

Natura Impact Report 2015-2021

Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 - 2021

January 2015



In accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive)

In accordance with Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).



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1 INTRODUCTION

This is a Natura Impact Report of the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 as amended and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and in accordance with Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).

The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997) and subsequently amended in 1998 and 2005.

However, in order to address transposition issues raised in judgements of the ECJ against Ireland in 2008 and to clarify the obligations of planning authorities under the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 were introduced and now provide the legislative framework in Ireland on the protection of designated habitats and species.

The designation or classification of sites are done so under the provision of the Natura 2000 network; essentially a list of sites which are deemed of particular importance in terms of rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and/or species. In Ireland, Natura 2000 sites include candidate. Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and proposed Special

Protection Areas (pSPA); SACs pertain to habitats in Annex I and species listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive, while SPAs relate to the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats under Annex I of the Birds Directive.

The conservation objectives of particular Natura 2000 sites have been assigned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; these are the objectives or aims which have been put in place in order to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status or condition of the Annex I habitat or Annex I or II species for which the designated or classified site has been selected.

2 THE HABITATS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1 ARTICLE 6 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE

The requirement for an Appropriate Assessment is set out in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The aim of the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) is to create a network of protected wildlife sites in Europe, maintained at a good conservation status. The network of sites is referred to as Natura 2000 sites. In Ireland, the Natura 2000 network of European sites comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's, including candidate SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPA's, including proposed SPA's). SACs are selected for the conservation of vulnerable and threatened habitat types and species (other than birds). SPA's are selected for the conservation of vulnerable and threatened species of birds and other regularly occurring migratory birds, and their habitats.

The European Habitats Directive (EHD) (Council of the European Communities 1992) was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997. The Directive specifies the scientific criteria on the basis of which Natura 2000 sites must be selected and sets out various procedures and obligations in relation to the nature conservation management which must be undertaken for the purpose of ensuring the protection of the Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a 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.

Furthermore, Article 6(4) states:

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

2.2 ARTICLE 10 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE

'Member States shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.'



2.3 BIRDS DIRECTIVE (79/409/EEC)

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) is the EU's oldest piece of nature legislation and one of the most important, creating a comprehensive scheme of protection for all wild bird species naturally occurring in the Union. It was adopted unanimously by the Member States in 1979 as a response to increasing concern about the declines in Europe's wild bird populations resulting from pollution, loss of habitats as well as unsustainable use. It was also in recognition that wild birds, many of which are migratory, are a shared heritage of the Member States and that their effective conservation required international co-operation.

The directive recognises that habitat loss and degradation are the most serious threats to the conservation of wild birds. It therefore places great emphasis on the protection of habitats for endangered as well as migratory species (listed in Annex I), especially through the establishment of a coherent network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) comprising all the most suitable territories for these species. Since 1994 all SPAs form an integral part of the NATURA 2000 ecological network.

The Birds Directive bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds, with a few exceptions (listed in Annex III - III/1 allows taking in all Member States; III/2 allows taking in Member States in agreement with European Commission). The Directive recognises hunting as a legitimate activity and provides a comprehensive system for the management of hunting (limited to species listed in Annex II - II/1 allows hunting in all Member States; II/2 allows hunting in listed Member States) to ensure that this practice is sustainable. This includes a requirement to ensure that birds are not hunted during the periods of their greatest vulnerability, such as the return migration to the nesting areas, reproduction and the raising of chicks. It requires Member States to outlaw all forms of non-selective and large scale killing of birds, (especially the methods listed in Annex IV). It promotes research to underpin the protection, management and use of all species of birds covered by the Directive (Annex V)¹.

2.4 HABITATS ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

The preparation of this Assessment has been informed by reference to the following guidance documents:

- **MANAGING NATURA 2000 SITES.** The provisions of Article 6, of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, (European Commission 2000).

¹ Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/>. Accessed on 16th September 2013.

- EU Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2007)
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2002)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEH&LG 2009)
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEH&LG) Circular letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 ‘Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: guidance for Planning Authorities. (DoEH&LG 2008)
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEH&LG) Circular letter NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 ‘Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: guidance for Planning Authorities. (DoEH&LG 2010)
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEH&LG) Circular Letter: PL 16/2013. Compliance of existing land use plans with the EU Habitats Directive.

2.5 STAGES IN THE PROCESS

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive provides a strict assessment procedure for any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but which has the potential to have implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. The Draft Plan, therefore, falls under the remit of Article 6.

According to the European Commission’s guidance document, it has become generally accepted that the assessment requirements of Article 6 establish a stage by stage approach. The stages proposed by the guidance document are:

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are significant, potentially significant or uncertain.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.



Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

The process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Where in the case it is determined that the Draft Plan would result in effects which are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain then a Stage 2 assessment must be undertaken.

This report examines the likely effects of the implementation of the Draft County Development Plan 2015 - 2021 (the Plan) on Natura 2000 sites in County Leitrim and within a 15km buffer of the County and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these sites will not be significantly impacted upon as a consequence of the implementation of the Draft Plan.

The format of the following assessment is derived from the European Commission's guidance document "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" (2002).

3 DRAFT LEITRIM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2015-2021

Reference herein to the Draft Plan should be construed as reference to the Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 – 2021, and the amendments to the Draft.

3.1 THE DRAFT PLAN AND THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURA 2000 SITES

Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive states, inter alia;

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a 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".

The Habitats Directive makes clear that, for a project or plan to be 'directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site', the 'management' component must refer to management measures that are for conservation purposes, and the 'directly' element refers to measures that are solely conceived for the conservation management of a site and not direct or indirect consequences of other activities.

The Draft Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites in the Plan area. The Plan itself includes, inter alia, measures to protect, conserve and manage the County's natural heritage in a prudent and sustainable manner, including Natura 2000 sites, and to seek their enhancement where appropriate and feasible.

4 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT PLAN

The County Development Plan sets out Leitrim County Council's aims, policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County from 2015 - 2021. The Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of the county. The making of the Development Plan has been informed by the Housing Strategy, the Retail Strategy and the Strategic Environmental Report.

The Plan covers the administrative area of County Leitrim which is an area of 1,876km (613 sq. miles). The current Development Plan 2009 – 2015 came into effect on 23rd February 2009 and has a 6 year lifespan. A significant Variation to the current Plan was undertaken in order to incorporate a 'Core Strategy' into the Plan and also to align the Plan with National and Regional Plans and Programmes. The Variation came into effect on 4th July 2011 and was subject to Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Assessment.

"The development plan is a framework for both initiating and influencing the process of change in our surroundings in order to support the wider economic, social and environmental objectives of the community" (DoEH&LG, Development Plans: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2007)

Planning fulfils an important and pivotal function of the Local Authority primarily in the development of land. The Development Plan in turn acts as the primary guiding tool for the way in which this development is governed in the County Council area over the set period. "The development plan is central to achieving greater balance in regional development and enabling all areas to develop to their maximum potential. The plan creates the vision for the area it covers; specifies the type, amount and quality of development needed to achieve that vision; and seeks to protect and enhance the environment and amenities. It creates the policy framework and necessary degree of certainty within which individual development decisions can be made over the life of the plan." (DoEH&LG, Development Plans: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2007).

The purpose, therefore, of the Development Plan, is to set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It is comprised of a written statement and attendant maps that give a graphic representation of the objectives contained in the Plan. The Development Plan can be regarded as an environmental contract between the Council and the community. The Plan sets out the policies and specific objectives that will



guide the actions of the Council in its established roles as provider of physical infrastructure, protector of the environment and its emerging role as facilitator of social, cultural and economic development.

5 NATURA 2000 SITES IN AND WITHIN 15KM OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AREA

For the purposes of this Report, all Natura 2000 sites within the Plan area and an area extending 15km around it are considered. Information, data and maps of Irish Natura 2000 sites, including those identified below are available from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website (<http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData>).

5.1.1 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council

Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - by the DEHLG due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union. The SPA's within the Plan area are listed on

Table 1 and mapped on Figure 1. SAC's and SPA's outside but within 15km of the Plan Area are mapped on Figure 3 and tabulated in Appendix 2. It should be noted that there are no hen harriers recorded within the Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA shown in Table 1 below.

Ref. No.	Name of Special Protection Area	Species	NHA ½ " Map No.
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands	Peregrinne (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) and Chough (<i>Phyrrhacorax pyrrhacorax</i>)	2, 3, 4, 6 and 7

Table 1. County Leitrim Special Protection Areas

5.1.2 SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC), referred to as the Habitats Directive, by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government due to their conservation value for habitats and species of

importance in the European Union. The sites are *candidate* sites because they are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union. The cSAC's within the Plan area are listed below and mapped on Figure 2. cSAC's outside but within 15km of the Plan Area are mapped on Figure 3 and tabulated in Appendix 2.

Ref No.	Name of Area
000623	Benbulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex
000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore
001919	Glenade Lough
001403	Aroo Mountain
000428	Lough Melvin
001976	Lough Gill
000584	Cuilcagh- Anierin Uplands
002032	Boleybrack Mountain

Table 2 County Leitrim Candidate Special Areas of Conservation





Figure 1 County Leitrim Proposed Special Protection Areas



Figure 2 County Leitrim Candidate Special Areas of Conservation



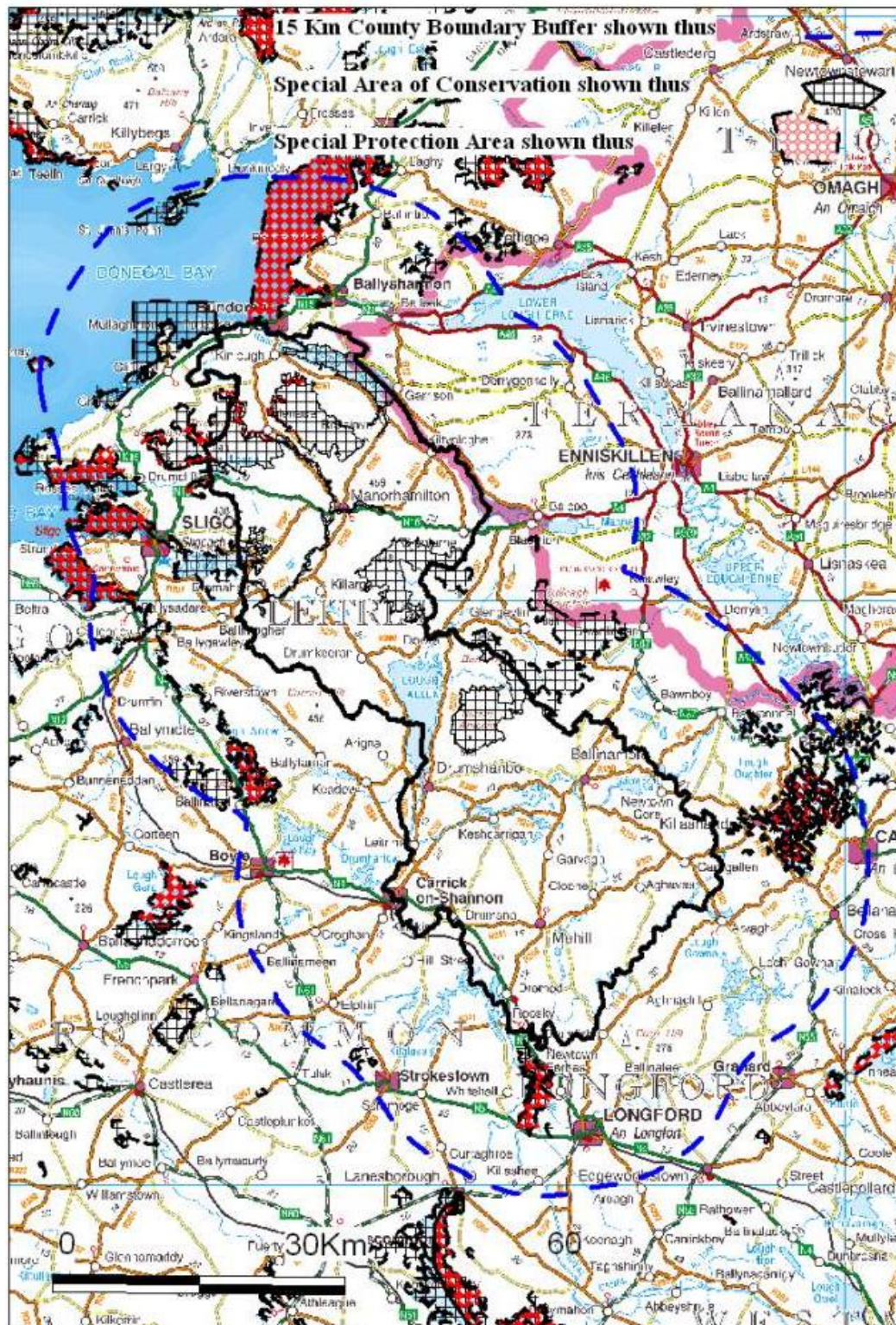


Figure 3 Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Plan Area

Notes: 15 Km buffer line shown dotted in blue/SAC shown hatched in black/SPA's shown hatched in red.

All Natura 2000 sites within County Leitrim and within 15km of Leitrim are tabulated in the Appendices

Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are attached and the site integrity and site conditions necessary to support the integrity are listed.

Appendices

Appendix 1 comprises a breakdown of Natura 2000 sites within (or partly within) County Leitrim. Natura 2000 sites located outside (or partly outside) the County but within 15km of the County boundary are presented in Appendix 2 and are listed by County – Sligo, Cavan, Donegal, Roscommon, Longford and Fermanagh. Each county includes two tables – Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

The following information is listed for each Natura 2000 site;

- Site Code
- Site Name
- Qualifying Interests
- Conservation objectives
- Threats to site integrity

6 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

6.1 DESCRIBE THE INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT (EITHER ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS OR PROJECTS) LIKELY TO GIVE RISE TO IMPACTS ON THE NATURA 2000 SITE.

The Draft Plan is a robust document in terms of setting the framework for the development of the County for the period 2015 to 2021 and beyond. The Plan acts in combination with a host of other European, National and Regional Legislation, Plans and Guidance documents in terms of the management of the environment. The formulation of the Draft Plan has been guided by, and will operate within, the framework set out in National Plans and Guidance Documents and in particular by the Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 – 2022.

It should be noted that the Border Regional Planning Guidelines, which provide a framework for the Draft Plan, has been the subject of Strategic Environmental (SEA) and Natura Impact Assessment (AA) process. The Draft Plan has also been the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Report. The proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan has complied with the SEA and AA legislative requirements in term of assessment, Section 12 (7)aa of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014 refers.



The new Plan will provide greater clarity to the Planning related aims and objectives of the Council and will act to strengthen the proper planning and sustainable development of the County with particular reference to the location and level of residential development, the provisions of key services and facilities and the protection of the environment. It will not alter the core principles of the current County Development Plan 2009 - 2015.

The Draft Plan strengthens and updates the policies and objectives of the Council in accordance with the Regional Planning Guidelines and National Policy, including (1) Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009, (2) Flood Risk Management in accordance with ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (3) The Water Framework Directive, (4) National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012, (5) EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and (6) The Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 will have a positive impact on the protection and conservation of Natura 2000 sites.

Proposals for the development of key infrastructure shall be subject to a Natura Impact Report in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

In general, any development that may arise from the implementation of the Draft Plan, such as construction of housing, roads, rail, water and wastewater infrastructure, gas, electricity and telecommunications infrastructure could, in the absence of the implementation of the measures outlined in the Draft Plan, lead to significant effects depending on where development is located, the scale of development and types and quantities of emissions. The following type developments that may result in impacts on Natura 2000 sites, have been identified, (the list is not exhaustive);

- Urban and Rural Housing
- Development of Industry and Enterprise
- Retail Development
- Agricultural Related development including Agricultural Diversification
- Development of energy sources
- Development of mineral extraction and processing
- Development of sports and recreational facilities, including walking and cycling routes
- Tourism related development
- Water based development including; harbours, marinas and jetties
- New and improvement works on national and non-national roads
- Water supply services investment programme
- Wastewater services investment programme
- Waste Disposal
- Flood Risk Management

- Development of electricity network.
- Hydro carbon exploration and extraction
- Development of Telecommunication infrastructure
- Development of Social infrastructure

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combinations with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon Natura 2000 sites. Table 3 lists the plans or projects that may interact with the Plan to cause in-combination effects to Natura 2000 sites. The plans or projects are listed according to a spatial hierarchy of International, National, Regional/Local Projects and Plans. Given the absence of detail in respect to the scale and location of developments facilitated by the Draft Plan, it is recognised that the identification of cumulative impacts is limited and that the assessment of in-combination effects will need to be undertaken in a more comprehensive manner at the project-level.

International		
Directive	Purpose	Interactions resulting in Cumulative Impacts
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	This directive establishes a regime, which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in coastal and river basin areas.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further pollution.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
The Urban Wastewater Treatment	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.



Directive (91/271/EEC)	wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.	
Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Objective is to encourage the appropriate use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man. To this end, it prohibits the use of untreated sludge on agricultural land unless it is injected or incorporated into the soil.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC)	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land from industrial sources.	No risk of likely significant in combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve environmental quality.
National		
Plan/Strategy	Purpose	In-combination Effects
National Development Plan 2007-2013	Objectives of the NDP are to promote more balanced spatial and economic development.	The provision of such development will be subject to more detailed Habitats Assessment as the need arises Accordingly, it is reasonable to conclude that no risk of likely significant in combination effects will result.
National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020	Objectives of the NSS are to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning.	The provision of such development will be subject to more detailed Habitats Assessment as the need arises Accordingly, it is reasonable to conclude that no risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result.
Regional		
Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 - 2022	Policy document which aims to direct the future growth of the Border Area over the medium to long term and works to implement the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS)	Guidelines have been subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive and have demonstrated compliance with same. Also new infrastructure will be subject to more detailed Habitats Assessment as the need arises. Accordingly, it is reasonable to conclude that no risk of likely significant in combination effects will result.
Local		
Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017, Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020		Leitrim shares its boundary with a number of Counties, including County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. A number of Natura 2000 sites are located in more than one county. Similar Development Plans are in place, within these Counties. Accordingly, these plans acting alone or in combination can have a cumulative impact on Natura 2000 sites located within County Leitrim. These and other Plans and developments within the Counties concerned are governed by the requirements of the

Longford County Development Plan 2009-2015.		Habitats Directive. In addition there is a significant level of consultation between these Counties under the Development Plan and Development Management regimes. The Development Plans are founded on the principle of sustainable development and in particular the protection of the environment. Accordingly, it is reasonable to conclude that no risk of likely significant in combination effects will result.
Cavan County Development Plan 2014 - 2020		
Fermanagh Area Plan 2007		

Table 3 Consideration of cumulative impacts arising from other Plans

The Directives, and Plans mentioned above is not an exhaustive list of other Plans and Programmes that may affect the County. There is a host of other documents such as; Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010 – 2022, Smarter Travel and Transport 21, National Climate Change Strategy, River Basin Management Plans, Floods and Groundwater and Urban Waste Water Directive; that may impact on the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan, together with accompanying SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report should be read in the context of other relevant plans and policies relating to the Region, refer to Section 7.4 ‘Other Instruments’.

In general terms such Plans and Programmes are founded on the principle of sustainable development. Their impacts vary and are wide ranging and are generally positive in terms of the protection of the environment. It is considered that the Draft Plan will act in combination with other relevant Plans and Programmes towards the protection and enhancement of the environment.

It may be concluded that no projects giving rise to significant; direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on Natura 2000 Sites/Network arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects; shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other relevant plans or projects) .

6.2 DESCRIBE ANY LIKELY DIRECT, INDIRECT OR SECONDARY IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of: -

a) size and scale, area and land-take

County Leitrim is the smallest in terms of population of the six counties in the Border Region. It has experienced a declining population since the mid 19th century. Over much of the last century, the population of Leitrim has been in decline. At the time of the 1996 Census of Population, the county had a population of 25,057 people, reflecting a 60.5% population decline in the seventy year period from 1926 and a decline of 7.6% in the period from 1986 to



1996. However, this decline has changed to a steady growth between the 1996 and 2011 census population as indicated below.

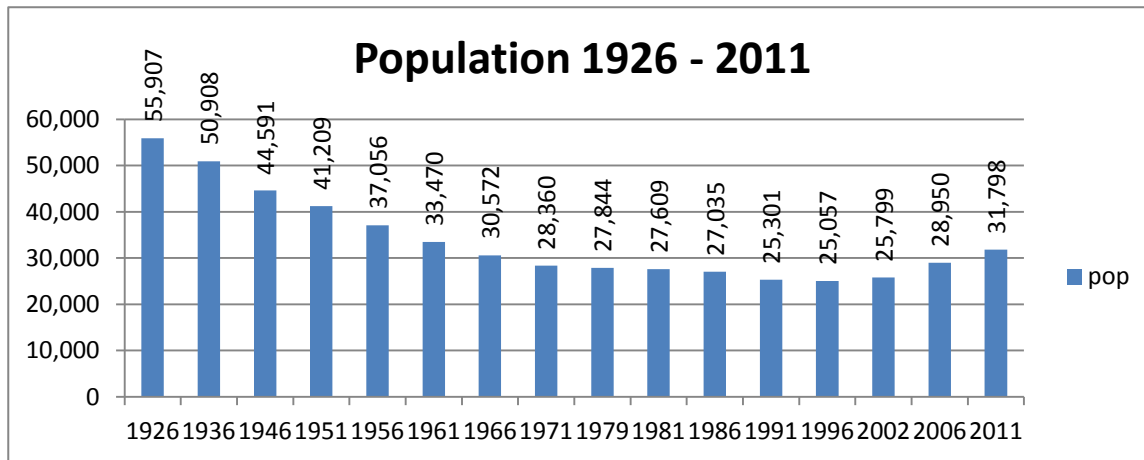


Table 4 Population 1926 – 2011

Source: CSO

The population target for 2021 set by the Border Regional Authority is 35,277 and this has been incorporate into the Draft Plan.

Leitrim has experienced a 23% increase in population over the period 2002 to 2011 which compares favourably with the 17% increase that the state has experienced in the same period.

Whereas the population increases outlined above indicated significant growth, it is reasonable to assume, (given the downturn in the economy in more recent times, and generally more cautious predictions for the future), that these trends in increasing population may slow and possibly even decline through outmigration and emigration. However the growth indicated in the 2011 census occurred despite three years of economic adjustment.

Considering the high commercial and vacancy rates and the decline in development, it is reasonable to conclude the demand for development will be absorbed by this vacancy and the level of new build activity, within the short terms at least will be slow. In this regard the potential for an impact on Habitat 2000 sites is reduced.

The northern part of the county is characterised by mesa mountains, large lakes and deep glacial valleys. The south is typical drumlin country, with a large number of small lakes and hills.

County Leitrim is divided by Lough Allen into two distinctive topographical areas. The northern half is characterised by mesa mountains and large lakes, with deep glacial valleys radiating from the centre of the land mass to form a spectacularly scenic landscape. The southern half is typical drumlin country exhibiting the landform and soil type which is the product of retreating

glacial masses. Close-packed drumlins and small lakes abound. The River Shannon with its associated lake systems forms the County's South-West boundary with County Roscommon; Donegal Bay touches the northern extremity of the County in a 4.6Km coastline.

The Draft Plan does not propose any land take within Natura 2000 sites.

b) Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key feature of the site

The Draft Plan does not relate to a specific location, but relate to the entire County.

The delivery of key infrastructure mentioned in the Draft Plan shall be subject to a Natura Impact Assessment in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their location, shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)¹.

c) Resource requirements (water abstraction etc)

The level of water supply and extraction has been considered during the making of the Plan.

Notwithstanding the fact that a population target of 35,277 has been set by reference to the *Border Regional Guidelines 2010 2022*, it is anticipated that given the current economic outlook, population growth will be slow. Considering the level of vacant residential units and lack of demand, no significant additional residential zoning is proposed in the Draft Plan. Water conservation and network management is now an integral component of the management of the service and is key to the sustainable use of water resources. There will be no significant additional water consumption demand as a result of the Draft Plan.

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, arising from their resource requirements are facilitated or shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

d) Emissions and Waste (disposal to land, water or air)

Wastewater Disposal Collection and Disposal

There are policies and objectives within the County Development Plan in relation to upgrading of Waste Water Treatment Schemes which have limited treatment capacity (Section 3.7.12.2 of the Draft Plan). The policies in respect of wastewater disposal as set out in the Draft Plan are designed to ensure the protection of receiving waters.



Surface Water Disposal

The new procedures for managing water resources at River Basin District level has resulted in the carrying out of a comprehensive assessment of water quality within the region and its catchment area. The policies in respect of implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin District Plans as set out in the Draft Plan are designed to secure good water quality standards and associated habitats within the region.

There will be no significant increase in surface water disposal to existing piped networks in these zoned areas.

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, arising from Emissions and Waste are facilitated or shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)¹.

e) Transportation Requirements

Section heading; “Transportation” of the Draft Plan incorporates a sustainable framework for transportation. This Section of the Draft Plan has been guided by the National Policy document ‘Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009’ will help secure sustainable transport within the County.

f) Duration of Construction, operation, decommissioning, etc

The period of the current County Development Plan 2009-2015 extends until 22nd February 2015. The new Plan when adopted will replace the current plan and will have a life of 6 years from the date of its coming into effect.

g) Other

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites are facilitated or shall be permitted on the basis of the Draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)¹.

6.3 DESCRIBE ANY LIKELY CHANGES TO THE SITE ARISING

Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of: -

a) Reduction of habitat area

The draft Plan does not propose any additional land take within Natura 2000 sites. The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid any deterioration of these designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section heading; “Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage” of the Draft Plan and as resources allow.

Prior to any works commencing on the provision of key infrastructural works mentioned in the Draft Plan, the works shall be subject to a Natura Impact Assessment in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). This requirement is also specified in the additional policy in respect of the Habitats Directive included in the Draft Plan.

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to habitat area, shall be permitted on the basis of the Draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)¹.

b) Disturbance to key species

The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid the disturbances of key species within designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section heading; “Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage” of the Draft Plan.

c) Habitat or species fragmentation

The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid habitat or species fragmentation within designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section heading; “Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage” of the Draft Plan.

d) Reduction in Species Density

The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid reduction in species density within designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section heading; “Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage” of the Draft Plan. In particular the Council will ensure through the Development Management process that development will avoid reduction in species density within designated sites.

e) Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc)

The new procedures for managing water resources at River Basin District level has resulted in the carrying out of a comprehensive assessment of water quality within the region and its catchment area. Accordingly, the aims in respect of implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin District Plans as set out in the Draft Plan will assist in securing improved water quality standards and associated habitats within the region.

Therefore there will be no likely adverse changes to a Natura 2000 site arising as a result of changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality) arising from the Draft Plan.



f) Climate change

The Statements, Policies and Objectives set out in the Draft Plan with particular reference to those relating to; the Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage, 'Climate Change', 'Sustainable Transport' and 'Flood Risk Management' will have a positive impact on the Natura 2000 network within the Region.

6.4 DESCRIBE ANY LIKELY IMPACTS ON THE NATURA 2000 SITE AS A WHOLE

Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of: -

a) Interference with the key relationship that define the structure of the site

The Draft Plan will not impact on the relationships that define the structure of Natura 2000 sites.

b) Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site

The Draft Plan will not impact on the relationships that define the function of Natura 2000 sites.

6.5 PROVIDE INDICATORS OF SIGNIFICANCE AS A RESULT OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF EFFECTS

Provide Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of: -

- a) Loss**
- b) Fragmentation**
- c) Disruption**
- d) Disturbance**
- e) Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc).**

The Draft Plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, development and effects arising from permissions based upon this Draft Plan, (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. Leitrim County Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of these designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section heading; "Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage" of the Plan.

6.6 DESCRIBE FROM THE ABOVE THOSE ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT OR PLAN...

Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.

As outlined above the Draft Plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, development and effects arising the Draft Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. Leitrim County Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of these designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section “Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage” of the Draft Plan.

Having regard to the measures set out in the Draft Plan, the Planning Authority is confident that no projects giving rise to significant; direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on Natura 2000 Sites/Network arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects; shall be permitted on the basis of the Plan (either individually or in combination with other relevant plans or projects).

7 SECURING THE INTEGRITY OF THE NATURA NETWORK

7.1 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Considering that virtually all parts of Leitrim are within the ‘zone of influence’ (within a 15Km distance) of Natura 2000 sites, all proposal for development works (apart from minor works) are required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). This is current practice within the Local Authority and it is intended that this practice will continue in accordance with National Guidelines. Proposals for development (apart from minor works) are referred to the National Parks and Wildlife under the auspices of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Where it is determined by the Planning Authority that a proposed development fails to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the County Development Plan in respect to the proper management of the Natura 2000 network, the necessary consent for the development will not issue.

7.2 DEVELOPMENT PLAN MEASURES

The Draft Plan contains numerous measures which contribute to the conservation and protection of Natura Sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

The Draft Plan under Section 3.7, pg; “*Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage, Natura sites*” states;

“The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in these areas, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC Directive.”



Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a 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 of the Habitats Directive the Council 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.

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Council shall take appropriate action so that all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. The Council shall take appropriate action to inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the European Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

The following specific policies and objectives in the Draft Plan will contribute to the conservation and protection of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

Policy 73 *It is the policy of the Council to protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas including ‘Candidate’ and ‘Proposed’ areas.*

Policy 74 *It is the Policy of the Council to ensure that all Plans and Projects that have the potential to negatively impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, will be subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and in accordance with best practice and guidance.*

Policy 75 *No projects or programme giving rise to significant adverse; direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, shall be permitted on the basis of this Draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)*

Objective 65 *It is an objective of the Council to protect those sites identified as candidate Special Areas of Conservation as well as any other sites that may be so identified during the lifetime of this plan.*

Objective 66 *It is an objective to protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in County Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.*

Objective 67 *It is an objective of the Council in partnership with the relevant agencies to promote the development and implementation of codes of best practices through initiatives such as The Golden Mile Competition, Environmental Partnership and the Green Schools projects.*

Objective 68 *It is an objective of the Council to protect the proposed Special Protection Areas and all others as they become proposed and designated during the lifetime of this plan.*

7.3 ARTICLE 10 OF THE HABITATS DIRECTIVE

In terms of the requirements of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive the Draft Plan acknowledged the importance of ecological areas and corridors (located outside Natura 2000 sites) in supporting the conservation and protection of Natura 2000 sites. The Draft Plan identifies a number of such areas. The Draft Plan contains a range of measures, both direct and indirect, that serve to protect and conserve ecologically sensitive areas, including Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Peatlands, Geological Sites, Hedgerows, Trees, Rivers and Lakes. With particular reference to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, Section 3.7.3.6 *Nature Conservation outside Designated Sites*, of the Draft Plan contains the following statement;

Important ecological corridors within the County include the following water bodies (including their tributaries and lakes where relevant) - the list is not exhaustive and their inclusion is not an indication that they fall within the remit of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive: -

River Shannon System;

The land mass of the Leitrim Uplands;

Shannon-Erne Waterway (Ballyconnell-Ballinamore Canal);

Bonet River System;

Duff River;

The Drumcliff River (including Diffreen River);

Drowes River/Lough Melvin System;



Bradoge River;
River Erne.

Policy 77 *It is the policy of the Council to protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the County, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.*

Policy 78 *It is the policy of the Council to treat the uplands of North Leitrim located above the 160m contour, as an ecologically-sensitive entity, where these uplands are not already designated as such.*

Objective 72 *It is an objective of the Council to encourage appropriate management of landscape features, particularly through the development control process and by the use of planning agreements with landowners and developers, where appropriate.*

In addition to specific measures relation to Natura 2000 sites the Draft Plan sets out measures relating to other ecologically sensitive sites. In this regard the Draft Plan states, *interalia*;

The Council will ensure that an adequate level of assessment of the implications of development proposals is undertaken when development is proposed that has the potential to have a significant impact on the integrity ecologically sensitive areas, including designated or proposed designated areas. The assessment should include: -

- a) Opportunities for alternative sitting or potential mitigating measures*
- b) Opportunities to enhance nature conservation*
- c) The potential damage to habitats and/or species*
- d) The possibilities for replacement sites*

Where uncertainty exists regarding the potential impact of a proposed development, the 'precautionary principle' will apply, and the proposed development will not be favourably considered unless or until its effects are clearly understood.

7.4 OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Numerous other higher level measures will act to further mitigate potential impacts of the Draft Plan. These measures include EU Directives, National legislation and various guidelines. Principal among these are the following:

- **The Habitats Directive (HD):** The European Council Directive on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) (Habitats Directive)
- **The Water Framework Directive (WFD):** The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- **The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive:** Directive 2001/42/EC

- **The National Biodiversity Plan (NBP):** UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 - National Biodiversity Plan 2002 is as a result of this.
- **The Wildlife Act (WA):** Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 (Wildlife Act)
- **The Birds Directive (BD):** The 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (Birds Directive)
- **The Ramsar Convention (R):** Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
- **The Bathing Water Directive (BW):** Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC)
- **The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (WW):** (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC)

The Draft Plan, together with this Natura Impact Report and the accompanying SEA Environmental Report, should be read in conjunction with, and importantly, in the context of, other relevant plans and policies relating to the County and its surrounding area. It is important to note that the management and care of the environment falls within the responsibility of a very wide range of Departments and Agencies. Within rural areas for instance, major land-uses can be entirely managed by Departments dealing with agriculture, forestry, the marine or energy – all of which have separate specialist approval and evaluation procedures that protect environmental resources. Similarly, it is important to note that other agencies make plans for the development of road, rail, tourism, telecommunications, waste management, fisheries and energy, which must be accommodated by county and local plans. Such agencies are responsible for the separate environmental assessments in respect to the implementation of these plans.

Spatial plans are principally about the arrangement of land uses, to avoid conflicts and to protect amenities. Such plans exist as a series of layers that range from broad national policies – that have little spatial specificity – to regional plans, development plans and local area plans. Only the latter two types are likely to identify the locations where actual developments – and associated effects – are likely to occur. Each level of planning is subject to separate and appropriate levels of assessment.

As mentioned to above there are significant bodies of European and National legislation that determine how environmental resources are to be managed. These exist and are largely implemented at a higher level – with no local discretion. Such regulations cover a wide range of environmental concerns, including; the quality of air and water [surface, ground, drinking, marine and bathing waters], River Basin Districts, the management of ecological resources [habitats, species] and cultural heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage.

It should be noted that it is the practice of the Planning Authority to require applicants for Planning Permission to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Habitats



Directive. Only in cases where it is clear that the development would not impact on a Natura 2000 site, is this requirement set aside. It is the practice of the Planning Authority to refer applications that fall under such a requirement to the Development Applications Unit, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Prior to determining the Planning Application the Planning Authority fully assess the Application in order to ensure that it would not in any way compromise the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

8 ASSESSMENT MATRIX

8.1 SITES THAT ‘MAY BE AFFECTED’

Sites that ‘may be affected’ under Table 5 and Table 7 refers to an initial identification of Natura 2000 sites within the ‘zone of influence’ of the proposed Material Amendment. In this regard it should not be concluded in any way that the sites concerned will be affected by the implementation of the Draft Plan or that the effects will be significant, potentially significant or uncertain in terms of the qualifying interests of a Natura site.

The initial identification of Natura sites that ‘may be affected’ is largely based on the consideration of the ‘zone of influence’, as set out in Section 3.2.3, Natura 2000 Sites, DoEH&LG (2009) [Appropriate Assessment of Plans & Projects - Guidance for Planning Authorities](#). As set out in the aforementioned Guidelines, the ‘zone of influence’ is taken as a 15 Km distance from the site.

Mindful of the 15 Km distance mentioned above and considering the nature of projects that may be involved under the Plan, (as amended by the proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan), it is reasonable to conclude that only some sites will fall under the ‘zone of influence’. The sites that ‘may be affected’ are dependent on the location, nature and extent of any development that may be undertaken.

Details of the Natura Sites that ‘may be affected’, including, Site name, Qualifying interests, Conservation objectives and Threats to site integrity, are provided, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

8.2 POTENTIAL IMPACT

‘Potential Impacts’ are based on those impacts that may arise in the event of the measures set out in the Plan not being applied. Prior to the issue of a consent for, or a decision to proceed with, any proposed project, the appropriateness of any such project will be fully assessed in terms of the requirements of the County Development Plan and in particular the requirement under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive. It is established practice within the Planning Authority to require proposal for development works (with the exception of minor works) to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive. This requires the submission of a Natura Impact Screening Statement and where necessary a full Natura Impact Statement. This requirement applies equally to plans and programmes undertaken by, or on behalf of Leitrim County Council.

Whereas plans and programmes that will be governed by the Draft Plan may have the potential to impact on the Natura 2000 network as defined above, the Planning Authority is confident that any potential adverse environmental impacts can be removed or mitigated to an acceptable level through the implementation of the Draft Plan. It should be noted that where it



is established at the plan or programme consent stage that an impact on a Natura site would be significant, potentially significant or uncertain, planning consent will be refused. The potential for any adverse impacts arising from the Draft Plan are not considered so significant as to in any way compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of any Natura site.

The potential impacts are dependent on the location, nature and extend of the project concerned. The identification of Potential Impacts does not imply a significant impact in term of the qualifying interests of a Natura 2000 site. 'Potential impacts' that may arise from development works may include;

- Habitat loss and degradation
- Alteration of hydrology
- Deterioration in water quality
- Disturbance during construction / operation
- Introduction of alien invasive species

The threats to Natura 2000 site has been identified in the parent Natura Impact Report on the Draft Plan.

Table 5 Assessment Matrix – Vision and Mission Statement

Vision and Mission Statement	Natura 2000 that may be affected ² (Name/code)	Potential Impact ³ of Policy/Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
<p>Our Vision</p> <p><i>“County Leitrim to be a vibrant, socially inclusive, progressive and distinctive county, providing a good quality of life for all who work, live and visits the county and offering equal opportunities for employment to its people; while protecting, conserving and enhancing the best of the natural and built environment.</i></p> <p>Our Mission Statement</p> <p><i>“To guide and secure the sustainable development of the County, provide efficient and effective local government services and facilities and place people first, so that Leitrim becomes a vibrant, socially inclusive, progressive and distinctive county</i></p>	All sites	Positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
<p>It is considered that the Vision and Mission Statement will have an overall positive impact on the status of the Natura 2000 network. The protection, conservation and enhancement of the best of the natural and built environment is specifically mentioned in the Vision Statement. Likewise the Mission Statement seeks to guide and secure the sustainable development of the County”.</p>					

² Refer to 8.1 for clarification in respect of Sites that may be affected.

³ Refer to Section 8.2 for clarification in respect to Potential Impacts

Table 6 Assessment Matrix Strategic Goals

Strategic Goals - Resources	Natura 2000 that may be affected ⁴ (Name/code)	Potential Impact ⁵ of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
1. To promote the efficient use and re-use of scarce resources.	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
2. To minimise energy consumption by promoting conservation, recycling and waste reduction;	Some Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
3. To guide new development so that the most efficient use is made of existing infrastructure, facilities and services where practicable and appropriate;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level.	N	Low (not significant)	None
4. To support energy generation from renewable resources where practicable and appropriate;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impact to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level.	N	Low (not significant)	None
5. To make the best use of existing infrastructure;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impact to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None

⁴ Refer to 8.1 for clarification in respect of Sites that may be affected.

⁵ Refer to Section 8.2 for clarification in respect to Potential Impacts

Strategic Goals - Resources	Natura 2000 that may be affected⁴ (Name/code)	Potential Impact⁵ of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
6. To embrace the principles of sustainable development in its widest sense;	Potentially all sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
7. To ensure an adequate supply of energy, including renewable energy, is available to meet the social, commercial and economic needs of the entire County;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impact to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
8. To develop a Climate Change Adaptative Framework Strategy incorporating an Energy Strategy for County Leitrim over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.	Potentially all sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
It is considered that the Strategic Goals – Environment & Heritage, taken in conjunction with; the specific policies within the Draft Plan, the application of any mitigation measures deemed appropriate and, related planning guidelines and legislative requirement will not, either individually or in combination, compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 network and will have an overall positive impact.					

Strategic Goals – Environment & Heritage	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
1. To adopt the precautionary principle in respect of development proposals where significant environmental, including health implications cannot be adequately established;	All sites	Yes Any or all impact likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
2. To protect, maintain and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment;	All Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely	N	Yes (positive)	None



Strategic Goals – Environment & Heritage	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		to be positive			
3. To protect the character and identity of individual settlements and avoid over development by protecting and requiring appropriate green spaces in built-up areas;	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
4. To promote regeneration and the reuse of derelict and obsolete sites and buildings;	Some sites	Yes Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level.	N	Low (not significant)	None
5. To minimise environmental pollution to air, water or land and to strictly control hazardous development;	All sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
6. To comply with the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive;	All Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
7. To adopt a regional approach in the protection of the environment, co-operating with neighbouring counties in the protection of habitats, watercourses and landscapes and the disposal of waste, for example, Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Connacht Region 2006 – 2011, the River Basin Management Plans, and the Lough Melvin Catchment Management Plan;	All Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Yes (positive)	None
8. To recognise that Leitrim's archaeological, natural and built heritage are important elements in the long term economic development of the County and to promote their conservation and enhancement, public access and enjoyment;	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	None	None
9. To protect the unique character of Leitrim's landscapes.	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	None	None

Strategic Goals – Environment & Heritage	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
It is considered that the Strategic Goals – Environment & Heritage, taken in conjunction with; the specific policies within the Draft Plan, the application of any mitigation measures deemed appropriate and related planning guidelines and legislative requirement, will not, either individually or in combination, compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 network and will have an overall positive impact.					

Strategic Goals – Economic Development	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
1. To maintain and improve the viability, vitality and diversity of the local economy by being positively disposed towards employment generating development;	Some sites	Yes Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level.	N	Low (not significant)	None
2. To ensure that sufficient well located and serviced land is available for employment purposes;	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Low (not significant)	None
3. To ensure that the natural resources of the County are developed where the County enjoys a natural advantage, including the development of downstream development activities, such as, within the Forestry Industry;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
4. To safeguard existing businesses and provide for their development and expansion;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to	N	Low (not significant)	None



Strategic Goals – Economic Development	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		an acceptable level			
5. To provide for additional and improved retail and commercial development, whilst maintaining and enhancing the viability and vitality of town centres, in accordance with the County Retail Strategy;	Some sites	Yes Impact to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level.	N	Low (not significant)	None
6. To develop tourism by encouraging the sustainable use of natural attractions, and facilitating the provision of appropriate infrastructure, accommodation and facilities which will extend, consolidate and diversify the tourism industry;	Some sites	Positive or mitigated to an acceptable level.	N	Low (not significant)	None
7. To co-operate with neighbouring County Councils and other existing and future Regional Authorities (both North and South) in developing the economy of the Region;	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Low (not significant)	None
8. To co-operate with the Border Midlands Western Regional Assembly, the Border Regional Authority and the incumbent Connacht-Ulster Region Assembly;	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	Low (not significant)	N
9. To co-operate with the relevant agencies operating in the region with a remit for economic development [such as the I.D.A., Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board, Leitrim Integrated Development Company Ltd. and similar bodies].	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
It is considered that the Strategic Goals – Economic Development, taken in conjunction with; the specific policies within the Draft Plan, the application of any mitigation measures deemed appropriate and related planning guidelines and legislative requirement, will not, either individually or in combination, compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 network and will have an overall positive impact.					

Strategic Goals – Transport & Infrastructure	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
1. To encourage alternative means of travel (other than the car) where practicable;	No Sites	None	N	None	None
2. To promote the development of a viable public transport network to serve the needs of all the county's residents;	No Sites	None	N	None	None
3. To promote the improvement of the existing road network to aid economic development, enhance safety and minimise negative environmental impacts;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
4. To relieve traffic congestion, minimise pollution and enhance safety, particularly in town centres, by means of traffic management and traffic calming schemes;	No Sites	None	N	None	None
5. To ensure that the county is well serviced by modern telecommunications to support its sustainable economic, educational, cultural and social development;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
6. To enhance physical linkages with County Fermanagh and the other Northern counties;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable	N	Low (not significant)	None



Strategic Goals – Transport & Infrastructure	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		level			
7. To promote the use of broadband communication technology;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
8. To promote continued use and upgrading of the rail network and rolling stock;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
9. To enhance linkage with airports and ports serving the County;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
10. To provide adequate car-parking facilities in towns and villages throughout the County to meet current and future needs;	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated	N	Low (not significant)	None

Strategic Goals – Transport & Infrastructure	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		or mitigated to an acceptable level			
11. To co-operate with the relevant agencies operating in the region with a remit for infrastructure development [such as Irish Water, Eircom, the National Roads Authority and similar bodies].	Some sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
It is considered that the Strategic Goals – Transport & Infrastructure, taken in conjunction with; the specific policies within the Draft Plan, the application of any mitigation measures deemed appropriate related planning guidelines and legislative requirement, will not, either individually or in combination, compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 network and will have an overall positive impact.					

Strategic Goals – Social Development	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
1. To provide for housing, through the implementation of Universal Design Standards and Principles, which meets the needs of local communities (including special needs), whilst also promoting the support of rural communities through accommodating a controlled and managed expansion of population;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None



Strategic Goals – Social Development	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
2. To promote equity and equality of access to education, health, community and recreational facilities and employment opportunities for all residents of the County, including persons with disability;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
3. To ensure high standards of residential amenity in all new development and to provide a physically safe and clean environment for all;	Some sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	None	None	None
4. To provide and promote access to buildings, spaces and services for all;	No Sites	None	None	None	None
5. Co-operate with neighbouring Counties, including County Fermanagh, in the provision of social services;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	None	Low (not significant)	None
6. To promote the provision of recreational facilities throughout the County;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable	None	Low (not significant)	None

Strategic Goals – Social Development	Natura 2000 that may be affected (Name/code)	Potential Impact of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		level			
7. To support the providers of childcare facilities to ensure that adequate facilities are made available for the County's residents, in accordance with Leitrim County Childcare Strategy;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	None	Low (not significant)	None
8. To provide and facilitate the provision of services of a nature and extent appropriate to the needs of each community;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	None	Low (not significant)	None
9. To adopt and implement a recreational Policy for the County.	Some Sites				
It is considered that the Strategic Goals –Social Development, taken in conjunction with; the specific policies within the Draft Plan, the application of any mitigation measures deemed appropriate and related planning guidelines and legislative requirement, will not, either individually or in combination, compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 network and will have an overall positive impact.					



Table 7 Assessment Matrix – Strategic Framework

Strategic Development Framework	Natura 2000 that may be affected⁶ (Name/code)	Potential Impact⁷ of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
1. Encourage the further development of Carrick-on-Shannon, Manorhamilton and Ballinamore. These towns are identified as the principal engines for future economic development of the County. However, the Council recognises the need to provide sufficient incentives for private sector investment in all parts of the County. The Council will seek to ensure that all towns and villages will receive equal opportunity to develop their potential to the fullest, and to prosper. The Council will also seek to ensure that the full range of physical, social and commercial services will be available in them on a self sustaining basis into the future. The Council will also actively promote and support all efforts to have further Government Offices decentralised to County Leitrim;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
2. Reinforce the commercial viability and attractiveness of all the other towns and villages in the County. The Council is aware of the need to make use of existing infrastructure and facilities and will seek to ensure a balanced range of accommodation and ancillary development where services (physical, commercial and institutional infrastructure) are already in place;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
3. Provide for rural accommodation, where it will help to meet primarily local needs and help to support and maintain communities and services;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable	N	Low (not significant)	None

⁶ Refer to 8.1 for clarification in respect of Sites that may be affected.

⁷ Refer to Section 8.2 for clarification in respect to Potential Impacts

Strategic Development Framework	Natura 2000 that may be affected ⁶ (Name/code)	Potential Impact ⁷ of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		level			
4. Protect important wildlife habitats within Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's);	All Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	None	None
5. Designated sites receive full protection under the EU Habitats Directive 43/92/EU and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997, transposed into Irish law in the Wildlife (amendment) Act 2000. This law gives full protection to Natural Heritage Areas once designated. The Council is required to ensure that an appropriate assessment of the implications of development proposals is undertaken when planning permission is required. This applies to all development proposals likely to have a significant impact on the Special Areas of Conservation / Natural Heritage Areas [SAC/NHA] irrespective of whether they are located within the area or not;	All Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	None	None
6. Enhance the distinctive character of the landscapes of Co. Leitrim in accordance with the European Landscape Convention and the Landscape Assessment Guidelines published by the DoEH&LG;	Some Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	None	None
7. Protect the archaeological heritage, as required by the European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage, Valletta 1992, ratified by Ireland in 1997. Archaeological Heritage includes those sites and monuments identified on the statutory Record of Monuments and Places, archaeological sites that may not have been recorded yet, sub-soil archaeology and the context and setting of archaeological sites;	Some Sites	Yes Any or all impacts likely to be positive	N	None	None
8. Protect the architectural heritage through the establishment and continual review of the Record of Protected Structures, as required by Section 51 of the <i>Planning Act</i> 2000. The Record of Protected Structures shall include structures of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the county;	No Sites	None	N	None	None



Strategic Development Framework	Natura 2000 that may be affected ⁶ (Name/code)	Potential Impact ⁷ of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
9. Recognise the importance of the improvement of the 'National' and 'Regionally and Locally Important' roads identified in the Development Plan, as major factors in attracting investment, securing job opportunities & promoting growth throughout the county;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
10. Secure community benefits through the provision of infrastructure, recreational, wildlife, social and other facilities through the use of planning agreements and development charges from new development, where appropriate and relevant;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
11. Promote the implementation of Public Private Partnership (PPPs) between the Local Authority and the private sector for the purpose of providing public infrastructure, community facilities and related services;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
12. Promote community-based initiatives based on the economic, social and cultural development of the County and wider area;	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated	N	Low (not significant)	None

Strategic Development Framework	Natura 2000 that may be affected ⁶ (Name/code)	Potential Impact ⁷ of Policy / Objective	Risk of Significant Impact (y/n)	Potential of 'combination impacts'	Risk of Significant 'combination impacts'
		to an acceptable level			
13. Support Cross-Border Regional projects supported and funded through the Special European Union Programme Body (SEUPB), for example, the Border Upland Project linking the Geo Tourism of the Marble Arch Caves for Counties Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan and Fermanagh.	Some Sites	Yes – Any or all adverse impacts to be eliminated or mitigated to an acceptable level	N	Low (not significant)	None
It is considered that the Strategic Development Framework, taken in conjunction with; the specific policies within the Draft Plan, the application of any mitigation measures deemed appropriate and related planning guidelines and legislative requirement, will not, either individually or in combination, compromise the integrity of the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 network and will have an overall positive impact.					

The Vision, Mission Statement, Strategic Goals and Strategic Development Framework may be regarded herein as Strategic Policies. These Strategic Policies set the overall strategy for the Draft Plan, upon which specific policies and objectives are founded. The Strategic Policies and specific policies and objectives in the Draft are aligned with the relevant legislative requirements and national, regional and local plans and programmes. The Strategic Policies consists of overarching aims and objectives and sets the framework for the more specific policies and objective set out in the Draft Plan.

The specific aims, policies and objectives the Draft Plan have been sensitively formulated in the context of realising the Strategic Policies.

In such circumstances where the Strategic Policies are geared to ensure the protection of the environment and secure the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, it is reasonable to conclude that the specific policies or objectives would do likewise.



9 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT MATRIX

Name of project/plan	Draft Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021
Name and location of Natura 2000 site(s)	<p>The Draft Plan does not relate to any one specific site/location but relates to the entire County. Natura 2000 sites within the Plan Area and within 15km of the Plan Area are tabulated in Appendices</p> <p>Appendix 1 & Appendix 2 attached and are mapped on Figure 3.</p>
Description of the project/plan	For a description of the Draft Plan refer to Section 4 above.
Is the project directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site	The Draft Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site. The making of the Draft Plan will have the effect of strengthening the management of and enhancing the protection of these environmentally sensitive areas.
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project plan being assessed could affect the site	The DRAFT PLAN sets the framework for the sustainable development of the County over a five year period. It is the primary document for the setting out of the councils aim, policies and objectives in terms of land use planning. In doing so it must be consistent with, and ensure the implementation of National and Regional Plans and Guidelines as well as a host of other European, National and Regional Legislation, in terms of the management of the environment.

The assessment of significance of effects

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites	The Draft Plan, taken in conjunction with other similar plans and programmes, will have the overall effect of strengthening the management of and enhancing the protection and conservation of Natura 2000 sites.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	
<p>Specific statements, policies and objectives have been formulated within the Draft Plan to allow the Council to take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration of Natura 2000 sites. The new Plan will not alter the core principles of the existing County Development Plan 2009 - 2015. The Draft Plan does not propose any land take within Natura 2000 sites. The Draft Plan updates the policies and objectives of the Council in accordance with the Regional Planning Guidelines and National Policy.</p> <p>During the process of the zoning of lands, particular attention was made to the protection of Natura</p>	

2000 sites.

Considering the high commercial and vacancy rates and the decline in development, it is reasonable to conclude that development activity within the short terms at least will be slow. Consequently the potential for significant impacts on Habitat 2000 sites is relatively low.

Prior to any works commencing on a project that may impact the Natura 2000 network, the project shall be subject to a full Natura Impact Assessment in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). This requirement is made explicit in the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan will have an overall positive economic, social and environment impact and will have no significant effects on the Natura 2000 network of sites.

List of agencies consulted

This Natura Impact Report forms part of the documentation associated with the Draft Plan. As such it has been referred to the prescribed bodies listed in the accompanying Draft Plan and to other selected bodies shall also be placed on public display.

Response to consultation

A number of significant additions/modifications have been made to the current Development Plan arising from the public consultation, internal departmental consultation including consultations with the Elected Members and Strategic Planning Policy Committee. These changes act to strengthen the protection of the environment with particular reference to environmentally sensitive sites. Of particular note is the reinforcement of policy in terms of the management of the Natura 2000 network.

Data collection to carry out the assessment

Who carried out the assessment?	Sources of data	Level of assessment completed	Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?
Forward Planning Unit, Leitrim County Council	NPWS Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015, The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report for the Draft County Development Plan 2015-2021 Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2016 A range of other in-house environmental related data	In accordance with National Guidelines	The Natura Impact Report shall be placed on public display and will also be accessible on the council website.



10 MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT PLAN

A Determination of the need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Report and or an Appropriate Assessment on the proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan has been made as part of a separate Report. The Report should be regarded as a supplement to this Natura Impact Report and also likewise a supplement to the Strategic Environmental Report. The Material Alteration of the Draft Plan relate to the following topics;

1. Telecommunication Masts/Antenna, Section 3.7.12.10 and 4.5.3 of the Draft Plan
2. Zoning of Lands at Ballinamore, Volume 3, Appendix E, Book of Maps of the Draft Plan
3. Windfarms, Section 3.7.12.7 of the Draft Plan.
4. Retailing Section, 1.7.12, 3.6.5 and 4.4.3 of the Draft Plan
5. Regionally and Locally Important Roads, Section 4.6.7 table 4.3 and 4.6.7.2
6. Water Services, Section 3.7.12.1 of the Draft Plan

Following the public consultation phase in respect of the Material Alteration, the Determination was the subject of a review and the Determination was revised/updated as recommended in the *Chief Executive's Report on submissions on the proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan, November 2014*. The revised Determination was subsequently submitted to the Elected Members for consideration prior to the making of the Plan.

The Determination concluded that the Material Amendments and would not, either on their own or taken in combination with other relevant plans or programmes, give rise to any significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated to an acceptable level. Accordingly the Determination considered that an Appropriate Assessment was not required under the terms of Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2014.

This process in respect to a Material Alteration of the Draft Plan is a requirement under (under Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014) which states;

The planning authority shall determine if a strategic environmental assessment or an appropriate assessment or both such assessments, as the case may be, is or are required to be carried out as respects one or more than one proposed material alteration of the draft development plan.

11 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURES (ADDITIONAL MEASURES)

In order to further strengthen the Draft Plan in terms of the protection of environmentally sensitive areas with particular reference to Natura 2000 sites, it is recommended that the

following statements be inserted into the Draft Plan, Section heading; Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage.

1) No projects or programme giving rise to significant adverse; direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, shall be permitted on the basis of this Draft Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)⁸.

2) It is considered that certain developments within areas adjoining and in the vicinity of, environmentally sensitive areas may impact on the integrity of such sensitive areas. Accordingly, area adjoining environmentally sensitive sites, including; Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage sites, Natural Heritage Sites, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, High Visual Amenity, and other features such as; lakes, rivers, waterways, wetlands, peatlands and deciduous woodlands, shall be protected from inappropriate development through the Development Management process. It is not proposed to map the extent of such areas; determination shall be based on the potential impact of the particular development concerned (taken in conjunction with other developments in the area) and the requirement to conserve and protect the environmental integrity of the feature concerned.

It should be noted that the capacity mapping in respect to forestry and one-off dwellings in the countryside, Outstanding Natural Beauty and High Visual Amenity and Outstanding Views and Prospects, as indicated in the Draft Plan, are indicative only and should not therefore be read at a detailed level.

12 CONCLUSION

This Natura Impact Report of the Draft Development Plan 2015-2021, has been carried out in accordance with the Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as published by the European Commission.

This Report finds that it can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain impacts on the network of Natura 2000 sites as a result of the Draft County Development Plan. The Draft Plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, development and effects arising from developments, based upon the Draft Plan (either

⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: -

- (a) No alternative solution available;
- (b) Imperative reasons for overriding public interest, including those of a social and economic nature; and,
- (c) Adequate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.



individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. Having regard to the foregoing a Stage Two assessment as described at Section 2.5 is not required.

In accordance with the Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, it is concluded that the implementation of the Draft County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 would not compromise the integrity of the Natura 2000 network and would indeed act to secure the protection of the network. A ‘finding of no significant impact’ (FONSI) in terms of the requirements of Habitats Directive has been established.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Identification of sites within the County

Natura 2000 sites within County Leitrim - County Leitrim -Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

County Leitrim		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
000623 Benbulbin, Glenriff and Glenade Complex	4030 European dry heaths 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation 1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter 1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Whorl Snail	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.	Forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
00625 Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore	7230 Alkaline fens 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) 21A0 Machairs (*in Ireland) 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 1170 Reefs 5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 1395 <i>Petalophyllum ralfaii</i> Petalwort	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.	Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), agricultural improvements/ reclamation, drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction, water quality/pollution, agricultural abandonment, over grazing/ undergrazing, direct loss of habitat to development, bracken & scrub encroachment, amenity/ recreational use, tourism related development. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture



County Leitrim		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
001919 Glenade Lough	3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation 1092 <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Freshwater Crayfish 1833 <i>Najas flexilis</i> Slender Naiad	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status	Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, direct loss of habitat to development, loading from effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use, developments-marinas. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
001403 Arroo Mountain	7130 Blanket bog (*active only) 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation 7220 Petrifying spring with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.	Changes in local hydrology including drainage, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
000428 Lough Melvin	3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea unifloraw and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea 1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon 1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status	Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, loss of fringe vegetation, changes in seasonal water levels/ fluctuations, direct loss of habitat to development, loading from effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
001976 Lough Gill	3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation 91e0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior 91a0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles 1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey 1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Brook Lamprey 1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey 1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.	Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, siltation, loss of fringe vegetation, changes in seasonal water levels/ fluctuations, direct loss of habitat to development, loading of effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use, direct loss to developments, lack of inappropriate woodland management, overgrazing. Introduction of alien invasive species

	1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter 1092 <i>Austropotamobius palipes</i> Freshwater Crayfish		Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality Felling/Removal of Trees
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County Leitrim - Special Protection Areas (SPA's)

County Leitrim		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)		
Site code	Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
004187	Sligo/ Leitrim Uplands	Falco peregrinus Peregrine pyrrhonorax Chough	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Chough.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management



Appendix 2 - Identification of sites in adjoining Counties

Natura 2000 sites within 15km of County Leitrim (tabulated by County- Sligo, Cavan, Donegal, Roscommon, Longford & Fermanagh).

County Sligo - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

County Sligo		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
IE 000622 Ballysadare Bay	1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 2190 Humid dune slacks 1365 <i>Phoca Vitulina</i> Common Seal 1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> , <i>Phoca vitulina</i> .	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture
IE 000623 Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex	4030 European dry heaths 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation 8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation 1355 <i>Lutra Lutra</i> European Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>); Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> ; <i>Lutra</i>	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Peat Extraction Overgrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning

	1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Geyer's Whorl Snail	lutra.	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
IE 001656 Bricklieve Mountains and Keshcorran	8120 Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) 6510 Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) ('important orchid sites') 1065 <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> Marsh Fritillary	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>); Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>); Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>). To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> .	Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Direct loss of habitat to development Quarrying Bracken and scrub encroachment Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Peat Extraction Forestry Burning
IE 000625 Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore	7230 Alkaline fens 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 21A0 Machairs (*in Ireland) 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) ('important orchid sites') 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 1170 Reefs 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 1395 <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> Petalwort	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Machairs; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>); Alkaline fens To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> .	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture
Site code Site	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity



name	[code] [habitat] name] [common name]	[code] [scientific species name]	
IE 000627 Cumeen Strand/ Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay)	1130 Estuaries 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands 1365 <i>Phoca vitulina</i> Common Seal 1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> ; <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture
IE 001673 Lough Arrow	3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Changes in water flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents(WWTP) Recreation/amenity use Developments – marinas Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Site code	Site	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
			Threats to site integrity

name	[code] [habitat name] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]		
IE 001976 Lough Gill	<p>3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation</p> <p>91e0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</p> <p>91a0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles</p> <p>1095 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> Sea Lamprey</p> <p>1096 <i>Lampetra planeri</i> Brook Lamprey</p> <p>1099 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> River Lamprey</p> <p>1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> Atlantic Salmon</p> <p>1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter</p> <p>1092 <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation, Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles, Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</p> <p>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, <i>Lampetra planeri</i>, <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>, <i>Salmo salar</i>, <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>, <i>Lutra lutra</i></p>	<p>Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution</p> <p>Changes in water flow rates</p> <p>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table</p> <p>Siltation</p> <p>Loss of fringe vegetation</p> <p>Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations</p> <p>Direct loss of habitat to development</p> <p>Loading from effluents(WWTP)</p> <p>Recreation/amenity use</p> <p>Developments – marinas</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Crayfish Fishing</p>
IE 001680 Streedagh Point Dunes	<p>2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)</p> <p>2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</p> <p>1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</p> <p>1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</p> <p>1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <p>1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>1014 <i>Vertigo angustior</i> Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>); Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>); Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)</p> <p>To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Vertigo angustior</i>.</p>	<p>Agricultural improvements/Reclamation</p> <p>Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction</p> <p>Erosion (natural and anthropogenic)</p> <p>Agricultural abandonment</p> <p>Overgrazing/undergrazing</p> <p>Bracken and scrub encroachment</p> <p>Tourism related development</p> <p>Decrease in water quality/increased pollution</p> <p>Direct loss of habitat to development</p> <p>Tourism related development</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Burning</p> <p>Quarrying/removal of sand</p> <p>Aquaculture</p>
IE 000638 Union Wood	<p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles.</p>	<p>Direct loss of habitat to development</p> <p>Amenity/recreational use</p> <p>Invasive species</p> <p>Lack of/inappropriate woodland management</p> <p>Overgrazing (deer)</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Felling/Removal of Trees</p>
Site code	Site	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
			Threats to site integrity



name	[code] [habitat name] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]		
IE 001898 Unshin River	3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation 91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnus incanae, Salix albae) 1106 Salmo salar Atlantic Salmon 1355 Lutra lutra European Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation; Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnus incanae, Salix albae). To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Salmo salar; Lutra lutra.	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Changes in water flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents(WWTP) Recreation/amenity use Developments – marinas Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping

County Sligo-Special Protection Areas (SPA's)

County Sligo		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
IE 004013 Drumcliff Bay	Site is selected for: Barnacle Goose Sanderling Additional Special Conservation Interests: Wetland & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Sanderling, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
IE 004035 Cummeen Strand	Site is selected for: Light-bellied Brent Goose Additional Special Conservation Interests: Oystercatcher Redshank Wetland & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Persecution (Poisoning) Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
IE 004048 Lough Gara	Site is selected for: Whooper Swan Greenland White-fronted Goose Additional Special Conservation Interests: Wetland & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
IE 004050 Lough Arrow	Site is selected for: Little Grebe Additional Special Conservation Interests: Goldeneye Wetlands & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Little Grebe, Goldeneye, Wetlands & Waterbirds.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species



			Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
IE 004068 Inishmurray	Site is selected for: Barnacle Goose Arctic Tern Additional Special Conservation Interests: Storm Petrel Shag Herring Gull	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Barnacle Goose, Arctic Tern, Storm Petrel, Shag, Herring Gull.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
IE 004129 Ballysadare Bay	Site is selected for: Light-bellied Brent Goose Bar-tailed Godwit Additional Special Conservation Interests: Grey Plover Dunlin Redshank Wetland & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Light-bellied Brent Goose, Bar- tailed Godwit, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Redshank, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
IE 004187 Sligo/Leitrim Uplands	Site is selected for: Peregrine Chough	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Chough.	Direct and indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat) Direct loss of habitat to development Water quality/pollution Disturbance including recreation/amenity use Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management

County Cavan- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

County Cavan		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
000007 Lough Oughter & Associated Loughs	3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation 91D0 Bog woodland 1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> European Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation	Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, siltation, loss of fringe habitat, changes in seasonal water levels, loading from effluents (WWTP), recreation/ amenity use, developments, lack of/ inappropriate woodland management. Increased pollution/reduction in water quality Felling/Removal of Trees
000584 Cuileagh- Anierin Uplands* (Also in County Leitrim)	7130 Blanket bog (*active only) 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 6230 Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasemophytic vegetation 4030 European dry heaths	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.	Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
000979 Corratirrim	8240 Limestone pavements	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.	Agricultural improvements/ reclamation, agricultural abandonment, overgrazing/ undergrazing, direct loss of habitat to development, quarrying on limestone pavements, bracken & scrub encroachment. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
002032 Boleybrack Mountain* (Also in County Leitrim)	7130 Blanket bog (*active only) 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 4030 European dry heaths 6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status	Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping



Increased pollution/reduction in water quality

County Cavan-Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

County Cavan		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
004049 Lough Oughter	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> Whooper Swan <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> Great Crested Grebe <i>Anas penelope</i> Wigeon <i>Bucephala clangula</i> Goldeneye Wetlands & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Whooper Swan, Wetlands & Waterbirds. Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Goldeneye and Wetlands & Waterbirds.	Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat), direct loss of habitat to development, water quality/ pollution, disturbance including recreation/ amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management

County Donegal-Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

County Donegal		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
138 Durnesh Lough	10007 Coastal lagoons; 10131 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (Molinia caerulea).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected, at favourable conservation status: Coastal lagoons; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (Molinia caerulea). To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Aquaculture
115 Ballintra	10084 European dry heaths; 10168 Limestone pavements.	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: European dry heaths; Limestone pavements. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.	Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation; agricultural improvements; agricultural abandonment; undergrazing; quarrying on ester ridges and limestone pavement; bracken & scrub encroachment. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping



Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity	
133 Donegal Bay (Murvagh)	10006 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; 10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); 10046 Humid dune slacks; Phoca vitulina (Common Seal).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater atlow tide; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humiddune slacks. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected atfavourable conservation status: Phoca vitulina.	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology (e.g. quarrying/rock blasting) for turloughs & groundwater fed fens. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture	
191 St. John's Point	10008 Large shallow inlets and bays; 10009 Reefs; 10120 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia); 10131 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); 10151 Alkaline fens; 10168 Limestone pavements; 10172 Submerged or partly sub merged sea caves.	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia): Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); Alkaline fens; Limestone pavements; Submerged or partly submerged sea caves	Water quality/pollution (including groundwater); development of marinas and ports; disturbance of marine mammals; dumping at sea; direct loss of habitat to development; recreational/amenity use; agricultural improvements;/reclamation; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; quarrying on esker ridges and limestone pavement; bracken & scrub development; drainage/changes in local hydrology; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts of local geology/geomorphology (e.g. quarrying/rock blasting) for turloughs & groundwater fed fens. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture	
Site code	Site	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity

name	[code] [habitat name] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]		
428 Lough Melvin	10065 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Salmo salar (Atlantic Salmon); Lutra lutra (Otter).	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Salmo salar; Lutra lutra.	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
1992 Tamur Bog	10144 Blanket bog 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Pluvialis apricaria (Golden Plover) Hen Harrier Falco columbarius (Merlin) Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose) Red Grouse Lutra lutra (Otter).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Blanket bog, wet heaths, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Greenland White-fronted Geese To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Otter,	Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Persecution (Poisoning)
2164 Lough Golagh & Breesy Hill	10144 Blanket bog. Sterna hirundo (Common Tern)	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; active blanket bog, Common Tern	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Site code	Site	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
			Threats to site integrity



name	[code] [habitat name] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]		
2303 Dunmuckrum Turloughs	3180 Turloughs	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; turlough	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping

County Donegal- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

County Donegal		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
4151 Donegal Bay	Gavia immer (Great Northern Diver) Light-bellied Brent Goose Melanitta nigra (Common Scoter) Wetland & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Great Northern Diver, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Common Scoter, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management

County Roscommon- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

County Roscommon		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Cloonshanville Bog 000614	7110 Active raised bogs 91D0 Bog woodland	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs , Bog woodland	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Felling/Removal of Trees
Annaghmore Lough 001626	7230 alkaline fens 1013 <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> Whorl Snail <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan) <i>Apricaria</i> (Golden Plover)	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: alkaline fens, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: whorl snail	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage /changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping



Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Lough Forbes Complex 001818	7110 Active raised bogs 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality Felling/Removal of Trees

County Longford-Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

County Longford		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Brown Bog 002346	7110 Active raised bogs 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Clooneen Bog 002348	91D0 Bog woodland 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Bog woodland, Degraded raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates .	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping



Site code name	Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Lough Forbes Complex 001818		<p>7110 Active raised bogs</p> <p>7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</p> <p>7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</p> <p>91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</p> <p>3150 <i>Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation</i></p> <p><i>Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)</i></p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Old sessile oak woods, Natural eutrophic lakes, Greenland White-fronted Goose</p>	<p>Changes in local hydrology including drainage</p> <p>Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall)</p> <p>Erosion, landslips</p> <p>Peat Extraction</p> <p>Overgrazing/undergrazing</p> <p>Forestry</p> <p>Burning</p> <p>Direct loss of habitat to development</p> <p>Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table</p> <p>Agricultural reclamation/improvement</p> <p>Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes)</p> <p>Introduction of alien invasive species</p> <p>Illegal Dumping</p> <p>Increased pollution/reduction in water quality</p> <p>Felling/Removal of Trees</p>

County Longford-Special Protection Areas (SPA's)

County Donegal		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog 004101	Cygnus cygnus (Whooper Swan) Falco columbarius (Merlin)	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Active raised bogs, Depressions on peat substrates, Whooper Swan, Merlin	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Persecution (Poisoning) Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management

County Fermanagh- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

County Fermanagh		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Largalinn UK0030045	91A0 Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old sessile oak woods	Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Felling/Removal of Trees



West Fermanagh Scarplands UK0030300	6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) 8240 Limestone pavements 9180 Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 7130 Blanket bogs 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) 7230 Alkaline fens	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies, Molinia meadows, Limestone pavements , Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines , Natural eutrophic lakes, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix , blanket bog,	Water quality/pollution Changes in flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents (WWTP) Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Lough Melvin UK0030047	3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles 1106 Atlantic salmon Salmo salar	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; turlough To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon, Slender Naiad.	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality Felling/Removal of Trees
Monawilkin UK0016619	6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies, Old sessile oak woods	Changes in local hydrology, peat extraction, overgrazing, forestry, burning, direct loss of habitat to development, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, agricultural reclamation.

			Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Felling/Removal of Trees	
Pettigoe Plateau UK0016607	3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 7130 Blanket bogs 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 4030 European dry heaths	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds , Blanket bogs , Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters , Northern Atlantic wet heaths , European dry heaths	Water quality/pollution Changes in flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents (WWTP) Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality	
Site code	Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River UK0030116	3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation 1029 Freshwater pearl mussel Margaritifera margaritifera	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Water courses of plain to montane levels To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Freshwater pearl mussel	Water quality/pollution Changes in flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents (WWTP) Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping	



Cuilcagh Mountain UK0016603	7130 Blanket bogs 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 4030 European dry heaths 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog, ,Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, , European dry heaths, <i>Alpine and Boreal heaths</i> , <i>Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels</i> , <i>Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</i>	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [habitat] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Moninea Bog UK0030212	7130 Blanket bog (*active only)	To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog	Changes in local hydrology including drainage Climate change (increased/reduced rainfall) Erosion, landslips Peat Extraction Overgrazing/undergrazing Forestry Burning Direct loss of habitat to development Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Agricultural reclamation/improvement Recreational/Amenity Use (walking, horse riding, cycling, quads and motorbikes) Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping

County Fermanagh-Special Protection Areas (SPA's)

County Fermanagh		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests [code] [scientific species name] [common name]	Conservation objectives	Threats to site integrity
Pettigoe Plateau UK0016607	3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds 7130 Blanket bogs 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix 4030 European dry heaths	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds , Blanket bogs , Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters , Northern Atlantic wet heaths , European dry heaths	Water quality/pollution Changes in flow rates Arterial drainage/water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table Siltation Loss of fringe vegetation Changes in seasonal water levels/fluctuations Direct loss of habitat to development Loading from effluents (WWTP) Recreation/Amenity Use Developments - marinas, fishing Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality



