sites Potentially Affected

The AA Screening identified European sites with pathway receptors for potential effects arising from the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Appendix 4 characterises each of the qualifying features of all European sites brought forward from screening in context of each of the sites' vulnerabilities. Each of these site characterisations were taken from the NPWS website.

### 4.3 Characterisation Potential Effects

A characterisation of potential effects on the relevant European sites is presented in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1: Characterisation of Potential Adverse Effects arising from the subject land area**

Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to interpretative centres, Peat extraction, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Sylviculture, forestry. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>• Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging or collection, Leisure fishing, eutrophication (natural), Discharges, nautical sports, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Industrial or commercial areas. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		<p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>• Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004186	The Murrrough SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, Railway lines, TGV, Fertilisation. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>• Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004006	North Bull Island SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to shipping lanes, other patterns of habitation, roads, motorways, nautical sports, walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, bridge, viaduct, Interpretative centres, golf course, continuous urbanisation, discharges, bait digging or collection, industrial or commercial areas. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>• Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		<p>Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to fertilisation, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging / collection, Eutrophication (natural), Hunting, Roads, motorways, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Leisure fishing. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to hunting, nautical sports, forest planting on open ground, leisure fishing, bridge, and a viaduct. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul>





Site Code	Site Name	Characterisation of Potential Effects
		Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to Fertilisation, disposal of household / recreational facility waste, disposal of industrial waste, invasive non-native species, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Hunting, grazing, dispersed habitation, bait digging / collection, nautical sports. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>• Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>
004069	Lambay Island SPA	<p>The known threats and pressures for this SPA relate to grazing, mowing / cutting of grassland, nautical sports, shipping lanes, dispersed habitation, hunting. The known threats and pressures of the avian SCIs of this SPA are provided in Table 3 of Appendix 4.</p> <p>The Proposed Variation provides for amending zoning allocations from agricultural zoning to residential zoning. Such development may result in environmental impacts that result in adverse effects on the SCIs of this European site such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration.</li> <li>• Development or activity leading to disturbance to or impacts on species.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure Proposed Variation implementation does not result in adverse effects on this European site.</p>

Assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted utilising the SPR model. The 2001 European Commission AA guidance outlines the following potential changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site. These include: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change. The Proposed Variation may result in such changes and adverse effects on the above European sites.

#### 4.3.1 Loss/Reduction of Habitat Area

The Proposed Variation will amend the CDP. The CDP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the CDP area. Potential adverse effects arising from residential development and associated infrastructure under the Proposed Variation include land take, habitat destruction, disturbance effects, light pollution, dust, and excessive noise.



Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. Integrated measures are defined in the higher-order CDP, which applies to the Proposed Variation in this case. These measures are presented in Table 5-1. Similarly, measures have been embedded/integrated into the Proposed Variation with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site as a result of loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the integrity of European Sites. Embedded/integrated measures included in the Proposed Variation are provided in Table 5-2. The mitigation measures defined in the CDP and Proposed Variation will ensure there is no loss of habitat or supporting habitat for species that are necessary to maintain the integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Variation.

#### 4.3.2 Habitat or species Fragmentation

The Proposed Variation will amend the CDP. The CDP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the CDP area. Potential adverse effects arising from developments and activities include the fragmentation of habitat through, for example, light pollution, habitat loss or removal of stepping stone habitats.

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. The CDP includes integrated measures to minimise potential fragmentation and to facilitate the enhancement of ecological corridors such as riparian zones, planting of native tree species, management of habitats such as woodlands and minimising inappropriate lighting.. These measures are presented in Table 5-1. Integrated measures are defined in the higher-order CDP, applies to the Proposed Variation in this case. Similarly, measures have been embedded/integrated into the Proposed Variation with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site. Embedded/integrated measures included in the Proposed Variation are provided in Table 5-2. The mitigation measures defined in will ensure that habitat or species fragmentation does not occur in relation to the connectivity of the ecological resources necessary to maintain the integrity of European Sites.

#### 4.3.3 Disturbance to Key Species

The Proposed Variation will amend the CDP. The CDP provides a framework for granting consent for land use developments and activities across various sectors (see Section 2) for the CDP area. Disturbance effects are caused by any activity or development that has potential to alter the movement patterns or distribution of species, for example direct disturbance through human activity/movement as a result of human activity/movement or noise pollution.

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. The CDP includes integrated measures to minimise disturbance; noise and light will be managed through provisions such as GI6 and GI7 in the CDP. These measures are presented in Table 5-1. Similarly, measures have been embedded/integrated into the Proposed Variation with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site. Embedded/integrated measures included in the Proposed Variation are provided in Table 5-2. The mitigation measures defined in the CDP and Proposed Variation will ensure the habitat quality of ecological resources necessary to maintain the integrity of European Sites.



#### 4.3.4 Reduction in species density

Species densities are reliant on species distributions, habitat condition, connectivity of ecological resources and availability of resources such as prey/food. The Proposed Variation introduces potential sources for adverse effects to affect these four determinant factors for species densities in the form of construction phase effects such as habitat destruction, light pollution, or operational effects such as disturbance effects, habitat encroachment and trampling.

The CDP includes integrated measures to prevent adverse effects on species density. These measures are presented in Table 5-1. Similarly, measures have been embedded/integrated into the Proposed Variation with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site. Embedded/integrated measures included in the Proposed Variation are provided in Table 5-2. The mitigation measures defined in the CDP and Proposed Variation will ensure no adverse effects on species density.

#### 4.3.5 Changes of Indicators of Conservation Value

Indicators of conservation value are identified as key ecological resources such as water quality, air quality, habitat quality, population health of ecosystem engineers or 'keystone species' etc. Land use development supported by the Proposed Variation could result in negative effects on these indicators (e.g., through construction run-off, construction dust, development related noise and emissions etc.).

Some European sites have the potential to be adversely affected by the implementation of the Proposed Variation. The CDP includes integrated measures to provide a broader scope to ensure the protection of indicators of conservation value, including the wider landscape associated with riparian zones and habitats sensitive to hydrological interactions. Various integrated measures have been included in the CDP, such as EI14, with the objective of protecting air quality. Measures defined in the CDP to prevent adverse effects on European sites are presented in Table 5-1. Similarly, measures have been embedded/integrated into the Proposed Variation with the objective of ensuring that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site as a result of changes to the indicators of conservation value. Embedded/integrated measures included in the Proposed Variation are provided in Table 5-2. The mitigation measures defined in the CDP and Proposed Variation will ensure there is no change to the indicators of conservation value which are necessary to maintain the integrity of European sites throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Variation.

#### 4.3.6 Climate Change

The Proposed Variation includes provisions that potentially conflict with climate mitigation and provisions that will help to contribute towards climate mitigation. Chapter 3 of the CDP pertains to Climate Action and contains policy in support of the strategic policy ambitions of the CDP, where the creation of a climate-resilient County is particularly important in the context of the United-Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Section 3.6.1 of the CDP outlines DLRCC's approach to supporting the implementation of flood risk measures, and includes the following text in relation to managing flood risk and biodiversity:

A variety of policies defined in the CDP will serve to minimize the carbon impact of settlement in the area and improve climate resilience, indirectly benefiting biodiversity components. These are presented in Table 5-1.

*"Existing wetland Habitats within the County which serve as flood protection/management measures shall be managed and enhanced."*

A variety of policies defined in the CDP will serve to minimize the carbon impact of development under the Proposed Variation and improve climate resilience, indirectly benefiting biodiversity components. These are presented in Table 5-1.



Greenhouse gas emissions arising from the development supported by the Proposed Variation will not affect changes projected to arise from climate change to the degree that it would affect the SCIs of the European Sites considered.



## 5. MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential adverse effects on European sites that may occur as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation (without considering any mitigation) have been identified. This section of the report describes the measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects on European sites that may occur as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation.

The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to mitigate the negative environments of the Proposed Variation and maximise its potential positive effects:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through environmental mitigation defined in the current CDP, and through embedding/integrating environmental considerations into the Proposed Variation.

### 5.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the Variation development process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the AA process. The preferred Proposed Variation was chosen over other alternative options having due regard to the potential environmental effects (positive and negative) associated with the alternatives considered.

### 5.2 Mitigation through environmental mitigation defined in the current CDP, and through embedding/integrating environmental considerations into the Proposed Variation

The development of the Proposed Variation was carried out in parallel with the AA process. Regular communication and interactions took place between the Environmental Assessment Team and DLRCC. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA process, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to DLRCC.

A strong level of mitigation relevant to the protection of European sites is already defined in the current CDP. These mitigation measures will apply to the Proposed Variation. Environmental mitigation measures already defined in the CDP that mitigate adverse effects associated with the Proposed Variation are presented in Table 5-1.

Further mitigation measures have been embedded and integrated into the Proposed Variation following the Variation development and AA processes. These mitigation measures are presented in Table 5-2.

These mitigation measures will avoid and prevent adverse effects on European sites.



**Table 5-1: Relevant Mitigation defined in the Current CDP**

Policy Objective Reference	Policy Objective
CS10	It is a Policy Objective to implement a programme for the preparation of Local Area Plans and to prioritise areas in accordance with the overarching strategic objectives of the Core Strategy including those areas which are experiencing and/or likely to experience large scale development or regeneration.
PHP24	It is a Policy Objective to protect the green belt areas and restrict residential development.
T23	It is a Policy Objective, in conjunction and co-operation with other transport bodies and authorities such as the TII and the NTA, to secure improvements to the County road network – including improved pedestrian and cycle facilities, subject to the outcome of environmental assessment (SEA, EIA and AA), flood risk assessment and the planning process (RPO 8.10, RPO 8.16)
T25	It is a Policy Objective that where projects for new roads, identified under Section 5.8, are not already provided for by existing plans/ programme or are not already permitted, that the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report (including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions to air) and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. In implementing this Objective, the Council will comply with any national policy or guidelines issued relating to the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions to air for new transport projects.
T27	It is a Policy Objective to ensure that traffic noise levels are considered as part of new developments along major roads/rail lines in accordance with best practice guidelines.
E20	It is a Policy Objective to support the transition to a low carbon economy.
GIB4	It is Policy Objective to conserve and enhance existing High Amenity Zones and to seek to manage these and other areas to absorb further recreational uses and activity without damaging their unique character
GIB12	It is a Policy Objective to promote, protect and enhance sustainable and appropriate access to the natural heritage of the County, where practicable, in a balanced way while protecting the natural heritage of the County.
GIB18	It is a Policy Objective to protect and conserve the environment including, in particular, the natural heritage of the County and to conserve and manage Nationally and Internationally important and EU designated sites - such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservations (SACs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Ramsar sites (wetlands) - as well as non-designated areas of high nature conservation value known as locally important areas which also serve as 'Stepping Stones' for the purposes of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
GIB19	It is a Policy Objective to ensure the protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, including European Sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines.
GIB21	It is a Policy Objective to protect and preserve areas designated as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and Special Protection Areas. It is Council policy to promote the maintenance and as appropriate, delivery of 'favourable' conservation status of habitats and species within these areas.



Policy Objective Reference	Policy Objective
GIB22	It is a Policy Objective to protect and promote the conservation of biodiversity in areas of natural heritage importance outside Designated Areas and to ensure that notable sites, habitats and features of biodiversity importance - including species protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979, the Habitats Directive 1992, Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011, Flora (Protection) Order, 2015, Annex I habitats, local important areas, wildlife corridors and rare species - are adequately protected. Ecological assessments will be carried out for all developments in areas that support, or have potential to support, features of biodiversity importance or rare and protected species and appropriate mitigation/ avoidance measures will be implemented. In implementing this policy, regard shall be had to the Ecological Network, including the forthcoming DLRCC Wildlife Corridor Plan, and the recommendations and objectives of the Green City Guidelines (2008) and 'Ecological Guidance Notes for Local Authorities and Developers' (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Version 2014).
GIB23	It is a Policy Objective to protect the Ecological Network which will be integrated into the updated Green Infrastructure Strategy and will align with the DLRCC County Biodiversity Action Plan. Creating this network throughout the County will also improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non-designated sites.
GIB24	It is a Policy Objective to maintain and protect the natural character and ecological value of the river and stream corridors in the County and where possible to enhance existing channels and to encourage diversity of habitat and nature-based solutions that incorporate biodiversity features. It is also policy (subject to the sensitivity of the riverside habitat), to provide public access to riparian corridors, to promote improved passive recreational activities.
GIB25	It is a Policy Objective to retain and protect hedgerows in the County from development, which would impact adversely upon them. In addition, the Council will promote the protection of existing site boundary hedgerows and where feasible require the retention of these when considering a grant of planning permission for all developments. The Council will promote the County's hedgerows by increasing coverage, where possible, using locally native species and to develop an appropriate code of practice for road hedgerow maintenance. The Council will promote the protection of existing hedgerows when considering a grant of planning permission for all developments.
GIB28	It is a Policy Objective to prepare an 'Invasive Alien Species Action Plan' for the County which will include actions in relation to Invasive Alien Species (IAS) surveys, management and treatment and to also ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicants will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).
EI3	It is a Policy Objective that all new developments in areas served by a public foul sewerage network connect to the public sewerage system, either directly or indirectly. It is a Policy Objective to promote the changeover from septic tanks to collection networks where this is feasible and to strongly discourage the provision of individual septic tanks and domestic wastewater treatment systems in order to minimise the risk of groundwater and surface water pollution. It is a Policy Objective to prohibit multiple dwelling units discharging to communal wastewater treatment systems.
EI4	It is a Policy Objective to require all development proposals to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system – where practicable. (Consistent with RPO 10.12)





Policy Objective Reference	Policy Objective
EI5	<p>It is a Policy Objective:</p> <p>To ensure the delivery of the relevant policies and objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 and any subsequent plan, including those relating to protection of water status, improvement of water status, prevention of deterioration and meeting objectives for designated protected sites.</p> <p>To support Irish Water in its implementation of Water Quality Management Plans for ground, surface, coastal and estuarine waters as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. To support Irish Water in the development of Drinking Water Protection Plans.</p>
EI7	<p>It is a Policy Objective to require that all developments relating to water supply and wastewater treatment are subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any European sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met. (Consistent with RPO 10.7 of the RSES).</p>
EI8	<p>It is a Policy Objective to ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the County and associated habitats and species in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010. In this regard, the Council will support the implementation of Irish Water's Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.</p>
EI10	<p>It is a Policy Objective to work alongside Irish Water to minimise the number and frequency of storm overflows of sewage to watercourses and to establish, in co-operation with the adjoining Local Authorities and Irish Water, a consistent approach to the design, improvement and management of these intermittent discharges to ensure that the needs of the Region's receiving waters are met in a cost effective manner.</p>
EI14	<p>It is a Policy Objective:</p> <p>To implement the provisions of national and EU Directives on air and noise pollution and other relevant legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate. (Consistent with RPO 10.10 of the RSES) To maintain and manage a Dublin County ambient air quality monitoring network in conjunction with the EPA and TII and to make available to the public the resulting air quality measurements via the EPA website <a href="http://www.epa.ie/air/quality">www.epa.ie/air/quality</a>. To support the implementation of objectives of the 'Dublin Agglomeration Environmental Noise Action Plan 2018-2023'.</p>
EI15	<p>It is a Policy Objective to ensure that the design of external lighting schemes minimise the incidence of light spillage or pollution in the immediate surrounding environment and has due regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas.</p>
EI16	<p>It is a Policy Objective to implement the provisions of water pollution abatement measures in accordance with national and EU Directives and other legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</p>





**Table 5-2: Mitigation Embedded/Integrated in the Proposed Variation**

Reference	Objective
CS4	<p>Policy Objective CS4 – Long term Strategic and Sustainable Settlement Sites (LTSS)</p> <p>It is a policy objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designate and maintain as Long Term Strategic Settlement Sites the lands marked accordingly on the Development Plan maps.</li> <li>- Ensure that future development (subject to rezoning) on these lands is in accordance with a plan or settlement specific objectives contained within a future County Development Plan.</li> <li>- Ensure that future development (subject to rezoning) also provides for supporting infrastructure including educational, community and higher order open space uses where required (in addition to any open space required as part of any residential scheme)</li> <li>- Protect the lands for potential future residential growth and to restrict development so as to ensure that no permission granted would prejudice comprehensive development of these lands.</li> <li>- Ensure future development supports, and is in alignment with, current and future environmental protection objectives, including water quality, climate, nature restoration objectives, and European site conservation objectives.</li> <li>- Ensure future development includes measures to avoid/prevent potential adverse effects on European site qualifying interests/special conservation interests that may be present in the area (e.g., wintering birds).</li> <li>- Avoid removal of hedgerow, or where not possible, provide replacement/additional hedgerow in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> <li>- Include measures to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on important ecological features and networks; provide compensatory measures where significant adverse effects are unavoidable, and seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity, in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> </ul>
SLO 156	<p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accord with the Kiltiernan-Glenamuck LAP 2025.</li> <li>- accord with any settlement specific objectives as set out in a future County Development Plan</li> <li>- provide through road access to the lands from the site to the west which is designated for educational facilities and from existing and permitted adjoining residential development to the northwest.</li> <li>- not impinge on conservation objectives for the Dingle Glen Proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</li> <li>- ensure heights and design are sensitive to the topography and the upland and rural backdrop.</li> </ul>
SLO 157	<p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accord with an approved plan or settlement specific policies as set out in any future County Development Plan</li> <li>- ensure heights and design are sensitive to the topography and the upland and rural backdrop.</li> <li>- include for provision of open space (in addition to that required for any residential scheme).</li> <li>- include for provision of educational facilities as required.</li> </ul>



Reference	Objective
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- include appropriate design and mitigation measure to avoid/prevent potential adverse effects on receiving water bodies at and surrounding the lands, including key ecological receptors that may use these water bodies.</li> <li>- Use and appropriately maintain Nature-Based Solution and Sustainable Drainage Systems to sustainably management rainwater.</li> <li>- Avoid removal of hedgerow, or where not possible, provide replacement/additional hedgerow in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> </ul>
SLO 158	<p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accord with an approved plan or settlement specific policies as set out in any future County Development Plan.</li> <li>- be phased in conjunction with the consent and delivery of the Kiltiernan Link Road and Priorsland overbridge.</li> <li>- Include for provision of open space (in addition to that required for any residential scheme).</li> <li>- Include for appropriate attenuation measures as required.</li> <li>- Include for provision of educational facilities as required.</li> <li>- Include for provision of required transport infrastructure as set out in the County Development Plan.</li> <li>- Include appropriate design and mitigation measure to avoid/prevent potential adverse effects on receiving water bodies at and surrounding the lands, including key ecological receptors that may use these water bodies.</li> <li>- Use and appropriately maintain Nature-Based Solution and Sustainable Drainage Systems to sustainably management rainwater.</li> <li>- Include measures to protect and preserve archaeological heritage present at the lands, as necessary (e.g., Fulacht Fia).</li> <li>- Ensure heights and design are sensitive to the topography and the upland and rural backdrop.</li> <li>- Include appropriate biodiversity protection and enhancement measures.</li> <li>- Avoid removal of hedgerow, or where not possible, provide replacement/additional hedgerow in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> </ul>
SLO 160	<p>To provide a park area on lands zoned for open space between the M11 and the Dublin Road and on lands at Woodbrook. Any parkland area shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore links across the M11/N11 to the Old Connaught Local Area Plan lands, eastwards to Shanganagh Park and south eastwards to Woodbrook Glen.</li> <li>- Provide a pitch on Allies River Road (see SLO 159)</li> <li>- Address attenuation measures as required</li> <li>- Include appropriate biodiversity protection and enhancement measures.</li> </ul>
SLO 161	<p>To provide a new road and bridge linking Old Connaught to the Dublin Road (M11 overbridge to Dublin Road or the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme in this vicinity) subject to compliance with TII Publications and Policy Objective T25: Environmental Assessment of New Roads.</p>



Reference	Objective
SLO 169/Policy Objective GIB31	<p>Any future development on these lands shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include measures to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on important ecological features and networks; provide compensatory measures where significant adverse effects are unavoidable, and seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity, in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> <li>- Include measures to avoid/mitigate potential adverse effects on the Crinken/Rathmichael Stream, in line with Water Framework Directive objectives, including its riparian zone and key ecological receptors using the stream.</li> <li>- Include measures for the protection of otters evidenced in the area and their supporting habitat.</li> <li>- Include measures to avoid/prevent potential adverse effects on European site qualifying interests/special conservation interests that may be present in the area (e.g., wintering birds).</li> <li>- Use and appropriately maintain Nature Based Solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems to sustainably manage rainwater.</li> <li>- Include measures for the conservation of architectural and archaeological heritage features present in the area, including the settings of heritage features, as appropriate.</li> <li>- Avoid removal of hedgerow, or where not possible, provide replacement/additional hedgerow in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> </ul>



## 6. CONCLUSION

An AA Screening and NIR were carried out for the Proposed Variation. In the absence of mitigation, the implementation of the Proposed Variation was found to have the potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the following European Sites:

- Wicklow Mountains SPA
- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
- The Murrough SPA
- North Bull Island SPA
- North-west Irish Sea SPA
- Baldoyle Bay SPA
- Ireland's Eye SPA
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA
- Rogerstown Estuary SPA
- Lambay Island SPA

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the SCIs of, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of adverse effects in the first place and mitigate adverse effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Proposed Variation will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.

In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Proposed Variation are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.

Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Proposed Variation, will not give rise to any adverse effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>9</sup>. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

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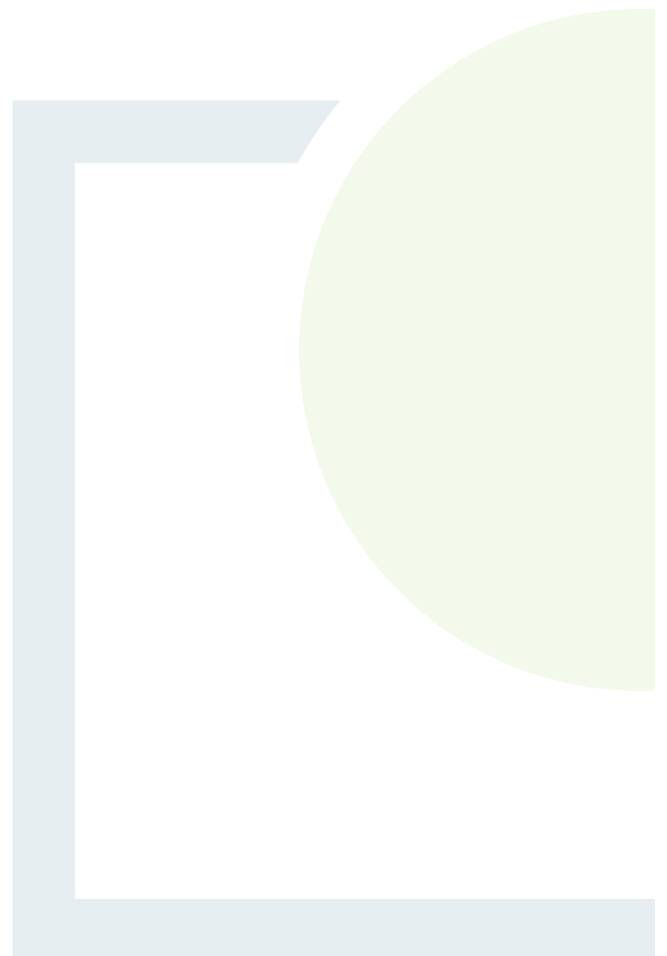
<sup>9</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## APPENDIX 1

Assessment of Potential  
Sources of Impact



## Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact

An assessment of potential sources of environmental impact that may lead to likely significant associated with policies/objectives defined in the Proposed Variation - that may lead to likely significant effects on European sites - has been carried out. This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the following source of impact criteria defined in the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note.

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species

Table 1 presents the codes associated with the potential source of impact criteria. Table 2 presents an assessment of the potential sources of impact associated with variations of objectives of the Proposed Variation. Table 3 presents an assessment of the potential sources of impact associated with zoning changes of the Proposed Variation.



**Table 1      Potential Source of Impacts Criteria and Associated Codes**

Source of Impact	Code	Source of Impact	Code
Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration	HAB	Proposed Variation -related activities leading to reduction in species populations and density	RED
Surface water runoff carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses	SWR	Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions	AP
Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the Proposed Variation	GWQ	Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species	IS
Proposed Variation-related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc.) leading to disturbance and/or displacement of species	DDS		

Table 2

## Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact from text and objective changes associated with the Proposed Variation

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
CS4	<p>Add the following Policy Objective:</p> <p><b>Policy Objective CS4 – Long term Strategic and Sustainable Settlement Sites (LTSS)</b></p> <p>It is a policy objective to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate and maintain as Long Term Strategic Settlement Sites the lands marked accordingly on the Development Plan maps.</li> <li>Ensure that future development (subject to rezoning) on these lands is in accordance with a plan or settlement specific objectives contained within a future County Development Plan.</li> <li>Ensure that future development (subject to rezoning) also provides for supporting infrastructure including educational, community and higher order open space uses where required (in addition to any open space required as part of any residential scheme).</li> <li>Protect the lands for potential future residential growth and to restrict development so as to ensure that no permission granted would prejudice comprehensive development of these lands.</li> </ul>	<p>The updated Core Strategy will drive the development of housing and supporting infrastructure in key development areas in the County, including Enniskerry Rd, Stepside / Kiltiernan, Glenamuck Rd / Springfield Lane Kiltiernan / Carrickmines, Golf Lane, Carrickmines, Ballycorus Rd, Rathmichael.</p> <p>This variation supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>							
			✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure future development supports, and is in alignment with, current and future environmental protection objectives, including water quality, climate, nature restoration objectives, and European site conservation objectives.</li> <li>• Ensure future development includes measures to avoid/prevent potential adverse effects on European site qualifying interests/special conservation interests that may be present in the area (e.g., wintering birds).</li> <li>• Avoid removal of hedgerow, or where not possible, provide replacement/additional hedgerow in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> <li>• Include measures to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on important ecological features and networks; provide compensatory measures where significant adverse effects are unavoidable, and seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity, in line with wider nature restoration objectives.</li> </ul>								

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 153	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To provide for active ground floor mixed-use or commercial uses along prominent site or building frontages with generous building (s) entrances with floor-ceiling heights of circa 4.5m so as to create a level of animation and vibrancy appropriate for this pivotal site.</p> <p>In addition, the ground floor use shall be in accordance with the Mixed Inner Core (MIC) Zoning Objective, with the exception of retail warehousing. For clarity, retail warehousing uses shall not be permissible or open for consideration at this location.</p>	This change provides for the use of ground floors of existing buildings. This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SLO 154	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To allow for residential use with an element of active use at ground floor level. In addition, provision shall be made for 'adaptable' units at the ground floor level with a greater internal floor to ceiling height of circa 4 to 4.5 metres to facilitate mixed / commercial use at ground floor level at a future stage.</p>	This change provides for the use of ground floors of existing buildings. This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 155	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To require the provision of a publicly accessible facility for community use. To meet this requirement, the community facility shall comprise of a minimum floorspace area of 500 sq.m in extent”.</p>	This change provides for the provision of publicly accessible facilities . This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SLO 156	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accord with the Kiltiernan-Glenamuck LAP 2025.</li> <li>- accord with any settlement specific objectives as set out in a future County Development Plan</li> <li>- provide through road access to the lands from the site to the west which is designated for educational facilities and from existing and permitted adjoining residential development to the northwest.</li> </ul>	The introduction of this SLO supports the development of road access from the site to the west which is designated for educational facilities and from existing and permitted adjoining residential development to the northwest. This element of the SLO will drive road development and may introduce a source for environmental impact.	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 157	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accord with an approved plan or settlement specific policies as set out in any future County Development Plan</li> <li>- ensure heights and design are sensitive to the topography and the upland and rural backdrop.</li> <li>- include for provision of open space (in addition to that required for any residential scheme).</li> <li>- include for provision of educational facilities as required.</li> </ul>	<p>This change relates to the standards for future residential development. In of itself, this variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SLO 158	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accord with an approved plan or settlement specific policies as set out in any future County Development Plan.</li> <li>- be phased in conjunction with the consent and delivery of the Kiltiernan Link Road and Priorsland overbridge.</li> <li>- include for provision of open space (in addition to that required for any residential scheme).</li> <li>- Include for appropriate attenuation measures as required.</li> <li>- include for provision of educational facilities as required.</li> </ul>	<p>This change relates to the standards for future residential development. Transport infrastructure has already been assessed under the CDP, which was subject to an AA. The variation does not introduce a new source that has not already been considered. This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
	- Include for provision of required transport infrastructure as set out in the County Development Plan.								

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 158	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Any future residential development on these lands (subject to rezoning) should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- accord with an approved plan or settlement specific policies as set out in any future County Development Plan.</li> <li>- be phased in conjunction with the consent and delivery of the Kiltiernan Link Road and Priorsland overbridge.</li> <li>- include for provision of open space (in addition to that required for any residential scheme).</li> <li>- include for appropriate attenuation measures as required.</li> <li>- include for provision of educational facilities as required.</li> <li>- include for provision of required transport infrastructure as set out in the County Development Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>This change relates to the standards for future residential development. Transport infrastructure has already been assessed under the CDP, which was subject to an AA. The variation does not introduce a new source that has not already been considered. This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SLO 159	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Lands to be considered for inclusion in a future Rathmichael Plan. If included the Rathmichael Plan shall address phasing of development (subject to rezoning) as appropriate.</p>	<p>This variation supports the inclusion of lands in a future Rathmichael plan as well as the phasing of developments. This will likely act as a driver for increased development and use of green field sites and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 160	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide a park area on lands zoned for open space between the M11 and the Dublin Road and on lands at Woodbrook. Any parkland area shall:</li> <li>- Explore links across the M11/N11 to the Old Connaught Local Area Plan lands, eastwards to Shanganagh Park and south eastwards to Woodbrook Glen.</li> <li>- Provide a pitch on Allies River Road (see SLO 159)</li> <li>- Address attenuation measures as required</li> </ul>	The introduction of this SLO is considered likely to act as a driver for increased development and use of green field sites and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X
SLO 105	<p>Amend SLO 105 as follows:</p> <p>To prepare and Local Area Plan for Old Connaught. Development shall take place in accordance with the adopted old Connaught Local Area Plan 2025.</p>	This variation is an amendment to SLO 105, ensuring that developments take place in accordance with the adopted old Connaught Local Area Plan 2025 which was subject to an AA. The variation does not introduce a new source that has not already been considered. This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SLO 108	<p>Amend SLO 108 as follows:</p> <p>To provide pedestrian/cycle access across the M11 corridor at in the vicinity of Allies River Road in accordance with the Old Connaught Local Area Plan. The corridor and route selection process outlined in Policy Objective T24 should be followed.</p>	The introduction of this SLO is considered likely to act as a driver for pedestrian/cycle tracks and may introduce a source for environmental impact.	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 161	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To provide a new road and bridge linking Old Connaught to the Dublin Road (M11 overbridge to Dublin Road or the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme in this vicinity) subject to compliance with TII Publications.</p>	Transport infrastructure has already been assessed under the CDP, which was subject to an AA. The variation does not introduce a new source that has not already been considered. This variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SLO 162	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To provide a pitch on lands at Allies River road to complement the necklace of diverse open spaces running from the coast, Shanganagh Park, along Allies River Road at Woodbrook and connecting in with the Allies River Road Active park in Old Connaught via the active travel link across the M11 corridor.</p>	The introduction of this SLO supports the development of a greenfield site into a playing pitch and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X
SLO 163	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To progress opportunities for filtered mobility along Allies River Road while maintaining access for existing vehicular users. Sites coming forward for residential development shall explore the opportunity to access sites from Dublin Road and from the south.</p>	The introduction of this SLO is considered likely to act as a driver for the development of access along the Allies River Road. Should development expand outside the existing footprint of the road it may introduce a source for environmental impact.	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 164	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To provide cycle and pedestrian permeability links connecting lands north of Woodbrook House to residential development to the north thus allowing connectivity to the Woodbrook DART Station.</p>	The introduction of this SLO is considered likely to act as a driver for the development of access north of Woodbrook House and may introduce a source for environmental impact.	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X
SLO 165	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Any residential development to the north of Woodbrook House shall provide vehicular access from Woodbrook View/Place to the north.</p>	The introduction of this SLO is considered likely to act as a driver for the development of roads and may introduce a source for environmental impact.	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X
SLO 166	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>To explore ability to provide cycle and pedestrian permeability links connecting lands at Woodbrook House to lands to the south thus providing connectivity.</p>	The introduction of this SLO is considered likely to act as a driver for the development of access between Woodbrook House and lands to the south. Should development expand outside the footprint of existing roads it may introduce a source for environmental impact.	X	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Reference	Variation Detail	Assessment Potential Sources of Impact	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
			HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SLO 167	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>Provision of open space associated with any residential development shall include for provision of a quantum of allotments and/or a community garden.</p>	This change relates to the standards for future residential development. The development of allotments/community may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X
SLO 168	<p>Add the following Specific Local Area Objective:</p> <p>That any residential development shall be sensitive to the domain landscape of Woodbrook House and shall include for a parkland area that complements the existing grounds and structures at Woodbrook House.</p>	This change relates to the standards for future residential development. In of itself, this variation does not provide a source of negative impacts for European Sites or their QIs/SCIs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



**Table 3**                      **Assessment of Potential Sources of Impact from zoning changes associated with the Proposed Variation**

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SUFP- IRES Block 3 Beacon	Blackthorn Drive, Sandyford	MIC	MIC	0.1	There is no proposed change to zoning at this site. This site has been identified as a site able to deliver residential development within the MIC zoning in Sandyford. The relevant changes have been assessed under the Draft Variation Assessment.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SUFP IRES - Beacon	Blackthorn Road, Sandyford	MIC	MIC	0.3	There is no proposed change to zoning at this site. This site has been identified as a site able to deliver residential development within the MIC zoning in Sandyford. The relevant changes have been assessed under the Draft Variation Assessment.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SUFP - FAAC site	Burton Hall Road, Sandyford	OE	A2	1.7	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective OE - To provide for office and enterprise development, to A2 - To provide for the creation of sustainable residential neighbourhoods and preserve and protect residential amenity. This amendment will drive future development of housing at the site and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities. The amendment of zoning will not introduce an additional environmental effect (positive or negative) beyond what was considered in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 (which has been subject to its own SEA and AA processes).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
					This zoning change will not introduce a source of environmental impact.							

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SUFP - Block N	Central Park, Sandyford	OE	A2	0.9	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective OE - To provide for office and enterprise development, to A2 - To provide for the creation of sustainable residential neighbourhoods and preserve and protect residential amenity.</p> <p>This amendment will drive future development of housing at the site and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities.</p> <p>The amendment of zoning will not introduce an additional environmental effect (positive or negative) beyond what was considered in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 (which has been subject to its own SEA and AA processes).</p> <p>This zoning change will not introduce a source of environmental impact.</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Lands between Stepside & Kiltiernan	Enniskerry Rd, Stepside / Kiltiernan	B	B - LTSS	32.5	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective B - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture, to B-LTSS - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture - Long term Strategic and Sustainable Settlement Sites.</p> <p>This amendment may act as a driver for future development of housing at the site and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Lands at Kiltiernan-Glenamuck	Glenamuck Rd / Springfield Lane Kiltiernan / Carrickmines	B	B - LTSS	19.1	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective B - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture, to B-LTSS - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture - Long term Strategic and Sustainable Settlement Sites.</p> <p>This amendment may act as a driver for future development of housing at the site and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Lands West of M50	Golf Lane, Carrickmines	B	B - LTSS	27.9	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective B - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture, to B-LTSS - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture - Long term Strategic and Sustainable Settlement Sites.</p> <p>This amendment may act as a driver for future development of housing at the site and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X



Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Lands west of Rathmichael Plan	Ballycorus Rd, Rathmichael	B	B - LTSS	13.1	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective B - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture, to B-LTSS - To protect and improve rural amenity and to provide for the development of agriculture - Long term Strategic and Sustainable Settlement Sites.</p> <p>This amendment may act as a driver for future development of housing at the site and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
OCLAP - SLR & Northern plan area	Ferndale Rd / Allies River Rd, Old Connaught	GB	A1	49.0	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to A1 - To provide for new residential communities and Sustainable Neighbourhood Infrastructure in accordance with approved local area plans.</p> <p>This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including educational and community facilities at the site and a new road and bridge linking Old Connaught to the Dublin Road, in accordance with approved local area plan (Old Connaught Local Area Plan).</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB North - Dublin Rd to M11	Allies River Road, Woodbrook	GB	A	1.6	<p>The site comprises two land parcels, separated by the Crinken Stream. It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
proposed pitch - Dublin Road / Allies River	Dublin Road, Woodbrook	GB	F	1.9	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective F - To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities. This amendment will drive the development of amenities to serve the local population and is in accordance with SLO 162. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - Open space between Dublin Rd and M11	Allies River Rd / Dublin Rd, Woodbrook	GB	F	6.0	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective F - To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities. This amendment will drive the development of amenities to serve the local population and is in accordance with SLO 162. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - Lands west of Dublin Road	Dublin Road, Woodbrook	GB	A	12.3	<p>The site comprises two land parcels, separated by the Crinken Stream. It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X



Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Existing houses as Woodbrook Downs	Woodbrook Downs, Dublin Road	GB	A	3.5	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. The site comprises existing residential properties.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - East of M11	Allies River Road, Woodbrook	GB	A	3.0	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - The Aske Dublin Road	Dublin Road, Woodbrook	GB	A	3.1	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and is a potential source of negative impacts. The construction phase will result in a change of land use which may lead to the displacement of avian SCIs which may use the site for ex-situ foraging. Furthermore, the noise/human activity associated with both the construction and operation phases have the potential to displace avian SCIs which may use the site for ex-situ foraging.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
Woodbrook College	Dublin Road, Woodbrook	GB	SNI	6.6	<p>It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective SNI - To protect, improve and encourage the provision of sustainable neighbourhood infrastructure. This amendment will drive future development of sustainable neighbourhood infrastructure to support current and future local population.</p> <p>This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.</p>	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - Open space Woodbrook House lands	Corke Lodge / Woodbrook House / Golf Club - Dublin Road Woodbrook	GB	F	8.6	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective F - To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities. This amendment will drive the development of amenities to serve the local population and is in accordance with SLO 160. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - north of Woodbrook House	Corke Lodge / Woodbrook House / Golf Club - Dublin Road Woodbrook	GB	A	0.6	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site. Any future development must be in accordance with SLO 164 and SLO 165. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X



Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB - between Woodbrook House and Dublin Rd	Dublin Road, Woodbrook	GB	A	7.5	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site. Any future development must be in accordance with SLO 166, SLO 167 and SLO 168. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
WB South - Wilford House	Dublin Road, Woodbrook	GB	A	3.7	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective GB - To protect and enhance the open nature of lands between urban areas, to zoning objective A - To provide residential development and improve residential amenity while protecting the existing residential amenities. This amendment will drive future development of housing and supporting infrastructure including open space and educational and community facilities at the site. Any future development must be in accordance with SLO 166, SLO 167 and SLO 168. This amendment supports the development of a greenfield site and may introduce a range of sources for environmental impact.	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X

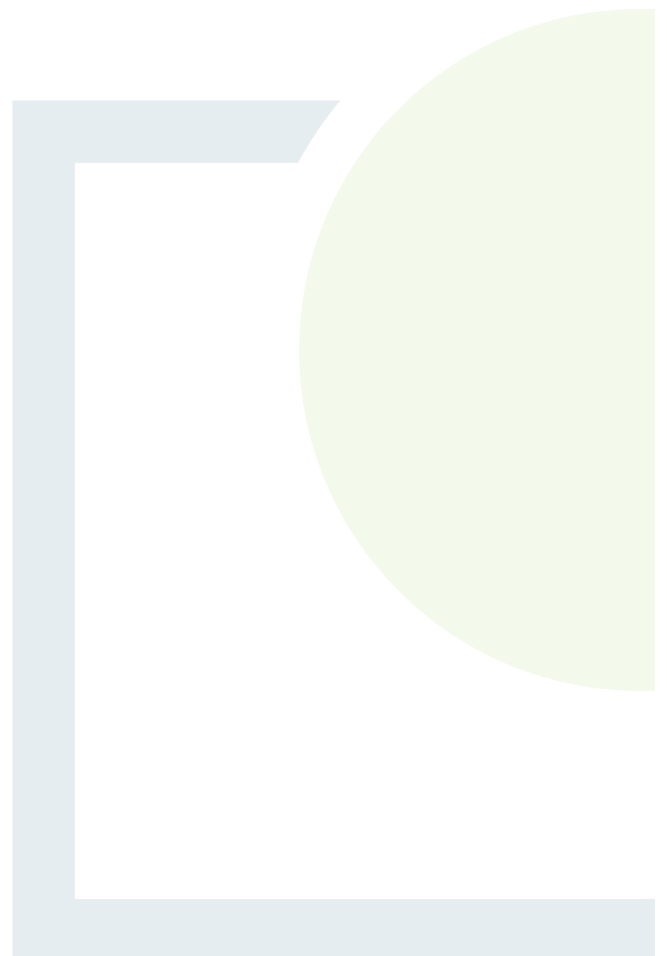
Area Name	Location	Existing Zoning	Proposed Zoning	Area (ha)	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Ecological Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation)	Potential Source(s) of Impact						
						HAB	SWR	GWQ	DDS	RED	AP	IS
SUFP - OE lands at Block N	Central Park, Sandymore	OE	F	0.2	It is proposed to amend zoning at this site from zoning objective OE - To provide for office and enterprise development, to F - To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities. This amendment will drive future development of open space and recreational amenities at the site and will support the development of housing and supporting infrastructure in the vicinity of site. The variation of the objective for this site will not introduce an additional environmental effect (positive or negative) beyond what was considered in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 (which has been subject to its own SEA and AA processes). This zoning change will not introduce a source of environmental impact.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
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## APPENDIX 2

Defining Zone of Influence



### Release of pollutants and sedimentation to watercourses with hydrological connectivity to European sites

As a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all European sites hydrologically connected (i.e. whereby there is potential for surface water from a Plan area or project to runoff directly into a watercourse or drain which flows into a European Site) to the Relevant Lands of the Proposed Variation were identified during the assessment.

### Potential effects to groundwater / hydrogeology

In accordance with the 'Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems, Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 31' (2017) a 250 m potential Zol from Relevant Lands subject to the Proposed Variation was considered in assessing the potential for interaction with Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).

### Potential effect to mobile SCI's from surrounding SPAs

The assessment has considered the potential pathways for effects on bird species based on the following principles: Generally, the core foraging range for SCI birds species is less than 15km. However, SNH (2016)<sup>10</sup> core foraging range for some geese species can be larger. Namely:

- Greylag goose Core range of 15-20km\* Greylag Geese feed mostly on cereal stubble and grassland in their wintering areas.
- Barnacle goose Core range of 15km, with maximum recorded distance of up to 25km.

Therefore, as a precautionary approach in defining the ecological receptors that may be affected, all SPA's within 15 km and SPA's within 25 km designed for Greylag and Barnacle Geese were examined using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. The conservation objectives of these European sites were assessed to identify potential physical or ecological connectivity to the areas subject to zoning changes having regard to the habitats within the subject lands and the surrounding area.

### European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the CDP area

All European sites geographically overlapping or adjacent to the CDP area were considered in the assessment.

The Institute of Air Quality Management 'Guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction' (Holman et al, 2014)<sup>11</sup> states that for sensitive ecological receptors, sensitivity to dust is 'High' up to 20m from the source and reduces to 'Medium' over 50m from the source. Holman et al, 2014 also stipulates that trackout<sup>12</sup> may occur from roads up to 500 m from large sites, 200 m from medium sites and 50 m from small sites. Dust from soiling (excavation works) can occur up to 25 m, 50 m and 100 m, at minor, moderate, and major construction sites respectively (NRA, 2011).

The disturbance response of birds (e.g., becoming alert or a flight response) can vary depending on season, species sensitivity, and weather. Goodship and Furness (2022)<sup>13</sup> provides estimates of species-specific buffer zones to protect birds from human disturbance during breeding and non-breeding seasons. Therefore, a disturbance Zol of 1 km is adopted on the basis of the disturbance distances review.

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<sup>10</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance.

<sup>11</sup> Holman et al (2014). IAQM Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction, Institute of Air Quality Management, London. [www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction-dust-2014.pdf](http://www.iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/construction-dust-2014.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> The movement of dust and dirt from a construction/demolition site onto the public road network.

<sup>13</sup> Goodship, N.M. and Furness, R.W. (MacArthur Green) Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species. NatureScot Research Report 1283.

Other emission sources associated with the Proposed Variation are likely to be more localised than the distances stated for noise impacts and are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Considering the nature of the Proposed Variation, a precautionary Zol of 2 km has been adopted.

#### Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species

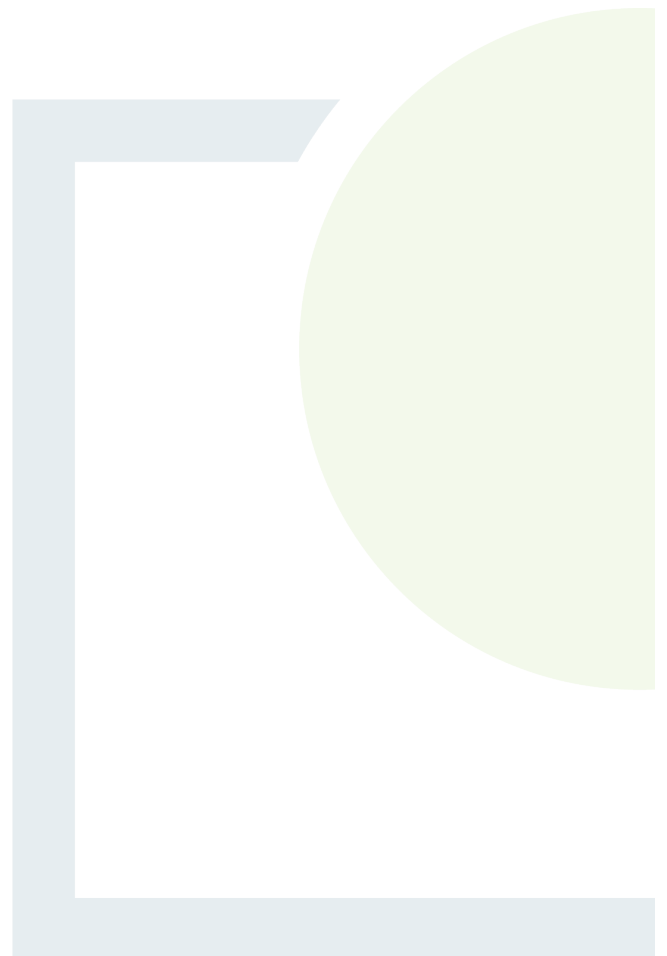
Invasive species can spread to other habitats by the transportation of plant fragments or soil containing seeds / plant material. This typically can occur during excavation and vegetation clearance. Machinery, vehicles and personnel coming into contact with infected areas can spread these species outside of the site. The Zol of this potential impact requires the consideration of European sites in close proximity to the footprint of works. As a precautionary approach a Zol of 2 km has been adopted.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## APPENDIX 3

Relationship with other plans  
and programmes





The purpose of this Appendix is to identify and examine the relationships the Proposed Variation has with other legislation and plans/programmes. International/European, national and regional/local legislation, plans and programmes, which have an inter-relationship with the Proposed Variation, are itemised in the table below. A summary of the high and lower levels objectives associated with each and a description of their particular relevance to the Proposed Variation is provided. The information on legislation and plans/programmes presented below is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the relevant legislation or plan/programme to gain a full and comprehensive understanding of each, where necessary.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804)</b>	This Directive repealed the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure directive (2014/94/EU). The Regulation sets binding national targets for the development of adequate alternative fuel infrastructure. The Regulation sets out targets to be achieved by all member states with the purpose to establish a comprehensive and complete network of alternative fuel infrastructure across the EU. The aim of this is to boost production and uptake of sustainable infrastructure in domestic, road, rail, aviation and maritime transport.	The specific objectives of the regulation are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure minimum infrastructure to support the required uptake of alternative fuel vehicles across all transport modes and in all EU Member States to meet the EU's climate objectives.</li> <li>To ensure full interoperability of the infrastructure.</li> <li>To ensure comprehensive user information and adequate payment options at alternative fuels infrastructure.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	The overall goals of the project are twofold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>• to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>• to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>• Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus.</li> <li>• Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>• Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>• Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>• Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b>	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.</li> <li>• An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.</li> <li>• A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making.</li> <li>• Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>• Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>• The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>• Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>• Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>• Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation</li> <li>• Transparency of actions</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Adaptation</li> <li>• Forests</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>• The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>• A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>• Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>• Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>• Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)</b>	This regulation introduces faster permitting processes for projects that have the highest potential for a quick roll-out of renewable energy and the least impact on the environment.	The regulation introduces urgent and targeted measures that address specific technologies and types of projects, which have the highest potential for quick deployment and the least impact on the environment.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Derelict Sites Act 1990 (as amended, latest Act No. 12 of 2024 and S.I. No. 242 of 2024)</b>	The Act provides a definition of a "derelict site" and imposes a general duty upon the owner or occupier of any land to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the land does not become or continue to be "a derelict site".	The Act provides that all local authorities shall compile and maintain a register of all derelict sites within their area.  Local authorities are obliged to levy and collect a charge to be known as a "derelict sites levy" from the owner of all derelict sites within their area. The Act provides that this levy, and interest on it, shall be a charge on the land to which it relates.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions (amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785)</b>	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• energy;</li> <li>• metal production and processing;</li> <li>• minerals;</li> <li>• chemicals;</li> <li>• waste management;</li> <li>• and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs.</li> </ul> <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<p>The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>• Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>• Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>• Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>• Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health.</li> <li>The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.</li> </ul>	<p>Key features of the revised Directive are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations</li> <li>tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics</li> <li>a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach</li> <li>measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups</li> <li>measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption</li> <li>harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water</li> <li>measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Directive 2013/30/EU and Regulation (EU) 2019/1010</b>	<p>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>• Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>• The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>• The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>• The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>• The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the</li> <li>• Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> </ul> <p>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% eu actionshare of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as- usual scenario.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</li> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> </ul> <p>First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>EU Forestry Strategy for 2030</b>	<p>Sets out a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience. It aims to adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change. This is a precondition for forests to continue delivering their socio-economic functions, and to ensure vibrant rural areas with thriving populations.</p> <p>The commitments and actions proposed in the Strategy will contribute to achieving the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% in 2030, as set out in the European Climate Law</p>	<p>The measures proposed in the strategy, to be reviewed in 2025, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting sustainable forest management (SFM), including by encouraging the sustainable use of wood-based resources.</li> <li>• Providing financial incentives for forest owners and managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as those linked to carbon storage and sequestration</li> <li>• Improving the size and biodiversity of forests, including by planting 3 billion new trees by 2030.</li> <li>• Promoting alternative forest industries, such as ecotourism, as well as non-wood products, such as cork, honey and medicinal plants.</li> <li>• Encouraging the take-up of financial support under the common agricultural policy (CAP), which can help forests and forest-based industries mitigate against climate change.</li> <li>• Providing education and training for people working in forest-based industries and making these industries more attractive to young people.</li> <li>• Establishing a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration, and a new legislative proposal on EU forest observation, reporting and collection.</li> </ul> <p>Protecting the EU's remaining primary and old-growth forests.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)</b>	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	<p>The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability.</li> <li>2. Improved auction design.</li> <li>3. Access to finance.</li> <li>4. Creating a fair and competitive international environment.</li> <li>5. Skills (investment in skills development).</li> </ol> <p>Industry engagement and member state commitments.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> <li>• Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</li> <li>• A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>• New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> <li>• First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' 2050</b>	The Action Plan sets the key 2030 targets for reducing pollution at source and outlines a number of flagship initiatives. In addition, as pollution does not stop at borders and as the EU acknowledges that it is both the victim and the source of pollution, the Action Plan foresees reinforced external action. The EU in fact is committed to leading the global fight against pollution	<p>Guided by the 9 Flagship Initiatives, the key actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• align the air quality standards to the latest recommendations of the World Health Organisation,</li> <li>• review the standards for the quality of water, including in EU rivers and seas,</li> <li>• reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration,</li> <li>• review the majority of EU waste laws to adapt them to clean and circular economy principles,</li> <li>• foster zero pollution from production and consumption (through the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive, EU Ecolabel and other measures),</li> <li>• minimize EU external pollution footprint through export restriction of harmful products and wastes,</li> <li>• present a Scoreboard of EU regions' green performance to promote zero pollution across regions,</li> <li>• showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings,</li> <li>• launch Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution, including by targeting the building and farming sectors,</li> <li>• consolidate the EU's Knowledge Centres for Zero Pollution and bringing stakeholders together in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform.</li> <li>• Stronger enforcement of zero pollution together with environmental and other authorities.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

European Level			
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<b>EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC] (amended by 2013/64/EU)</b>	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	<p>This Directive lays down provisions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality;</li> <li>• the management of bathing water quality; and</li> <li>• the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2050</b>	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principle objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>• To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>• Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791</b>	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the “energy efficiency first” principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing an EU legally-binding target to reduce the EU’s final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission.</li> <li>Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That’s an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030.</li> <li>Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures.</li> <li>Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole.</li> <li>Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration.</li> <li>Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit.</li> <li>Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data.</li> <li>Promoting local heating &amp; cooling plans in larger municipalities.</li> <li>Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>EU Environment Action Programme to 2030</b>	<p>The long-term priority objective is that, by 2050 at the latest, Europeans should live well, within planetary boundaries, in a healthy economy where nothing is wasted, growth is regenerative, climate neutrality is a reality and inequalities are significantly reduced.</p> <p>Building on the European Green Deal, the environmental action programme aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human well-being and prosperity depend on a healthy ecosystem.</p>	<p>Six priority objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attain the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and achieve climate neutrality by 2050.</li> <li>• Enhance the ability to adapt by strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.</li> <li>• Move towards a regenerative growth model, detaching economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, while transitioning faster to a circular economy.</li> <li>• Aim for zero pollution of the air, water and soil and protect the health and well-being of Europeans.</li> <li>• Protect, preserve and restore biodiversity by improving the state of ecosystems and of the environment, as well as by combating desertification and soil degradation.</li> <li>• Reduce environmental and climate pressures from production and consumption, in particular energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and food systems.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>• Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>• Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>• Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an integrated approach</li> <li>• best available techniques,</li> <li>• flexibility; and</li> <li>• public participation</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014.</p> <p>Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>• set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>• set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>EU Plant Protection (Products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>• Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)(as amended)</b>	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration,</li> <li>• Evaluation,</li> <li>• Authorisation; and</li> <li>• Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>EU Renewable Energy Directives (RED II &amp; RED III)</b>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</p> <p>The RED directive was first introduced in 2009 (2009/28/EC) and set an Eu-wide goal for 20% renewable energy use by 2020. This was replaced by RED II (2018/2001) which set a renewable energy target of 32% for the European Union for 2030. Following on from RED II, the EU adopted Red III (2023/2413) with the aim to further increase its renewable energy ambitions. sets a new binding target of c. 42.5% renewable energy in the EU's total energy consumption by 2030, with an aspirational target of 45%.</p> <p>The aim of RED III is to introduce sector-specific targets for transport, heating, cooling, and industry to ensure a balanced contribution from all parts of the economy and also included measures to streamline and accelerate the permitting process for renewable energy projects, addressing one of the major bottlenecks in the deployment of renewables.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building on the 2009 and 2018 directives, the RED III directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised.</li> <li>• Strong policy framework to facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.</li> <li>• Permitting procedures will also be easier and faster both for renewable energy projects (including through shorter approval periods and the creation of 'Renewables acceleration areas') and for the necessary infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</li> <li>• Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>• The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>• The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>• Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>• Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	<p>Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>• Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> </ul> <p>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</p>	<p>In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>2. 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>3. the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> </ul> Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)</b>	<p>The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.</p>	<p>The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability.</li> <li>7. Improved auction design.</li> <li>8. Access to finance.</li> <li>9. Creating a fair and competitive international environment.</li> <li>10. Skills (investment in skills development).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry engagement and member state commitments.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> </ul> <p>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>• Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>• Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>• Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>• Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>• Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>• Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>• Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>• Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>• Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>• Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>• Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended</b>	European legislation which aims to achieve Good Environment Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities.	<p>This was adopted on June 17th, 2008, establishing a framework for EU Community Action specifically regarding marine environmental policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MSFD is implemented in cycles of 6 years, with member state being obliged to report to the EU every 2 years. The third cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2023 – 2028) for Ireland is underway. The MSFD is implemented through a national Marine Strategy.</li> </ol>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Nature Restoration Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991)</b>	The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	<p>The law aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature</li> <li>• contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives</li> <li>• meet international commitments</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> <li>• The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>OSPAR Convention</b>	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC)</b>	<p>The objective of this Directive is to contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising under the Aarhus Convention, in particular by:</p> <p>(a) providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment;</p> <p>(b) improving the public participation and providing for provisions on access to justice within Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.</p>	Not applicable.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>• Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> </ul> <p>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>RePower EU Plan (2022)</b>	This plan was launched as a response to global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The overarching aim of this plan is to reduce the reliance on Russian fossil fuels and enhance energy security within the EU. The plan specifies that Member States should speed up the green transition and spur massive investment in renewable energy.	<p>The main measures introduced under this plan are concerned with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Save Energy</li> <li>• Diversify supplies</li> <li>• Quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition</li> <li>• Smartly combine investments and reforms.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> </ul> <p>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The general approach reached by the Council today aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> </ul> <p>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive)</b> <b>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>• Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>• Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>• Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> </ul> <p>The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>• Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>• Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>• Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>• Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>• Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>The EU LULUCF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/841)</b>	<p>The LULUCF (Land Use, Land Change and Forestry) Regulation addresses greenhouse gas emissions and carbon removals in the land use and forestry sector from the period of 2021-2030, establishing an emissions target for the sector. The regulation entered into force in 2018. It was recently updated in 2023 to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<p>This regulation was revised in 2023 with a new set of rules introduced to address the carbon footprint of activities related to the conversion, use and management of land and forests for both human and environmental benefits. These activities can occur in areas such as grasslands, agricultural land and forests. Previous rules (the 'no debt' rule) required that EU member states ensure that emissions from land and forestry are compensated by an equivalent removal of CO<sub>2</sub> within the sector for the period of 2021-2030. This has been replaced by a more ambitious new rule that sets the EU-wide net target of 310 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent carbon removals in the LULUCF sector by 2030. Each member state has a specific target under this regulation which they must meet to contribute towards the EU-wide net target. The national targets are based on the recent level of removals or emissions with the member state and on the potential to further increase removals, taking into account the principles of cost-effectiveness, fairness and environmental integrity. Ireland's binding target is to achieve a reduction of 0.6 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent LULUCF emissions by 2030, relative to average levels in 2016-2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<p>The Convention has three main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> </ul> <p>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>• EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>• Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> </ul> <p>Recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>• Each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>• Encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve “good status” for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning.</li> <li>In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions.</li> <li>The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans.</li> <li>Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8.</li> <li>When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions.</li> <li>Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, while encouraging its correct use.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources.</li> <li>The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.</li> </ul>	<p>Key conclusions of the study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</li> <li>Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>All-Ireland Pollinator Plans: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 (latest)</b>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.</p>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025 is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. The AIPP 2021-2025 has 186 actions spread across six objectives.</p> <p>Objective 1: Making farmland pollinator friendly  Objective 2: Making public land pollinator friendly  Objective 3: Making private land pollinator friendly  Objective 4: All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy  Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators  Objective 6: Strategic coordination of the Plan</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>All-Island Strategic Rail Review</b>	The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	<p>The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contribute to decarbonisation;</li> <li>• improve All Island connectivity between major cities;</li> <li>• enhance regional accessibility;</li> <li>• stimulate economic activity;</li> <li>• encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025</b>	<p>The first national action plan for an Irish bioeconomy.</p> <p>The purpose of this plan is to further develop Ireland's bioeconomy in delivering the vision of the 2018 National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy; for Ireland "to be a global leader for the bioeconomy through a coordinated approach that harnesses Ireland's natural resources and competitive advantage and that fully exploits the opportunities available while monitoring and avoiding unintended consequences".</p>	<p>This action plan approaches the bioeconomy using seven pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governance &amp; Awareness</li> <li>• Research, Development &amp; Innovation</li> <li>• Nature, Climate, Energy &amp; Circular Economy</li> <li>• Agriculture, Food, Forestry, And The Marine</li> <li>• Communities, Regions &amp; Cities</li> <li>• Industry &amp; Enterprise</li> <li>• Knowledge &amp; Skills</li> </ul> <p>The Action Plan is aligned with the implementation of the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Building Regulations</b>	The aim of the building regulations is to provide for the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings.	The building regulations apply to the design and construction of a new building (including a dwelling) or an extension to an existing building.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)</b>	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b> <b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021</b>	<p>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</p>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>• The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>• Climate justice,</li> <li>• Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>• The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Climate Action Plan 2025</b>	<p>The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead us to meeting our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.</p>	<p>Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon <a href="#">CAP24</a> by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Electricity Storage Policy Framework (2024)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Framework aims to clarify the role of electricity storage systems (ESS) in Ireland's climate objectives and energy transition. This will support Ireland's 2030 climate targets as grid scale electricity storage is vital in securing an electricity grid capable in supporting Ireland's renewable generation programme and the future growth of industrial sectors. The Electricity Storage Policy Framework refers, in the main, to front of meter electricity storage, outlining its present roles, technical processes, market positions and regulatory structures in Ireland. The framework addresses the grids immediate and near-term needs by supporting the incorporation of electricity storage from the immediate up until 2040 and presents 10 government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland's energy transition, identifying the key stakeholders and timelines for these actions.</li> </ul>	<p>Under this framework there are ten government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland's energy transition:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain a technology neutral approach to all electricity storage systems.</li> <li>2. Creation of a 'sandbox' project to advance both System Operators' technological knowledge of emerging electricity storage technologies.</li> <li>3. Convene an electricity storage and system services working group as part of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce.</li> <li>4. Convene a forum for an expanded group of stakeholders including statutory bodies, leading industry representatives and academic or interest groups.</li> <li>5. Support access to the wholesale electricity markets, arbitrage and revenue stacking for electricity storage systems.</li> <li>6. Support the immediate procurement of Demand Flexibility products and of (long duration) electricity storage to meet specific network needs, on the Distribution and Transmission systems respectively.</li> <li>7. Initiate a 'Quantity' consultation to establish the optimal (long duration) electricity storage requirements to meet climate targets and electricity grid network expansion between 2030-2040.</li> <li>8. Initiate a 'Financial' consultation to establish if the expected market mechanisms due between 2025-2028 will provide sufficient service provider certainty to meet the optimum (long duration) electricity storage systems requirements of 2030-2040.</li> <li>9. If required and pending the outcome of the 'Financial' consultation, develop a market framework to further incentivise the incorporation of (long duration) electricity storage system technologies to the grid to meet projected 2030-2040 requirements.</li> </ol> <p>Ensure a route to market for the identified optimum (long duration) electricity storage requirements for 2030-2040 is in place before end of 2028.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019</b>	These Guidelines offer advice to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining applications for planning permission.	The guidelines are intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Energy Security in Ireland to 2030</b>	Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. This report is being published as part of an Energy Security Package, containing a range of supplementary analyses, consultations, and reviews, which have informed the recommendations and actions related to energy security.	<p>The Energy Security Package states that we must ensure energy security is prioritised, monitored, and reviewed regularly, and includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced and Responsive Demand</li> <li>• A Renewables-Led System</li> <li>• More Resilient Systems</li> <li>• Robust Risk Governance</li> </ul> <p>Under each of these four areas of actions, the report sets out a range of mitigation measures, including the need for additional capacity of indigenous renewable energy, but also energy imports, energy storage, fuel diversification, demand side response, and renewable gases. The governance structures supporting the energy system, including oversight and accountability reforms, were also examined.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>• The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>• These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>• Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of statutory land use plan on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover statutory land use plans, including Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Regional Planning Guidelines etc.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2003 (as amended)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Directive aims to provide a common framework to avoid, prevent or reduce, on a prioritised basis, the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations set out a two-stage process for addressing environmental noise (preparation of strategic noise maps and preparation of noise action plans for each area concerned.</li> <li>The Regulations designate noise-mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making and reviewing of strategic noise maps and action plans.</li> <li>The Regulations designate the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Authority for the purposes of the Regulations.</li> <li>The Regulations provide for strategic noise maps and action plans and revised noise maps and action plans to be made available to the general public.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (as amended)</b> <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>• Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water (now Uisce Eireann) in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>• Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<p>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</p>	<p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Food Harvest 2020</b>	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Vision 2030</b>	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	<p>The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level Missions for the sector to work toward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being</li> <li>3. Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent</li> </ol>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</li> <li>• Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland</b>	<p>Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply.</p> <p>This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur.</p> <p>This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.</p>	<p>Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network.</li> <li>The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027</b>	<p>This plan sets out the direction for the HSE to deliver its national <i>Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025</i>. The HSE aims to support a healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.</p>	<p>This Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 has four main goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.</li> <li>2. Reduce health inequalities.</li> <li>3. Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing.</li> </ol> <p>Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Heritage related legislation and guidelines:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Monuments Act 1930 as amended;</li> <li>Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997.</li> <li>Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.</li> <li>Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland 1999).</li> <li>The Heritage Act 2018.</li> <li>Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</li> </ul>	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Housing for All (2021)</b>	Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life. The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.	Housing for All provides four pathways to achieving its overarching objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability.</li> <li>Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion.</li> <li>Increasing New Housing Supply.</li> <li>Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b>	The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>• Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>• Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland 2040: The National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) sets out the Government’s overarching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. 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.</li> </ul>	<p>The key role of the NDP is to set out the updated configuration for public capital investment over the next 10 years in order to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSO), as set out within the NPF. These ten National Strategic Outcomes are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>5. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Planning Framework (First Revision) 2025</b>	<p>The revised National Planning Framework (NPF) published in April 2025 replaced the National Planning Framework (2018) and now informs the wider Government Policy agenda, the actions of a broad range of public and private bodies, including homebuilders, the renewable energy sector, infrastructure agencies and domestic and international investors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus of the revised NPF have been the following key drivers of change in Ireland:</li> <li>• Population growth and associated housing requirements</li> <li>• Infrastructure delivery</li> <li>• Climate and Environment</li> <li>• The revised NPF now provides the basis of review and updating of regional strategies and local authority development plans to reflect matters such as updated housing figures, projected jobs growth, renewable energy capacity allocations, including through the zoning of land for residential, employment and a range of other purposes.</li> <li>• The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 will also be closely aligned with the implementation of the revised NPF, with updated regional strategies and new 10-year development plans required to reflect the revised NPF as they are prepared.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised NPF's ambition is expressed in a set of goals, termed National Strategic Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>5. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>6. A Strong Economy</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources</li> </ol> <p>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030</b>	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	<p>It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity.</li> <li>• Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs.</li> <li>• Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People.</li> <li>• Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity.</li> <li>• Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2024</b>	This long-term strategy aims to build on the targets, policies, measures and actions that Ireland has committed to in the period to 2030 (as set out in success annual national Climate Action Plans and the EU National Energy and Climate Plans.	<p>The Strategy sets out Ireland's 2050 climate action targets and describes sector-specific pathways to reaching those targets. These sectors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Built Environment</li> <li>• Transport</li> </ul> <p>Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the</li> <li>169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development;</li> <li>To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs;</li> <li>Greater partnerships for the Goals;</li> <li>To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and</li> <li>Strong reporting mechanisms</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)</b>	<p>This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework.</p> <p>The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.</p>	<p>The key features of the plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time.</li> <li>It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> <li>Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA.</li> </ul> <p>Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, licence specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licences and offshore planning permissions.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024, and Sectoral Adaptation Plans</b>	<p>This framework specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of Ireland to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur. It sets out an extended suite of guiding principles that underscore the need for smarter, faster and transformative adaptation actions, which demand a pathway planning approach to account for a range of future warming and impact scenarios. It acts as a roadmap for governments, organisations, and communities to plan and implement adaptation strategies. The Framework helps coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and prioritise actions that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A robust framework not only enables more effective responses to immediate climate related challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability by ensuring that adaptation measures are integrated into policymaking, infrastructure development, and local planning.</p>	<p>Key actions under the framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting in place revised governance and reporting arrangements</li> <li>• Formalising the status of existing guidelines</li> <li>• Formalising long term operational support for key sectors</li> <li>• Facilitating the establishment of regional local authority climate action offices</li> <li>• Increasing awareness around climate adaptation and resilience</li> <li>• Integrating climate adaptation into key national plans and policies</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)</b>	<p>The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive).</p> <p>The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5).</p> <p>It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.</p>	<p>The programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants</li> <li>• An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant</li> <li>• Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030</li> <li>• Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Broadband Plan (2019)</b>	<p>The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> </ul> <p>A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Aviation Policy 2015</b>	<p>Specifically, the principal goals of this National Aviation Policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance Ireland's connectivity by ensuring safe, secure and competitive access responsive to the needs of business, tourism and consumers;</li> <li>• To foster the growth of aviation enterprise in Ireland to support job creation and position Ireland as a recognised global leader in aviation; and</li> <li>• To maximise the contribution of the aviation sector to</li> <li>• Ireland's economic growth and development.</li> </ul>	<p>The National Aviation Policy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining safety as the number one priority in Irish aviation and ensuring that safety regulation is robust, effective and efficient;</li> <li>• Creating conditions to encourage the development of new routes and services, particularly to new and emerging markets;</li> <li>• Ensuring a high level of competition among airlines operating in the Irish market;</li> <li>• Optimising the operation of the Irish airport network to ensure maximum connectivity to the rest of the world;</li> <li>• Ensuring that the regulatory framework for aviation reflects best international practice and that economic regulation facilitates continued investment in aviation infrastructure at Irish airports to support traffic growth;</li> <li>• Supporting the aircraft leasing and aviation finance sectors to maintain Ireland's leading global position in these spheres; and</li> <li>• Maintaining a safe and innovative general aviation sector to support Ireland's broader aviation industry</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
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<b>National Demand Management Strategy - Moving Together: A Strategic Approach to Improving the Efficiency of Ireland's Transport System</b>	The Strategy encourages an urban first approach to rolling out measures, where other travel options exist, and aims to improve journey times for car drivers, public transport users, business and freight, leading to improvements in local air quality and reduced stress with associated health benefits for drivers and non-drivers alike.	<p>The Strategy does not contain a prescriptive series of actions. Instead, it provides a firm policy direction and suite of options - such as road space reallocation, progressive taxation, freight efficiency, or behavioural incentives - that can be taken at national, regional and local levels to bring about the systems changed needed.</p> <p>It is also intended that the Strategy will provide guidance needed for local authorities and local council representatives to develop plans for their own areas that suit their own communities' needs best.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030</b>	The NECP outlines Ireland's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP is a consolidated plan which brings together energy and climate planning into a single process for the first time.	The NECP facilitates the ongoing analysis at EU level. It will be revised to bring it in line with the 7% trajectory and to include policies and measures currently being developed to achieve the 7% trajectory.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Energy Security Framework</b>	<p>The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>The Framework also sets out how Government can support households and businesses, with a particular focus on protecting those most at risk of fuel poverty, how it is already ensuring Ireland's energy security, how it will speed up the country's shift to increased energy efficiency and indigenous renewable energy systems. It also sets out how consumers and businesses can be supported to save energy and save money.</p>	<p>The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term</li> <li>ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23</li> <li>reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027</b>	<p>The national Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.</p>	<p>The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest creation;</li> <li>Agroforestry;</li> <li>Infrastructure and technology investments;</li> <li>Sustainable forest management;</li> <li>Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management;</li> <li>Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests;</li> <li>Climate resilient reforestation;</li> <li>Reconstruction.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027</b>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.</p> <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>• To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a</li> <li>• view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>• To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>• To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy and Regulation</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Collection and Treatment</li> <li>• Implementation</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>National Inspection Plan - Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026</b>	<p>The Water Services Act 2007 (as amended) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to produce a national inspection plan for domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTSs).</p> <p>The purpose of the plan is to protect human health and water quality from the risks posed by DWWTSs.</p> <p>This document is the fourth plan and covers the period 2022 to 2026.</p>	<p>The plan sets out the background, minimum inspection numbers, risk based allocation of inspections, requirements for enforcement of advisory notices and for engagement to promote broader compliance.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes.</li> <li>The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobility of people and goods in urban areas.</li> <li>Protection and renewal.</li> <li>Enhanced regional and rural connectivity.</li> <li>Decarbonisation.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</li> <li>Landscape Strategy Vision: “Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

<p><b>National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013.</li> <li>• European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.</li> <li>• European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013.</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013</li> </ul>	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.</p>	<p>The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• energy;</li> <li>• metal production and processing;</li> <li>• minerals;</li> <li>• chemicals;</li> <li>• waste management;</li> <li>• and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs.</li> </ul> <p>All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
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<b>National Marine Planning Framework 2021</b>	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	<p>The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact;</li> <li>• Climate change and related impacts;</li> <li>• Communities and health;</li> <li>• Cultural heritage;</li> <li>• Marine environment and biodiversity;</li> </ul> <p>Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	<p>The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades.</p> <p>The Plan is structured across several key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>• Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>• Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>• Decarbonising Transport</li> </ul> <p>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>• To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</li> <li>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</li> <li>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non- infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</li> </ul>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p> <p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AFV forecasts</li> <li>Electricity targets</li> <li>Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>Hydrogen targets</li> <li>Biofuels targets</li> <li>LPG targets</li> <li>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Ports Policy 2013</b>	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Retrofit Plan</b>	The National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.	The Plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the Plan were guided by a number of key principles.	
<b>National Roads 2040</b>	NR2040 sets out TII's long-term strategy for the maintenance, development, and management of Ireland's National Roads network. NR2040 is fully aligned with NIFTI and Project Ireland 2040 and focuses on strategic issues for National Roads identified by TII.	<p>The following objectives have been defined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe and efficient transport network for people and goods</li> <li>• Environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable</li> <li>• Tailored for different customers in different places</li> <li>• Managed and improved as a key public asset</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030</b>	Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy ('the CFP'), on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, calls for the establishment of multiannual national strategic aquaculture plans. The NSPSA 2030 is the second such plan under the current CFP.	<p>This Plan proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030. The purpose is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To align and mainstream the recently updated but non-binding guidance for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2021 – 2030) with national aquaculture sector planning.</li> <li>• To help inform the investment priorities for aquaculture in Ireland's new Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027 (EMFAF).</li> <li>• To provide a framework so that strategic planning for the aquaculture sector in Ireland responds to the latest thinking in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Irish aquaculture in order to promote the development of a sustainable and forward-looking sector.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Sustainable Mobility Policy and the Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022 - 2025</b>	The National Sustainable Mobility Policy sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is accompanied by an action plan to 2025 which contains actions to improve and expand sustainable mobility options across the country by providing safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car journeys. It also includes demand management and behavioural change measures to manage daily travel demand more efficiently and to reduce the journeys taken by private car.	The policy aims to deliver at least 500,000 additional daily active travel and public transport journeys by 2030 and a 10% reduction in the number of kilometres driven by fossil fuelled cars. It will make it easier for people to choose walking, cycling and use public transport daily instead of having to use a petrol or diesel car.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>National Transport Authority's Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	Section 13(1) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the DTA Act) requires the NTA to prepare an integrated implementation plan covering a six year period.	<p>In accordance with the DTA Act, the Plan comprises the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An infrastructure investment programme, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority over the period of the Plan;</li> <li>• The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public transport infrastructure over the period of the Plan;</li> <li>• An integrated service plan, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority in relation to the procurement of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan;</li> <li>• The actions to be taken by the Authority in relation to small public service vehicles;</li> <li>• The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; and</li> <li>• Such other matters as the Authority considers appropriate or as may be prescribed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030</b>	<p>The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 has been published and replaces the Regional Waste Management Plans.</p> <p>The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.</p>	<p>The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector. This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables.</p> <p>The Plan is presented in 5 Volumes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VOLUME I Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the key waste management challenges facing the State.</li> <li>• VOLUME II Sets out the responses to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges.</li> <li>• VOLUME III Sets out the delivery roadmap for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified.</li> <li>• VOLUME IV Provides the supporting information for the Plan in a series of technical appendices.</li> <li>• VOLUME V Contains the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement and Natura Impact Statement.</li> </ul> <p>Key challenges identified in the Plan include resources, organisational capability, policy requirements, specific material stream targets, the provision of infrastructure and waste generation.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025</b>	The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is an action-focused plan that will place Ireland at the vanguard of EU efforts. It will act as a roadmap for Ireland to embrace the opportunities in becoming a circular economy in the upcoming decade.	<p>The overarching objectives of this action plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift the focus away from waste disposal and treatment to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and rewards circularity</li> <li>• Make producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market;</li> <li>• Ensure that measures support sustainable economic models (for example by supporting the use of recycled over virgin materials);</li> <li>• Harness the reach and influence of all sectors including the voluntary sector, R&amp;D, producers / manufacturers, regulatory bodies, civic society; and</li> <li>• Support clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector, including through a strengthened role for Local Authorities (LAs).</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan (2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment.</li> <li>• The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b>	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning and Development Acts</b>	The principal objectives of these are to provide a framework for land use planning and development control – with a view to promoting proper planning and sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning and Development Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>• There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects.</li> <li>• Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO)</b>	PLUTO's objective is to develop a transport investment framework which delivers a land transport network that meets the travel needs of the population in the coming decades and which supports the National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>• Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>• Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)</b>	<p>Under Action EL/23/2 of CAP23, the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF) is currently being prepared. In effect, this will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables in order to enable the delivery of Ireland's renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23.</p> <p>The RESPF will promote a plan-led and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% RES-E by 2030.</p>	The objective of this spatial policy framework is to effectively translate renewable electricity objectives, as those outlined in Climate Action Plan 2023, to the regional level and allocate regional spatial and renewable generation capacity targets.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)</b>	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	<p>Priority actions for the Strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure.</li> <li>• Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources.</li> <li>• Simplify administrative &amp; regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies</li> <li>• Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen.</li> </ul> <p>Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b>  <b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b>  <b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> <li>• GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>• Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>• Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>• Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>S.I. 79 of 2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended (latest S.I. No. 322/2024)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims:</li> <li>To improve health protection for bathers</li> <li>To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and</li> <li>To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters.</li> <li>Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”.</li> <li>A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years.</li> <li>Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public.</li> <li>There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations.</li> <li>The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality.</li> <li>Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015.</li> </ul> <p>Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022, as amended</b>	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality.	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>• Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>• Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>• Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>S.I. No. 254/2001 - Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001, as amended (latest S.I. No. 48/2010)</b>	These regulations concern the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.	The objective of these regulations is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the abovementioned waste water discharges.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>S.I. No. 296/2009 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009, as amended (latest S.I. 355/2018)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>• Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>• Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>S.I. No. 9/2010 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended (latest S.I. No. 287/2022)</b>	These Regulations are made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for groundwater by Article 4(1)(b) of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and to give effect to the requirements of the Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The Regulations establish clear environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies within specified timeframes and introduce the legal basis for a more flexible, proportionate and risk-based approach to implementing the legal obligation to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater, which already exists under Directive 80/68/EEC. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measures to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater</li> <li>• measures to protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater and to ensure a balance between abstraction and recharge of groundwater, with the aim of achieving good groundwater within a particular timeframe</li> <li>• measures requiring the reversal of any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of any pollutant resulting from the impact of human activity in order to progressively reduce pollution of groundwater</li> <li>• measures for determining groundwater quantitative and chemical status</li> <li>• measures establishing procedures for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and the definition of the starting point for trend reversal</li> <li>• the laying down of rules for the presentation and reporting of groundwater monitoring results, trend assessments and the classification of quantitative status and chemical status of groundwater bodies</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.</li> <li>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism</li> <li>to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors,</li> <li>domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do;</li> <li>Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)</b>	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>The CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027, as amended</b>	<p>Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan provides a framework for the application of the Common Agricultural Policy in Ireland. It aims to promote the agricultural sector and the provision of safe and sustainable food in the country.</p> <p>Ireland as an EU member state is responsible for the running of our own CAP Strategic Plan, in close co-operation with the European Commission, and the EU Court of Auditors as the guardian of EU finances.</p> <p>he CAP is divided into two pillars. Pillar 1 covers direct support and market supports, and rural development is in Pillar 2.</p>	<p>The Irish CAP Strategic Plan aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect farm family incomes</li> <li>2. Recognise the hard work of our farm families as food producers regardless of where they are in the country</li> <li>3. Play a meaningful role in supporting our climate ambitions.</li> </ol> <p>It provides for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pillar 1 agri-environment schemes, including direct support consisting of payments granted directly to farmers and provides baseline income support and operates as a safety net in cases of market disturbances, and market measures to manage and control the agricultural economy.</li> <li>• Pillar 2 direct payments supporting rural development.</li> </ul> <p>Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan has a strong emphasis on achievement of a higher level of climate and environment ambition that will be achieved through the CAP's new green architecture.</p> <p>It contains measures that will help to achieve significant improvements in the areas of biodiversity and water quality, as well as contributing to national and EU climate and environmental targets, including through increased sequestration and carbon removal.</p> <p>There are three key areas in the new green architecture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conditionality</li> <li>2. Pillar 1 Eco-schemes</li> <li>3. Pillar 2 climate and environment-related interventions</li> </ol>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process.</li> <li>Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications.</li> <li>Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels.</li> <li>Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.</li> <li>Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off.</li> <li>Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains.</li> <li>Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth.</li> <li>Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</li> </ul> <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	<p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Uisce Éireann Water Services Strategic Plan 2015, Water Services Strategic Plan 2050, and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)</b>	The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) presents Uisce Éireann's objectives for the next 25 years and the means by which we will achieve them. It aligns to requirements set out in the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The first Water Services Strategic Plan was published in 2015 and are the draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is in the process of consultation which will replace the current plan.	The new Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 will be an important strategic document that will focus on the provision of safe drinking water and ensure that the environment is protected from the impacts of wastewater discharges.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland</b>	<p>The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6).</p> <p>This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) to prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status and</li> <li>(ii) to achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</p>	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>• Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>• Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>• Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply.</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b>	<p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>• Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>• Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>• Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans in other areas and adjacent counties in Ireland – Dublin City, South Dublin and Wicklow.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These statutory land use plans outline planning objectives for land use development (e.g. housing, economic, community, transport objectives).</li> <li>• These plans provide strategic frameworks for planning and sustainable development in areas. In alignment with the higher-order National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>• These plans set out the policies and proposals to guide development in other areas in the functional area and adjacent counties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protect and enhance amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guides planning authorities in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aim to guide development in areas</li> <li>• Aim to promote sustainable development in neighbouring and connected areas.</li> <li>• Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025</b>	The overall aim of the County Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2021-2025 is protecting and restoring biodiversity in the local authority functional area.	<p>The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown BAP provides a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at the county level, with the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaching a deeper understanding of our county's biodiversity.</li> <li>• Making good decisions for biodiversity.</li> <li>• Powerful actions to protect biodiversity and us.</li> <li>• Connecting people and nature and inspire a positive future.</li> <li>• Strength in working together.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b>	The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive ("END") (2002/49/EC) which was transported into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years.	The Environmental Noise Directive (END) requires local authorities to draw-up plans of action which will include measures to "address priorities which may be identified by the exceeding of any relevant limit value or by other criteria chosen by the Member State and apply in particular to the most important areas as established by strategic noise mapping." It also requires plans to identify and protect "quiet areas against an increase in noise."	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	<p>Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act (2021) required each local authority to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan to meet national climate targets and develop resilience to the impacts of climate change. The plans are consistent with the most recently approved National Climate Action Plan and National Adaptation Framework.</p> <p>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has prepared their Climate Action Plan for the period 2024 to 2029 to create a low carbon and climate resilient county, by delivering and promoting best practice in climate action in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.</p>	<p>The plan demonstrates the ambition, focus and commitment of each local authority to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of life for people living, working and studying in each county.</p> <p>The plan is built on a strong evidence base. To help inform the plans, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council developed a Climate Change Risk Assessment which sets out the likely risks in terms of climate change, such as increased rainfall or flooding. They also did a Baseline Emissions Inventory which calculates the emissions within the local authority area and sets out emission by sector such as transport, the built environment and agriculture.</p> <p>As part of its local authority climate action plan, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is responsible for establishing a decarbonising zone within their local authority area. Decarbonising zones (DZs) are intended to be the focus for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and will help local authorities to identify projects which will contribute to the delivery of the national climate objective.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Corporate Plan 2025-2029</b>	<p>Provides a roadmap for the next phase of development within the local area.</p> <p>‘A progressive, sustainable, inclusive and accessible county underpinned by a strong economy.’</p>	<p>Adopts five Strategic High Level Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community well-being will be underpinned by inclusive strategic planning, provision of adequate high quality housing and supported by essential infrastructure development.</li> <li>2. A sense of belonging and stimulating cultural and recreational experiences will encourage inclusivity and collective pride.</li> <li>3. A county that is climate-resilient, biodiversity rich and environmentally sustainable.</li> <li>4. A dynamic, competitive business environment will support enterprise and leverage our potential as an attractive tourist destination.</li> <li>5. A culture of continuous improvement underpins staff development and service delivery, ensuring the highest standards of efficiency, quality, and innovation.</li> </ol>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Heritage Plan 2021-2025</b>	The Plan sets out a framework for heritage activity across the community, volunteer and NGO sectors and for state agencies with a role in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown heritage.	<p>The Plan focuses on the following key strategic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's the Story?</li> <li>• Our Place in Time</li> <li>• Cherishing the Immediate</li> <li>• New Ways of Living</li> <li>• The Voices of Place</li> <li>• One the Record</li> <li>• Starting Young/ Staying Curious</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028</b>	Sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote the community and economic development of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's neighbourhoods and communities.	<p>Adopts six Strategic High Level Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a climate resilient County by promoting and delivering best practice in climate action, biodiversity, and the circular economy.</li> <li>2. Pursue balanced development of the local economy and enhance the business environment to build a creative, inclusive and robust economy.</li> <li>3. Develop pathways to employment through enhancing education and training opportunities for all.</li> <li>4. Realise the County's potential as a sustainable tourism destination and protect and support the County's heritage and creative sector.</li> <li>5. Promote a healthy, inclusive and diverse County that supports good physical health and mental wellbeing across all our communities.</li> <li>6. Continue to develop connected, vibrant and sustainable towns and villages and promote active participation and civic engagement within the County.</li> </ol>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>County Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Tourism &amp; Marketing Strategy 2024-2028</b>	Ambition is to develop an attractive and accessible tourist destination where visitors are given the opportunity to seamlessly explore the County's rich history and immerse themselves in the local culture.	Priority actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create inspirational experiences and thrilling adventures</li> <li>• Connect the dots</li> <li>• Encourage longer stays</li> <li>• Manage our destination</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline.</li> <li>• Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland.</li> <li>• Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2022-2042)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs.</li> <li>The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country.</li> <li>The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance.</li> <li>Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form.</li> <li>Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form.</li> <li>Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Dublin Agglomeration Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Noise Action Plan, and its subsequent implementation, is critical to ensuring Dublin City Council (DCC), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC), Fingal County Council (FCC), South Dublin County Council (SDCC), Kildare County Council (KCC) and Wicklow County Council (WCC) achieve the aims and objectives of the Environmental Noise Directive, compliance with national policy and to address local environmental noise issues.</li> </ul>	<p>The management of noise within the Agglomeration adopts three approaches: 1. Prevention – measures which seek to avoid additional members of the community being exposed to undesirable noise conditions. In the Agglomeration, preventative measures consist of planning policy in respect of not locating residential developments and other noise sensitive buildings in potentially noisy environments and in particular adjacent to transportation infrastructure. 2. Protection – relates to the preservation of environmental noise quality through the identification of Candidate Quiet Areas, and the processes of investigating the Candidate Quiet Areas for delimitation as Quiet Areas; and 3. Mitigation Measures – relates to the identification and prioritisation of appropriate mitigation measures to reduce and/or mitigate noise levels in areas where they are potentially harmful to human health.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow</li> <li>Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically.</li> <li>The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.</li> </ul>	<p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level</li> <li>The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports</li> </ul> <p>The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.</p>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced by Local Authorities.</li> <li>Outlines areas local flood risk.</li> <li>Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.</li> </ul>	Not applicable.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Local Transport Plans and Strategies</b>	Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote sustainable transport.</li> <li>• To promote integrated and proper transport planning.</li> <li>• To promote safe travel.</li> <li>• To promote active travel infrastructural development.</li> <li>• To encourage modal shift.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>• To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>• To describe the site and its management</li> <li>• To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>• To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>• These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Port Masterplans (such as the Dublin Port Masterplan 2040)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Masterplan sets out a vision for the operations of the port and land utilisation.</li> <li>The Masterplan is a non-statutory plan which has nonetheless been framed within the context of EU, national, regional and local development plan policies.</li> </ul>	Not applicable.	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</b>	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; <b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council</b>; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p> <p>The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council.</p> <p>The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, and Galway County Council.</p>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes</b>	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas.</li> <li>Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality.</li> <li>Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.</li> </ul>	The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

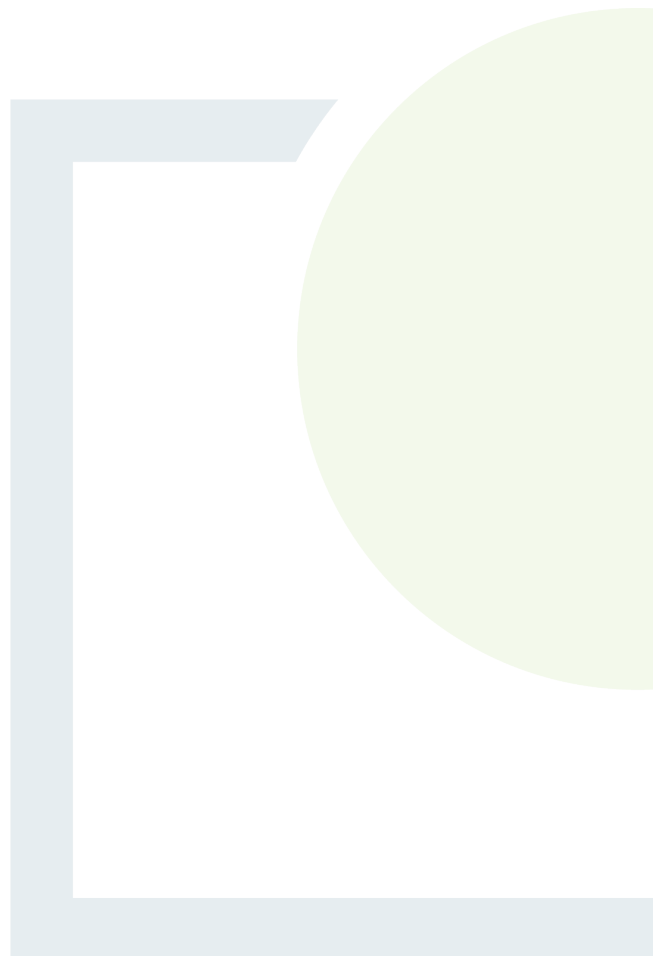
Regional / County / Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim / purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Water Quality Management Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained.</li> <li>• Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards.</li> <li>• Outlines management programmes for water catchments.</li> <li>• Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.</li> </ul>	<p>The Proposed Variation shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Proposed Variation will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## APPENDIX 4

Background information to  
European sites



**Appendix 4 - Table 1 Quality and site characteristics of European sites considered in NIR**

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	The site supports good examples of both upland and woodland bird communities. It has breeding <i>Falco columbarius</i> and <i>Falco peregrinus</i> as well as <i>Turdus torquatus</i> and <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> both of the latter being Red-listed in Ireland. It is the only site in Ireland where <i>Mergus merganser</i> breeds regularly. It is important for rare breeding passerines of oakwoods notably <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> and <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> . It also has <i>Sylvia borin</i> and <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> .	This is an extensive upland site comprising a substantial part of the Wicklow Mountains. The underlying geology of the site is mainly of Leinster granites flanked by Ordovician schists mudstones and volcanics. The area was subject to glaciation and features fine examples of glacial lakes, deep valleys and moraines. Most of the site is over 300 m with much ground over 600 m and the highest peak of Lugnaquilla at 925 m. The substrate over much of site is peat with poor mineral soil occurring on the slopes and lower ground. Exposed rock and scree are features of the site. The dominant habitats present are blanket bog heaths and upland grassland. Fine examples of native Oak woodlands are found in the Glendalough area. The site which is within the Wicklow Mountains National Park is fragmented into about 20 separate parcels of land.
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	The site possesses extensive intertidal flats which support wintering waterfowl which are part of the overall Dublin Bay population. It regularly has an internationally important population of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> which feeds on <i>Zostera noltii</i> in the autumn. It has nationally important numbers of a further 6 species: <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> <i>Calidris canutus</i> <i>Calidris alba</i> <i>Calidris alpina</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> . It is an important site for wintering gulls, especially <i>Larus ridibundus</i> and <i>Larus canus</i> . South Dublin Bay is the premier site in Ireland for <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> with up to 20 birds present at times. Is a regular autumn roosting ground for significant numbers of terns including <i>Sterna dougallii</i> <i>S. hirundo</i> and <i>S. paradisaea</i> .	<p>This site comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes virtually all of the intertidal area in the south bay as well as much of the Tolka Estuary to the north of the River Liffey. A portion of the shallow bay waters is also included. In the south bay the intertidal flats extend for almost 3 km at their widest. The sediments are predominantly well-aerated sands. The sands support the largest stand of <i>Zostera noltii</i> on the East Coast. Several permanent channels exist, the largest being Cockle Lake. A small sandy beach occurs at Merrion Gates while some bedrock shore occurs near Dun Laoghaire.</p> <p>The landward boundary is now almost entirely artificially embanked. Sediments in the Tolka Estuary vary from soft thixotrophic muds with a high organic content in the inner estuary to exposed well aerated sands off the Bull Wall.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			The proximity of the site to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also important for educational and research purposes.
004186	The Murrough SPA	The site is of high importance for the good numbers and wide variety of waterfowl species that it holds in winter and on passage. The improved grassland provides feeding for Greylag Geese ( <i>Anser anser</i> ). This is one of a handful of sites around the south and east coasts at which Reed Warbler ( <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> ) has in recent years proved to be a regular breeding species. For some years in the 1980s Bearded Tit ( <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> ) bred here at its only site in Ireland emphasizing the potential of this site to hold the community of reedswamp species present in Great Britain but largely absent in Ireland. The shingle beach is a breeding site for the country's largest colony of Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) and supports 19% of the all-Ireland population.	The Murrough SPA comprises a coastal wetland complex that stretches for 13 km from Kilcoole Station east of Kilcoole village in the north to Wicklow town in the south and extends inland for up to 1 km. The site includes area of marine water to a distance of 200 m from low water mark. There is a railway on top of the beach and much agricultural reclamation of the marshes/saltmarshes.
004006	North Bull Island SPA	The site is among the top ten sites for wintering waterfowl in the country. It supports internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance with particular notable numbers of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (8.5% of national total) <i>Anas acuta</i> (11.6% of national total) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (6.9% of national total) <i>Calidris canutus</i> (10.5% of national total). North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders such as <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> and <i>Tringa erythropus</i> . The site supports <i>Asio flammeus</i> in winter. Formerly the site had an important colony of <i>Sterna albifrons</i> but breeding has not occurred in recent years. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good.	The North Bull Island sand spit is a relatively recent depositional feature formed as a result of improvements to Dublin Port during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is almost 5km long and 1km wide and runs parallel to the coast between Clontarf and Sutton. The sediment which forms the island is predominantly glacial in origin and siliceous in nature. A well-developed dune system runs the length of the island with good examples of embryonic shifting marram and fixed dunes as well as excellent examples of humid dune slacks. Extensive salt marshes also occur. Between the island and the mainland occur two sheltered intertidal areas which are separated by a solid causeway constructed in 1964. The seaward side of the island has a fine sandy beach. A substantial area of shallow marine water is included in the site. Part of the interior of the island has been converted to golf courses.

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		<p>The site has a population of the rare <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> which is the only known station away from the western seaboard as well as five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four bryophyte species. It is nationally important for three insect species. The site is among the top ten sites for wintering waterfowl in the country. It supports internationally important populations of <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> and <i>Limosa lapponica</i> and is the top site in the country for both of these species. A further 14 species have populations of national importance with particular notable numbers of <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (8.5% of national total) <i>Anas acuta</i> (11.6% of national total) <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (6.9% of national total) <i>Calidris canutus</i> (10.5% of national total). North Bull Island SPA is a regular site for passage waders such as <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> and <i>Tringa erythropus</i>. The site supports <i>Asio flammeus</i> in winter. Formerly the site had an important colony of <i>Sterna albifrons</i> but breeding has not occurred in recent years. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. The site has a population of the rare <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> which is the only known station away from the western seaboard as well as five Red Data Book vascular plant species and four bryophyte species. It is nationally important for three insect species.</p> <p>Wintering bird populations have been monitored more or less continuously since the late 1960s and the other scientific interests of the site have also been well documented. Future prospects are good owing to various designations assigned to site.</p>	<p>The proximity of the North Bull Island to Dublin City results in it being a very popular recreational area. It is also very important for educational and research purposes. Nature conservation is a main land use within the site.</p>



Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	<p>The North-west Irish Sea SPA constitutes an important resource for marine birds. The estuaries and bays that open into it along with connecting coastal stretches of intertidal and shallow subtidal habitats, provide safe feeding and roosting habitats for waterbirds throughout the winter and migration periods.</p> <p>These areas, along with more pelagic marine waters further offshore, provide additional supporting habitats (for foraging and other maintenance behaviours) for those seabirds that breed at colonies on the north-west Irish Sea's islands and coastal headlands. These marine areas are also important for seabirds outside the breeding period.</p>	<p>This SPA extends offshore along the coasts of counties Louth, Meath and Dublin, and is approximately 2,333km<sup>2</sup> in area. This SPA is ecologically connected to several existing SPAs in this area.</p> <p>The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species:</p> <p>Common Scoter, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Fulmar, Manx Shearwater, Shag, Cormorant, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Puffin, Razorbill and Guillemot.</p>
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	<p>Baldoyle Bay is an important site for wintering waterfowl, providing good quality feeding areas and roost sites for an excellent diversity of waterfowl species. It supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose (726) and has a further five species with nationally important populations (all figures are mean peaks for the five winters 1995/96 to 1999/2000).</p> <p>Baldoyle Bay SPA is of high conservation importance, for supporting internationally important numbers of Light-bellied Brent Goose as well as nationally important populations of a further five species, including Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.</p> <p>Large areas of intertidal flats are exposed at low tide. These are mostly sands but grade to muds in the inner sheltered parts of the estuary. Extensive areas of Common Cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) occur in the inner estuary. Both the Narrow-leaved Eelgrass (<i>Zostera angustifolia</i>) and the Dwarf Eelgrass (<i>Z. noltii</i>) are also found here.</p>	<p>Baldoyle Bay, located to the north and east of Baldoyle and to the south of Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, is a relatively small, narrow estuary separated from the open sea by a large sand dune system. Two small rivers, the Mayne River and the Sluice River, flow into the inner part of the estuary.</p> <p>The inner part of the site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and also designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>Regular breeding birds include Shelduck, Mallard and Ringed Plover. In autumn, passage migrants such as Curlew Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank and Green Sandpiper are regular in small numbers. Little Egret, a species which has recently colonised Ireland, also occurs at this site.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
		During summer, the sandflats of the sheltered areas are covered by mats of green algae ( <i>Ulva</i> spp.). The sediments have a typical macrofauna, with Lugworm ( <i>Arenicola marina</i> ) dominating the sandy flats.	
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	<p>Ireland's Eye has important populations of breeding seabirds. Ireland's Eye SPA, though a relatively small island, is of high ornithological importance, with five seabird species having populations of national importance. The regular presence of a breeding pair of Peregrine, is also of note.</p> <p>Several pairs each of Shelduck, Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover breed. The island is also a traditional site for Peregrine, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. In winter small numbers of Greylag Goose and Pale-bellied Brent Goose graze on the island and it is used as a roost site by gulls and some waders.</p>	<p>Ireland's Eye is an uninhabited island located about 1.5 km north of Howth in Co. Dublin. The site encompasses Ireland's Eye, Rowan Rocks, Thulla, Thulla Rocks, Carrageen Bay and a seaward extension of 200m in the west and 500m to the north and east. The island has an area of ca. 24 ha above the high tide mark. The underlying geology is Cambrian greywackes and quartzites. These rocks form impressive near-vertical cliffs, reaching 69 m, along the northern and eastern sides of the island, with scattered exposures elsewhere on the island and especially in the high northern half. A tall stack, which is completely cut off from the main island at mid to high tide, occurs at the eastern side of the cliffs. A sandy beach, backed by low sand hills, occurs at Carrageen Bay on the western shore, while a shingle beach extends from Carrageen to Thulla Rocks. Elsewhere the island is covered by glacial drift. A low-lying, sparsely vegetated islet, known as Thulla, occurs a little to the south of the island, and an extensive area of bedrock shore (heavily covered by brown seaweeds) is exposed at low tide between Thulla and the main island. There are no watercourses or springs on the island, though two small rainwater ponds form during winter in the north-west and north-east sectors.</p> <p>The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Cormorant, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Guillemot and Razorbill</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	<p>The site is of national importance for its population of <i>Anser anser</i> which is one of the largest in the country. The site provides the main roost for the birds with feeding mostly on improved grassland outside of the site. A range of other waterfowl species occur in relatively low numbers including <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>, <i>Anas penelope</i> and <i>Bucephala clangula</i>. The reservoir attracts roosting gulls during winter most notably a large population of <i>Larus fuscus</i> which in Ireland is rare in winter away from the south coast.</p>	<p>Poulaphouca Reservoir located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources the River Liffey at the northern end and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species.</p>
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	<p>Rogerstown Estuary SPA is an important link in the chain of estuaries on the east coast. It supports an internationally important population of Light-bellied Brent Goose and nationally important populations of a further 10 species. The presence of Little Egret and Golden Plover is of note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.</p> <p>Rogerstown Estuary is an important winter waterfowl site and supports a population of Light-bellied Brent Goose of international importance.</p> <p>Large numbers of gulls including Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull and Black-headed Gull are attracted to the area, partly due to the presence of an adjacent local authority landfill site. Little Egret, a species which has recently colonised Ireland, also occurs at this site.</p>	<p>Rogerstown Estuary is situated about 2 km north of Donabate in north County Dublin. It is a relatively small, funnel shaped estuary separated from the sea by a sand and shingle peninsula; the site extends eastwards to include an area of shallow marine water. The estuary receives the waters of the Ballyboghil and Ballough rivers and has a wide salinity range, from near full seawater to near full freshwater. The estuary is divided by a causeway and narrow bridge, built in the 1840s to carry the DublinBelfast railway line. At low tide extensive intertidal sand and mud flats are exposed and these provide the main food resource for the wintering waterfowl that use the site. The intertidal flats of the estuary are mainly of sands, with soft muds in the north-west sector and along the southern shore. Associated with these muds are stands of Common Cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>). Green algae (mainly <i>Ulva</i> spp.) are widespread and form dense mats in the more sheltered areas.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			<p>The intertidal vascular plant Beaked Tasselweed (<i>Ruppia maritima</i>) grows profusely in places beneath the algal mats and is grazed by herbivorous waterfowl (notably Light-bellied Brent Goose and Wigeon). Salt marsh fringes parts of the estuary, especially its southern shores. Common plant species of the saltmarsh include Sea Rush (<i>Juncus maritimus</i>), Sea Purslane (<i>Halimione portulacoides</i>) and Common Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>).</p> <p>Rogerstown Estuary is a Ramsar Convention site, and part of Rogerstown Estuary SPA is designated as a Statutory Nature Reserve and a Wildfowl Sanctuary.</p>
004069	Lambay Island SPA	<p>Lambay Island is internationally important for its breeding seabirds and is of particular note for the diversity of these, with 12 species breeding regularly. Three seabird species have breeding populations of international importance and a further six have populations of national importance.</p> <p>In winter, Lambay Island supports nationally important populations of Greylag Goose and Herring Gull. Up to the mid-1990s, a Barnacle Goose flock wintered on the island (the only such flock in eastern Ireland) but these have since abandoned the site. The presence of Peregrine, is also of note.</p> <p>Lambay Island supports a long-established breeding colony of Grey Seal and a number of non-native mammals, including Fallow Deer and Red-necked Wallaby, have been introduced onto Lambay Island during the last century.</p>	<p>Lambay Island lies approximately 4 km off the north Co. Dublin coastline and is separated from it by a channel of 10-13 m in depth. East of Lambay Island the water deepens rapidly into the Irish Sea basin. The island, which rises to 127 m, has an area of 250 ha above high tide mark. The underlying geology is very varied, but is dominated by volcanic igneous rocks (of andesitic type) and ash; also present are shales, limestones and limestone conglomerates. The soils are generally shallow and are derived from glacial tills of Irish Sea origin. The shallow soils are peaty on high exposed ground and above the cliffs. On the western side of the island the land rises gently from a bedrock shoreline. Cobble storm beaches are associated with this shore and at low tide sandflats are exposed within the harbour and below a section of the rocky shore. The northern, eastern and most of the southern shorelines consist of steep cliffs varying from about 15 m to 50 m high. These are backed by vegetated slopes along most of their length.</p>

Site Code	Site Name	Quality of Site	Other Site Characteristics
			<p>The cliff slopes have a typical maritime vegetation, including such species as Thrift (<i>Armeria maritima</i>), Sea Campion (<i>Silene maritima</i>), Rock Sea-spurrey (<i>Spergularia rupicola</i>) and Spring Squill (<i>Scilla verna</i>). Some sheltered gullies have small areas of scrub woodland dominated by Elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>).</p>

**Appendix 4 - Table 2 Background data for European Sites considered in the Natura Impact Report; including the Qualifying features (QIs/SCIs) and the known threats and pressures as recorded by the National Parks and Wildlife Services**

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098] Peregrine ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ) [A103]	G03, C01.03, G01.02, A04, D01.01, B	Interpretative centres, Peat extraction, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Grazing, Paths, tracks, cycling tracks, Sylviculture, forestry
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144] Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	E01, F02.03.01, F02.03, K02.03, E03, G01.01, J02.01.02, D01.02, G01.02, E02	Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging or collection, Leisure fishing, Eutrophication (natural), Discharges, Nautical sports, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Roads, motorways, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Industrial or commercial areas
004186	The Murrrough SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046]	G01.02, A08, D01.04	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Fertilisation, Railway lines, TGV

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004006	North Bull Island SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052] Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144] Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160] Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169] Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	D03.02, E01.04, D01.02, G01.01, G01.02, D01.05, G03, G02.01, E01.01, E03, F02.03.01, E02	shipping lanes, Other patterns of habitation, Roads, motorways, Nautical sports, Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles, Bridge, viaduct, Interpretative centres, Golf course, Continuous urbanisation, Discharges, Bait digging or collection, Industrial or commercial areas
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001] Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003] Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013] Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018] Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065] Little Gull ( <i>Larus minutus</i> ) [A177]	A09, C05, F07, F22, F23, G01, G06, A09, A11, B01, D01, E02, G10, G12, I02, I04, I05, J02, L06, M08, N03, N05, N06, N07	Agriculture, forestry, peat extraction, renewable energy, shipping, fishing, invasive species, problematic native species, pests and pathogens, sport, tourism and leisure, marine particulate pollution, aquaculture, interspecific relations.

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
		Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179] Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183] Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> ) [A187] Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192] Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193] Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194] Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195] Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200] Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]		
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	A08, E01, G02.01, I01, J02.01.02, D01.02, F02.03.01, F03.01, G01.02, K02.03	Fertilisation, Golf course, Invasive non-native species, Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, Urbanised areas, human habitation, Bait digging / collection, Eutrophication (natural), Hunting, Roads, motorways, Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles
004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200]	G01.02, F02.03	Walking, horseriding and non-motorised vehicles, Leisure fishing



Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]	F03.01, G01.01, B01, F02.03, D01.05	Hunting, Nautical sports, Forest planting on open ground, Leisure fishing, Bridge, viaduct
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043] Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046] Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048] Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130] Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137] Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141] Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143] Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156] Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162] Shoveler ( <i>Anas clypeata</i> ) [A056] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	A08, E03.01, E03.02, I01, J02.01, F03.01, A04, E01.03, F02.03.01, G01.01,	Fertilisation, disposal of household / recreational facility waste, disposal of industrial waste, invasive non-native species, Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, Hunting, grazing, dispersed habitation, bait digging / collection, nautical sports,
004069	Lambay Island SPA	Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009] Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017] Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018] Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043] Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183] Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184] Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188] Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199] Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200] Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204]	E01.03, F03.01, A03, A04, D03.02, G01.01	Grazing, Mowing / cutting of grassland, Nautical sports, Shipping lanes, Dispersed habitation, Hunting

**Appendix 4 - Table 3 Known threats and pressures related to the SCIs from each SPA**

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A001]	Red-throated Diver	( <i>Gavia stellata</i> )	A04, C01, C03, F02, G01, H03, I01, J02, J02.06, K03, M02	Grazing, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Water abstractions from surface waters, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
[A003]	Great Northern Diver	( <i>Gavia immer</i> )	F02, H03, G01, C03	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Renewable abiotic energy use.
[A009]	Fulmar	( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> )	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
[A013]	Manx Shearwater	( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> )	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
[A017]	Cormorant	( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> )	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution
[A018]	Shag	( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> )	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
[A043]	Greylag Goose	( <i>Anser anser</i> )	A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other forms of pollution
[A046]	Light-bellied Brent Goose	( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> )	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Agriculture activities not referred to above, Renewable abiotic energy use, Utility and service lines, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Other Human intrusions and disturbances, Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Other Ecosystem Modifications

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A048]	Common Shelduck	( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A050]	Wigeon	( <i>Anas penelope</i> )	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, I01, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, Invasive non-native species, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A052]	Teal	( <i>Anas crecca</i> )	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
[A054]	Pintail	( <i>Anas acuta</i> )	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
[A056]	Shoveler	( <i>Anas clypeata</i> )	C03, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, other forms of pollution
[A065]	Common Scoter	( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> )	A04, C03, F02, G01, H01, H03, I01, K03, M02	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
[A098]	Merlin	( <i>Falco columbarius</i> )	A02, B01, B02, C03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Forest planting on open ground, Forest and Plantation management & use, Renewable abiotic energy use, Changes in biotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A103]	Peregrine	( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	C03, F03, J03, M02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in biotic conditions
[A130]	Oystercatcher	( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
[A137]	Ringed Plover	( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A140]	Golden Plover	( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> )	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, Grazing, Forest planting on open ground, Mining and quarrying, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Fire and Fire suppression, Interspecific faunal relations, Changes in biotic conditions
[A141]	Grey Plover	( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A143]	Knot	( <i>Calidris canutus</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A144]	Sanderling	( <i>Calidris alba</i> )	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A149]	Dunlin	( <i>Calidris alpina</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A156]	Black-tailed Godwit	( <i>Limosa limosa</i> )	A02, C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A157]	Bar-tailed Godwit	( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A160]	Curlew	( <i>Numenius arquata</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A162]	Redshank	( <i>Tringa totanus</i> )	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A169]	Turnstone	( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> )	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A177]	Little Gull	( <i>Larus minutus</i> )	N/A	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
[A179]	Black-headed Gull	( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> )	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications, Changes in abiotic conditions

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A182]	Common Gull	( <i>Larus canus</i> )	H03, F02, C03, J03	Marine water pollution, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Renewable abiotic energy use, Other ecosystem modifications
[A183]	Lesser Black-backed Gull	( <i>Larus fuscus</i> )	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A184]	Herring Gull	( <i>Larus argentatus</i> )	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution, Other Ecosystem Modifications
[A187]	Great Black-backed Gull	( <i>Larus marinus</i> )	N/A	No threats and pressures identified by the NPWS
[A188]	Kittiwake	( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> )	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, Marine water pollution
[A192]	Roseate tern	( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> )	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
[A193]	Common tern	( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> )	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species
[A194]	Arctic tern	( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> )	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, Invasive non-native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A195]	Little Tern	( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> )	C03, D01, I01, I02, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Roads, paths and railroads, Invasive non-native species, Problematic native species, Changes in abiotic conditions
[A199]	Guillemot	( <i>Uria aalge</i> )	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
[A200]	Razorbill	( <i>Alca torda</i> )	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution
[A204]	Puffin	( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> )	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, Marine water pollution, Invasive non-native species

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
[A999]	Wetland and Waterbirds	N/A	N/A	N/A



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