

**SCREENING**  
**FOR**  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
**FOR**  
**PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**

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**TO THE**  
**DRAFT GORT LOCAL AREA PLAN**  
**2025-2031**

**for: Galway County Council**



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

**by: CAAS Ltd.**



**MAY 2025**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Screening for AA Report that has been prepared to assess whether or not Stage Two AA, including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report is required for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031 (hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan"), in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive") and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan (an AA Natura Impact Report has already been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan). It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

The following documents have informed the preparation of this report and should be considered alongside it:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031;
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031; and
- Gort Draft Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared following adoption that will include the final AA determination expected to be made at adoption of the Plan.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites).

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

## 1.3 Approach

The Draft Plan was informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared to accompany it on public display. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allows the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>1</sup>. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited.

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<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

Submissions received resulted in alterations being proposed to the Draft Plan. These alterations are the subject of this Screening for AA report.

The Screening for AA is based on best scientific knowledge and has utilised ecological and hydrological expertise. In addition, a detailed online review of published scientific literature and grey literature<sup>2</sup> was conducted. This included a detailed review of the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) website including mapping and available reports for relevant sites and in particular sensitive qualifying interests/special conservation interests described and their conservation objectives.

The ecological desktop study completed for the AA of Draft Plan and the Screening for AA for Proposed Material Alterations comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15km of the Plan boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the Plan boundary;
- Review of the NPWS site synopsis and conservation objectives for European sites with identification of potential pathways from the Plan area; and
- Examination of available information on protected species.

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

**Stage One: Screening**

The process that identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European 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. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European 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.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>3</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Plan provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether

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<sup>2</sup> Various documents where publishing, in journals for example, is not the primary activity of the producing body. Examples include: conference presentations; regulatory data; unpublished trial data; government publications; and dissertations/theses.

<sup>3</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European sites.

direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects could arise from the Plan and the Proposed Material Alterations.

The AA exercise has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021; and
- Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

This evaluation has been made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

## **Section 2 Description of the Draft Plan, to which the Material Alterations relate**

### **2.1 Introduction and Content**

The Draft Gort Local Area Plan 2025-2031 has been prepared pursuant to Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The purpose of the Plan is to put in place a land use framework that will guide the future sustainable development of the Gort area. The Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan, will inform and manage the future development of the area.

The Proposed Material Alterations are outlined in detail in the accompanying Proposed Material Alterations document. The Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.

### **2.2 Draft Plan Format**

The Draft Plan comprises a written statement and a series of maps that provide a graphic representation of the content of the written text. Where there is any discrepancy between the text and maps, the text shall take precedence.

A Local Transport Plan forms part of the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan is accompanied by a number of additional supporting documents, including this AA Natura Impact Report, which have informed the crafting of the Plan.

### **2.3 Vision and Strategic Aims**

The Draft Plan sets out a Vision as follows: "Gort is a Self-Sustaining, vibrant, and socially inclusive town with a focus on protecting and enhancing its historical core, natural environment, supporting an educated workforce, and providing a range of supporting services/facilities/amenities. This plan will be delivered through a managed and phase development strategy of appropriately zoned and serviced lands to achieve balanced and sustainable growth for Gort and the immediate environment that it serves."

The following Strategic Aims will assist in delivering the vision for Gort:

- Promote Gort as a Self-Sustaining Town as set out in the GCDP 2022 – 2028 and continue to support a sustainable level of population growth as established in the Core Strategy up to 2028 and beyond.
- Support the delivery of residential units on appropriately zoned land targeted in the Housing Strategy set out in Chapter 2 of the GCDP 2022 – 2028, encouraging sequential and compact growth in the town.
- Promote the reuse of existing buildings for residential use, where appropriate, having regard to the receiving environment, access to services, capacity of public infrastructure, and the delivery of a high quality of residential amenity.
- The strategic location of Gort shall be harnessed to enhance the economic and employment potential of the town, by creating sustainable employment opportunities, supported by investment on appropriately zoned lands.
- Maintain a strong and vibrant town centre that sustains the ability to attract new businesses, which meets the retail and service needs of the town and surrounding areas.
- Support the principle of the Gort Inse Guaire Town Centre First Plan (September 2023) which seeks to deliver holistic sustainable regeneration for the current and future needs of the local community through engagement with local business owners, community representatives, and stakeholders.
- Encourage and foster appropriate tourism opportunities that capitalise on Gort's tourist potential and better promote itself as a traditional Irish market town, with strong links to its natural, cultural and architectural heritage.
- Provide suitable recreation facilities, amenities and support services that shall promote an inclusive and cohesive local environment and serve the needs of the whole community.
- Support the redevelopment of underutilised buildings within the town centre to accommodate multi-functional community and cultural spaces, to facilitate the growth of remote-working, cultural, creative and community sectors in the town centre.

- Protect and enhance the heritage and character of Gort, including the natural assets, environment, built heritage, public realm, local character, and amenity for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Actively encourage sustainable mobility, including walking and cycling, in accordance with the aspirations of the LTP and support the continued provision of investment in public transport and active travel infrastructure.

The Plan addresses topics including:

- Land Use Zoning
- Residential Development
- Residential Infill
- Economic and Enterprise Development
- Community Facilities
- Built and Natural Heritage
- Tourism
- Agricultural
- Transportation and Movement – Local Transport Plan
- Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment
- Flood Risk Management
- Opportunity Sites



## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to Screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant effects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “conservation objectives”, “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological/environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>4</sup> or species<sup>5</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of Relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km buffer zone to be considered. A review of all sites within this zone has allowed a determination to be made that in the absence of significant hydrological links the characteristics of the Proposed Material Alterations will not impose effects beyond the 15 km buffer.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of the Plan area are listed in Table 3.2 and mapped on Figure 3.1. European sites, that have surface hydrological connectivity with the Draft Plan area are mapped in Figure 3.2, and sites which occur within the same groundwater body<sup>6</sup> as the Draft Plan area<sup>7</sup> (these can occur beyond the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone) are mapped on Figure 3.3.

Information on QIs, SCIs and site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has been considered by the AA screening assessment. Conservation objectives that have been considered by the assessment are included in the following NPWS documents:

- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Coole-Garryland Complex SAC [IE0000252] Version 2.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Coole-Garryland SPA [IE0004107] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for East Burren Complex SAC [IE0001926] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Lough Cutra SAC [IE0000299] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Lough Cutra SPA [IE0004056] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC [IE0000286] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Termon Lough SAC [IE0001321] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC [IE0002293] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA [IE0004168] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Lough Coy SAC [IE0002117] Version 1.

<sup>4</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>5</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

<sup>6</sup> Special Areas of Conservation with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>7</sup> Source: EPA datasets on waterways in Ireland (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>). Accessed: May 2024

- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Caherglassaun Turlough SAC [IE0000238] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Ballinduff Turlough SAC [IE0002295] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Gortacarnaun Wood SAC [IE0002180] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Drummin Wood SAC [IE0002181] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Cahermore Turlough SAC [IE0002294] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Peterswell Turlough SAC [IE0000318] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC [IE0002317] Version 1.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Ardahan Grassland SAC [IE0002244] Version 2.
- NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives for Ballyogan Lough SAC [IE0000019] Version 2.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Moyree River System SAC [IE0000057] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Galway Bay Complex SAC [IE0000268] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Inner Galway Bay SPA [IE0004031] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Lough Fingall Complex SAC [IE0000606] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Sonnagh Bog SAC [IE0001913] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Kiltiernan Turlough SAC [IE0001285] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Castletaylor Complex SAC [IE0000242] Version 1.
- NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives for Glendree Bog SAC [IE0001912] Version 1.
- NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives for Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC [IE0000032] Version 1.
- NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SAC [IE0000322] Version 1.
- NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for Rahasane Turlough SPA [IE0004089] Version 1.

The assessment considers available conservation objectives. Since conservation objectives focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential effects of the Proposed Material Alterations against the QIs/SCIs of each site. The conservation objectives for each site were consulted throughout the assessment process.



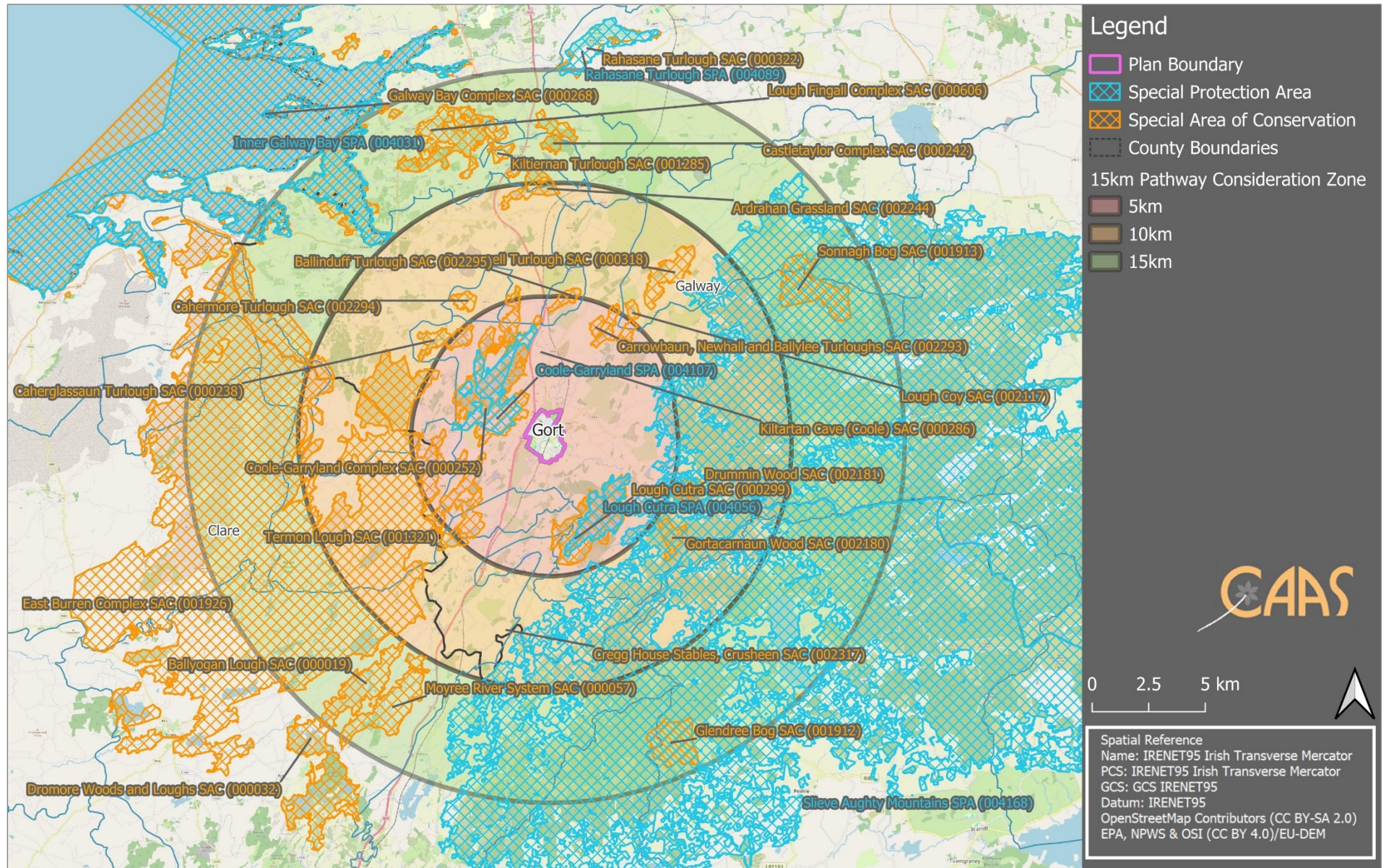
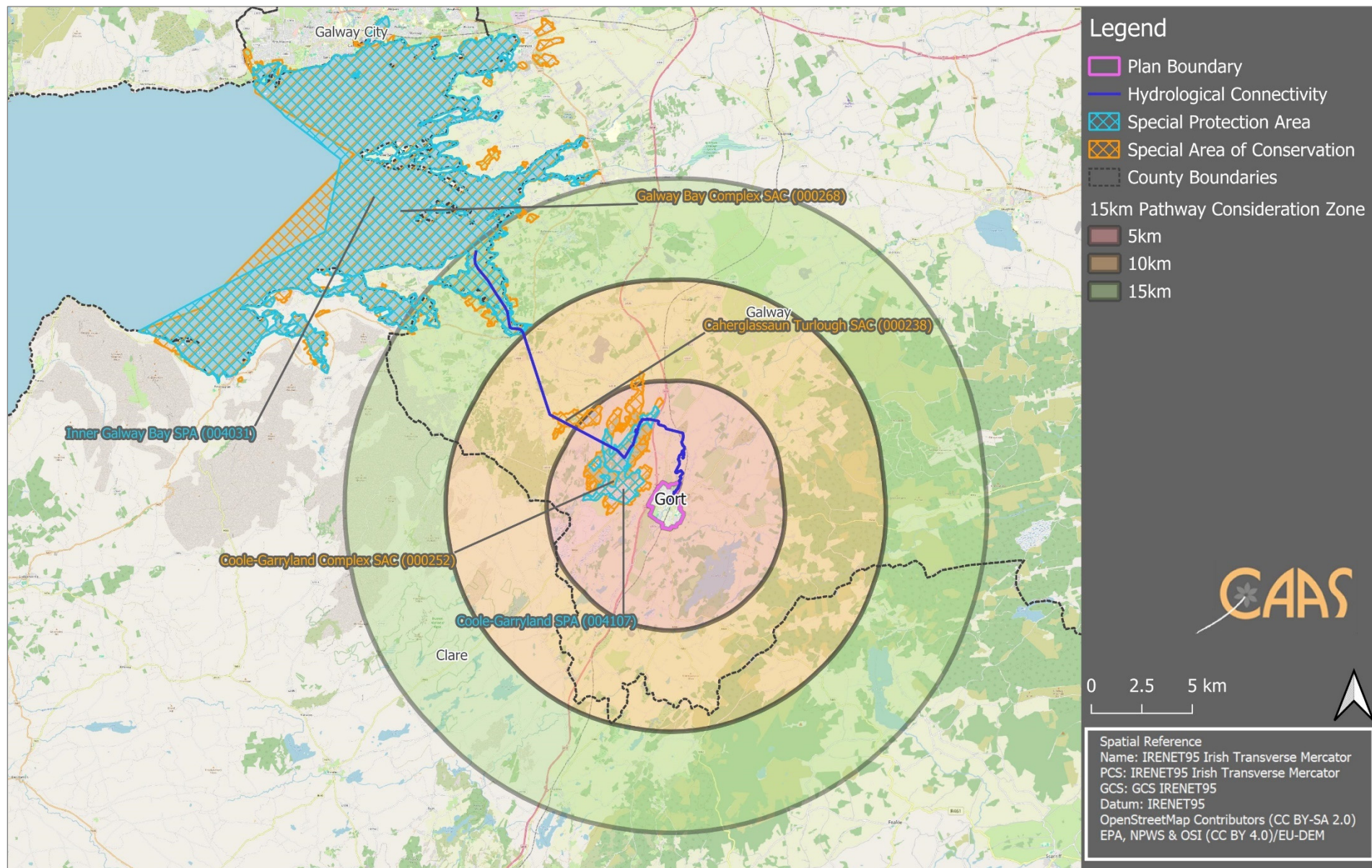


Figure 3.1 European sites within a 15km radius of the Draft Plan boundary<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Source: NPWS

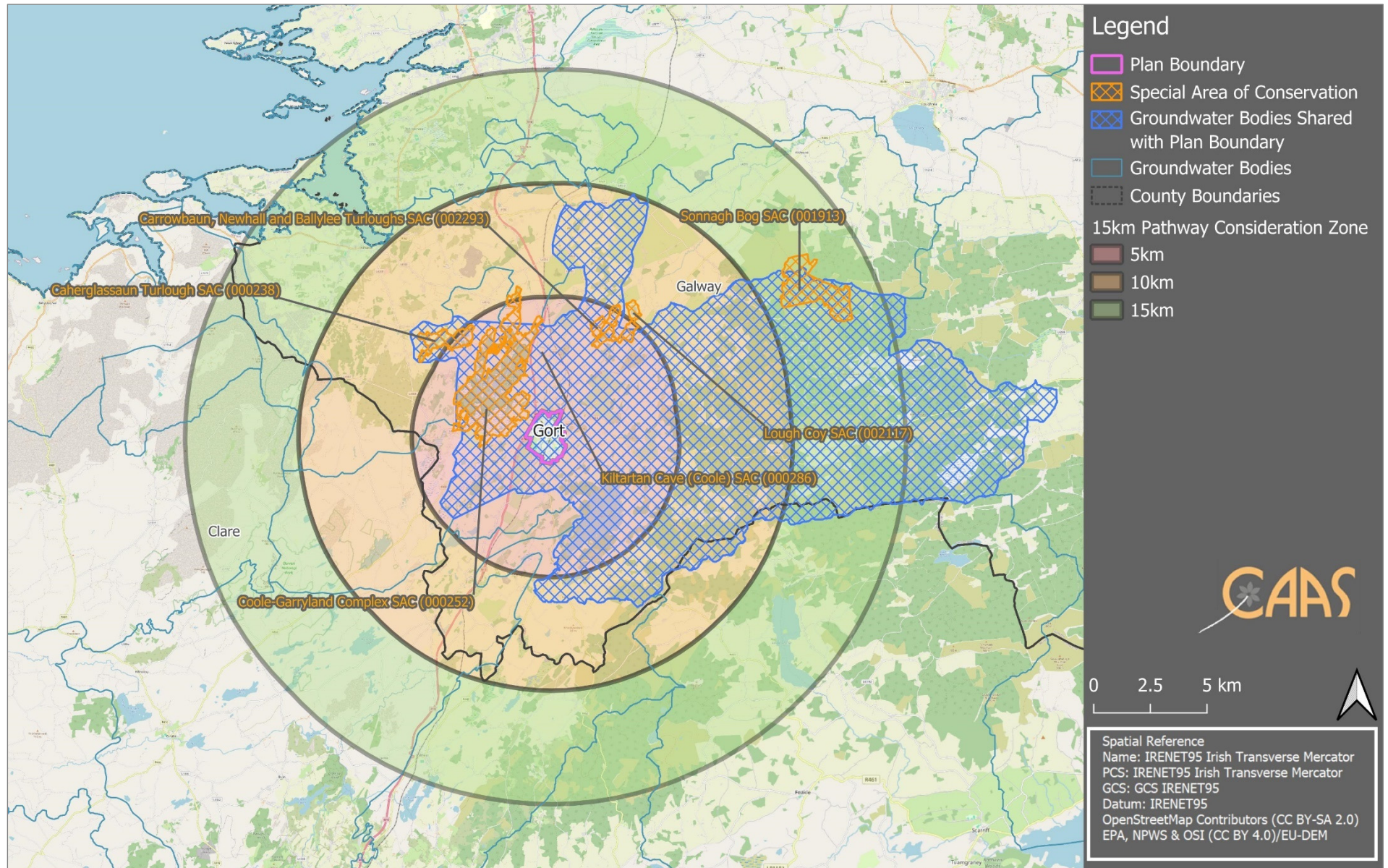




**Figure 3.2 Surface hydrological connectivity<sup>9</sup> with the Draft Plan boundary**

<sup>9</sup> Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>





**Figure 3.3 European sites<sup>10</sup> with shared groundwater bodies<sup>11</sup> with the Draft Plan area**

<sup>10</sup> Special Areas of Conservation and/or Special Protection Areas with groundwater sensitive Qualifying Interests

<sup>11</sup> Source: EPA datasets – accessed at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria and Screening

#### 3.3.1 Is the Plan Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to coordinate and plan the future development of the area to which the Plan relates. Therefore, the Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

#### 3.3.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Plan, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, provides a framework for the sustainable development of the Gort area. Draft Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of 5 (no.) European sites include:

- Provisions, including those relating to land use zoning, residential development, residential infill, economic and enterprise development, community facilities, built and natural heritage, tourism, agriculture, transportation and movement, water supply and wastewater treatment, flood risk management and opportunity sites, which introduce sources for potential effects through construction phase such as habitat loss, light pollution, disturbance effects and hydrological interactions through surface hydrological connectivity and/or shared groundwater sources;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss/fragmentation, light pollution, disturbance effects and interactions with water quality (surface and/or groundwater); and
- Increases in visitor numbers to ecologically sensitive areas during the operational phase of developments which have potential to introduce sources for significant effects, such as recreational and tourism developments.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that that the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>12</sup>.

#### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 examine whether there is potential for significant effects on European Sites considering information provided above.

<sup>12</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

a) no alternative solution available,  
b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

**Table 3.1 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary**

Ref	AA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Development Plan that contribute towards the protection of European sites, all potential risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b> Refer also to Appendix II.
2	The update to terminology/language/wording/mapping would not result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
3	This alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
4	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
5	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>
6	Removal of this provision/text would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision/text would not be likely to result in effects on any European site. <b>Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.</b>

Proposed Material Alteration No.	AA Screening Consideration
MA1	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA2	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA3	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA4	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA5	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA6	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA7	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA8	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA9	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA10	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA11	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA12	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA13	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA14	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA15	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA16	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA17	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA18	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA19	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA20	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA21	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA22	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA23	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA24	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA25	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA26	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA27	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA28	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA29	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA30	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA31	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA32	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA33	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA34	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA35	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA36	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA37	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA38	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA39	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA40	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA41	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA42	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA43	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA44	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required
MA45	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 – Stage 2 AA not required



**Table 3.2 Screening of European sites within 15 km of the Plan boundary**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	0.33	Limestone pavements [8240], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Lesser Horseshoe Bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [9130], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidentio</i> p.p. vegetation [3270], Turloughs [3180], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 0.33 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for groundwater sensitive habitats. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC is in close proximity to the Draft Plan boundary at 0.33 km (Figure 3.2). In addition, this site has a direct surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan area. Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions and surface hydrological interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified.</p> <p>These sources in the Draft Plan have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	0.67	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, disturbance and hydrological interactions. The site exists 0.67 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a species which depends on maintenance of hydrological conditions within this site. This site has a direct surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan area. There are also sources for disturbance in the Draft Plan from visitor interactions. Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via surface hydrological interactions and disturbance effects.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified.</p> <p>These sources in the Draft Plan have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
001926	East Burren Complex SAC	1.81	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130], Hard oligomesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Caves not open to the public [8310], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Turloughs [3180], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0],	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 1.81 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

<sup>13</sup> Qualifying Interests (SACs) or Special Conservation Interests (SPAs)



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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
			Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways for surface, groundwater, or direct land use management potential effects on this SAC.  Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
000299	Lough Cutra SAC	1.93	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 1.93 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.  Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004056	Lough Cutra SPA	2.07	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 2.07 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary and therefore there are no sources for direct land use management activities.  Considering the SCI of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways for surface, groundwater, or direct land use management potential effects on this SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC	2.54	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Caves not open to the public [8310]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 2.54 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.  Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
001321	Termon Lough SAC	2.71	Turloughs [3180]	The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 2.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.  Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required		
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	3.13	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 3.13 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC proximate to the Draft Plan boundary at 3.13 km (Figure 3.2). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified.</p> <p>These sources in the Draft Plan have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	3.55	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance effects. This site exists 3.55 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002117	Lough Coy SAC	3.92	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 3.92 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC proximate to the Draft Plan boundary at 3.92 km (Figure 3.2). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified.</p> <p>These sources in the Draft Plan have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	4.25	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities, groundwater and hydrological interactions. The site exists 4.25 km outside of the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>There are no sources for potential effect via direct land use management as this SAC is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. However, this European site is designated for a groundwater sensitive habitat. This SAC shares a groundwater body and a surface hydrological connection with the Draft Plan area, and the SAC proximate to the Draft Plan boundary at 4.25 km (Figure 3.2). Due to the proximity of this site and the nature of the Draft Plan, there are therefore, sources for potential effect via groundwater and surface hydrological interactions.</p> <p>Therefore, sources with pathways for likely significant effects to this European site resulting from the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified.</p> <p>These sources in the Draft Plan have already been addressed by the integration of mitigation into the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations do not present additional potential pathways or sources that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA of the Draft Plan. Therefore, no further consideration is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002295	Ballinduff Turlough SAC	4.27	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 4.27 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002180	Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	5.12	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 5.12 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002181	Drummin Wood SAC	5.14	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 5.14 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.		
002294	Cahermore Turlough SAC	5.32	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 5.32 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	5.96	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 5.96 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002317	Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC	7.60	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 7.60 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	8.98	Limestone pavements [8240], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to direct land use management activities and disturbance. This site exists 8.98 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity to the Draft Plan, there are no pathways with a likelihood for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC	9.94	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Limestone pavements [8240]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions and direct land use management activities. This site exists 9.94 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000057	Moyree River System SAC	10.01	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Caves not open to the public [8310], Limestone pavements [8240], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Alkaline fens [7230], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.01 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	10.09	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Coastal lagoons [1150], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Turloughs [3180], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Limestone pavements [8240], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Reefs [1170], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alkaline fens [7230], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.09 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site; however, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of over 10 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SAC. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	10.10	Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandwicensis</i> ) [A191], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to hydrological interactions, disturbance effects and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.10 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is a direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site; however, considering that nature of the Draft Plan, the distances involved and significant dilution factor of over 10 km, there are no sources for effect regarding hydrological interactions for this SPA. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	10.71	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.71 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	10.76	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 10.76 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	11.05	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.05 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	11.23	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 11.23 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1



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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature <sup>13</sup>	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
001912	Glendree Bog SAC	12.37	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 12.37 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	14.39	Limestone pavements [8240], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 14.39 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QIs of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	14.61	Turloughs [3180]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SAC is sensitive to groundwater interactions, hydrological interactions, disturbance effect and direct land use management activities. This site exists 14.61 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area and this site and there is no shared groundwater body between the Draft Plan boundary and this European site. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Considering the QI of this SAC, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SAC. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	14.73	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	<p>The Draft Plan provides a framework for land use development and activities with potential for construction and operation source effects throughout the Draft Plan area. This SPA is sensitive to direct land use management activities, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects. This site exists 14.73 km outside of the Draft Plan area. There is no source for direct land use management effects as this site is outside of the Draft Plan boundary. There are no sources for disturbance effects due to the distances involved and the nature of the Draft Plan. There is no direct surface hydrological connection between the Draft Plan area.</p> <p>Considering the SCIs of this SPA, the nature of the Draft Plan, and lack of significant connectivity of European sites to the Draft Plan, there are no sources with pathways for likely for significant effects on this SPA. Thus, there are no sources with pathways for likely significant effects foreseen and no further assessment is required.</p>	No – see also Table 3.1	No – see also Table 3.1

### **3.4 Other Plans and Programmes**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely affect European sites. There are no provisions in the Proposed Material Alterations that introduce any potential sources for effects in addition to those already identified as being mitigated by the Stage 2 AA carried out for the Draft Plan. Therefore, there are no in combination effects identified.



## **Section 4    AA Screening Conclusion**

This Screening for AA Report demonstrates that the implementation of the Proposed Material Alterations will not result in any likely significant effect on any European site.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. No source for a likely significant effect to any European site would arise from the Proposed Material Alterations that have not already been considered by the existing AA process for the Draft Plan.

The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through measures that have already been integrated into the Draft Plan and through existing, already in force, policies and objectives within the Galway County Development Plan with which the Proposed Material Alterations and all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/Screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

It is concluded that the Proposed Material Alterations will not give rise to any likely significant effect on any European site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes and projects.

This report is part of the overall and ongoing AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan (an AA Natura Impact Report has already been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan). It will be considered, alongside other documentation prepared as part of this process, at adoption of the Plan.

# Appendix I Background information on European sites Assessed

**List of European sites within 15 km of the Draft Plan boundary; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity**

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210]	A04.03, I02, C01, H01.05, A10, J01.01, A05.02, A04.02, K02.01, A04.01, H02.06, H01.08, H02.07	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, problematic native species, mining and quarrying, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, restructuring agricultural land holding, burning down, stock feeding, non-intensive grazing, species composition change (succession), intensive grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population
000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Limestone pavements [8240], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	B, A10.01, D01, G05, G01.03, G01.02, A08, B01.01, E01.03, J02, G03, A04, A10, E06.02, F03.01, D01.02, A10.02, E03.01, F03.02.04, F02.03, E03.03	Sylviculture, forestry, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, roads, paths and railroads, other human intrusions and disturbances, motorised vehicles, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, fertilisation, forest planting on open ground (native trees), dispersed habitation, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, interpretative centres, grazing, restructuring agricultural land holding, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, hunting, roads, motorways, removal of stone walls and embankments, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, predator control, leisure fishing, disposal of inert materials
000057	Moyree River System SAC	Caves not open to the public [8310], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230]	J02, E04.01, A08, E06.02, H, J02.01, F03.01, A10, E01, J01, A10.01, A04, A10.02, G01.02, A04.02.01, I02, B01, A05.02, E03.01	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape, fertilisation, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, pollution, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, hunting, restructuring agricultural land holding, urbanised areas, human habitation, fire and fire suppression, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, grazing, removal of stone walls and embankments, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, non-intensive cattle grazing, problematic native species, forest planting on open ground, stock feeding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	J02.04.01, H01.08, A04.01.01, E03.01, A04, A08, A05.02, A10.01, H02.06	Flooding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, intensive cattle grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, grazing, fertilisation, stock feeding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities
000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Turloughs [3180], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	H01.08, J02.01, A10.01, X, A04.01.01, H02.06, B01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, no threats or pressures, intensive cattle grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, forest planting on open ground
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	Lesser Horseshoe Bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Turloughs [3180], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidenton</i> p.p. vegetation [3270], Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	J01.01, D01.02, H01.08, E06.02, J02.05, J02.04.01, J02.01.03, A10.01, E03.01, I01, A04.01.02, C01.01, E03.03, C03.03, A04.01.01, H02.06, A08, J02.01, B02.02	Burning down, roads, motorways, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, flooding, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, invasive non-native species, intensive sheep grazing, sand and gravel extraction, disposal of inert materials, wind energy production, intensive cattle grazing, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, fertilisation, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, forestry clearance
000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	Turloughs [3180], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> ) [1330], Limestone pavements [8240], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355], Alkaline fens [7230], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Reefs [1170], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> [7210], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Harbour seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) [1365], Coastal lagoons [1150]	J02.01.02, D03, E03.03, A04.02.01, F01, G01.01.02, H01.05, F06, A02.01, D03.01.04, D03.01.01, J02.02.02, A04.02.02, F02.03.01, C01.01.02, J02.05.01, J02.12.01, D02.02, I01, C01.01, G02.01, H01.08, D01.01	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, disposal of inert materials, non-intensive cattle grazing, marine and freshwater aquaculture, non-motorized nautical sports, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, agricultural intensification, industrial ports, slipways, estuarine and coastal dredging, non-intensive sheep grazing, bait digging or collection, removal of beach materials, modification of water flow (tidal & marine currents), sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, pipe lines, invasive non-native species, sand and gravel extraction, golf course, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, paths, tracks, cycling tracks

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Caves not open to the public [8310]	J02.04.01, E06.02, G01.04.03, D01.02	Flooding, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, recreational cave visits, roads, motorways
000299	Lough Cutra SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	B03, A10, A10.01, B02.02, B02.01.01, H06.02, H06.01, E01.03, E06.02, B01.01	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth, restructuring agricultural land holding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, forestry clearance, forest replanting (native trees), light pollution, noise nuisance, noise pollution, dispersed habitation, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, forest planting on open ground (native trees)
000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180], Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation [3270]	J02.05, A08, B01, A04, A05.02, J02.10, X, J02.01.03, H02.06, E03.01, A02.01, J02.01, E03.03, H01.08	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, forest planting on open ground, grazing, stock feeding, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, no threats or pressures, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, agricultural intensification, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, disposal of inert materials, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters
000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	J02.01, A10.01, H02.06, J02.05, A08, A04.01.05, J02.10, E03.01, F03.01, A02.01, H01.08, X, E03.03	Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, intensive mixed animal grazing, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, hunting, agricultural intensification, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, no threats or pressures, disposal of inert materials
000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Turloughs [3180], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	A04.03, J02.01.03, A04.01, A08, J02.05, A04.02.01, C01, A05.02, J02.07.02, H01.08, J02.01, H02.06, E03.01, A04.01.01, A02.01, E03.03	Abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, intensive grazing, fertilisation, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, non-intensive cattle grazing, mining and quarrying, stock feeding, groundwater abstractions for public water supply, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, intensive cattle grazing, agricultural intensification, disposal of inert materials
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	H02.06, A02.01, A08, D01.02, H01.08, X, J02.05	Diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, agricultural intensification, fertilisation, roads, motorways, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, no threats or pressures, modification of hydrographic functioning, general
001321	Termon Lough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	H01.08, A08, E03.03, X, H02.06, A10.01, J02.05, A04.01.01	Diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, fertilisation, disposal of inert materials, no threats or pressures, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, intensive cattle grazing
001912	Glendree Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	A01, B, B01, J01, D01.01, G01.03.02, C01.03, A04, B07, K01.01	Cultivation, silviculture, forestry, forest planting on open ground, fire and fire suppression, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, off-road motorized driving, peat extraction, grazing, forestry activities not referred to above, erosion
001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]	C01.03.02, X, A05.02, J01, B01, A04.02, B05	Mechanical removal of peat, no threats or pressures, stock feeding, fire and fire suppression, forest planting on open ground, non-intensive grazing, use of fertilizers (forestry)
001926	East Burren Complex SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Turloughs [3180], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303], Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> ) [1065], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210], Alkaline fens [7230], Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> ) [6510], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> ) [7220], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Caves not open to the public [8310], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	A04.02, G01, H02.07, D01.02, H02.06, D05, A05.02, H01.05, I02, D01.01, A02, H01.08, E03.01, A04.03, A08, A10, A10.01, A04.01, K02.01, A11	Non-intensive grazing, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, diffuse groundwater pollution due to non-sewered population, roads, motorways, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, improved access to site, stock feeding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to agricultural and forestry activities, problematic native species, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, modification of cultivation practices, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, fertilisation, restructuring agricultural land holding, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, intensive grazing, species composition change (succession), agriculture activities not referred to above
002117	Lough Coy SAC	Turloughs [3180]	E03.03, J02.05, A08, X, H04.01, H01.08, A10.01, J02.01.03, H02.06	Disposal of inert materials, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, fertilisation, no threats or pressures, acid rain, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
002180	Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B06, B02.05, B02, B01, A04.02, I01, B02.02, B02.06	Grazing in forests or woodland, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), forest and plantation management & use, forest planting on open ground, non-intensive grazing, invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, thinning of tree layer
002181	Drummin Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	B01, B02.05, A04.02, B02.06, B02, B06, B02.02, I01	Forest planting on open ground, non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood or old trees untouched), non-intensive grazing, thinning of tree layer, forest and plantation management & use, grazing in forests or woodland, forestry clearance, invasive non-native species
002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Limestone pavements [8240], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites [6210], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	A10.01, A05.02, A04.03, A04.01.03, E04, E03.03, A08, A04.02.01, D01	Removal of hedges and copses or scrub, stock feeding, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, intensive horse grazing, structures, buildings in the landscape, disposal of inert materials, fertilisation, non-intensive cattle grazing, roads, paths and railroads
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	Turloughs [3180]	J02.05, D01, J02.01.03, E03.03, E06.02, J02.10, E03.01, A02.01, A10.01, A08, J02.04.01, H02.06, H01.08, E06.01	Modification of hydrographic functioning, general, roads, paths and railroads, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, disposal of inert materials, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, agricultural intensification, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, fertilisation, flooding, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, demolition of buildings & human structures
002294	Cahermore Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, J02.05, A10.01, H02.06, J02.01.03, A02.01, J02.04.01, H01.08, E03.03	Fertilisation, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, agricultural intensification, flooding, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, disposal of inert materials
002295	Ballinduff Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]	A08, X, J02.05, H01.08, E03.03, H02.06, A02.01, A10.01	Fertilisation, no threats or pressures, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to household sewage and waste waters, disposal of inert materials, diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, agricultural intensification, removal of hedges and copses or scrub
002317	Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> ) [1303]	X, E06.02	No threats or pressures, reconstruction, renovation of buildings
004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Grey Heron ( <i>Ardea cinerea</i> ) [A028], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A046], Black-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia arctica</i> ) [A002], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Sandwich Tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ) [A191], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052]	F01, J02.01.02, D01.02, A08, A04, E02, G01.02, G01.01, F03.01, E01, J02.12, E03, F02.03	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, roads, motorways, fertilisation, grazing, industrial or commercial areas, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, nautical sports, hunting, urbanised areas, human habitation, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, discharges, leisure fishing
004056	Lough Cutra SPA	Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017]	A04, F03.01, A08, F02.03, B	Grazing, hunting, fertilisation, leisure fishing, silviculture, forestry
004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ) [A050], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) [A395], Whooper Swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	A08, F03.01, A04	Fertilisation, hunting, grazing
004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ) [A038]	A04, G01.02, B, F03.01, E03.01, A08, K03, G03, B03	Grazing, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, silviculture, forestry, hunting, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, fertilisation, interspecific faunal relations, interpretative centres, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth
004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) [A082], Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ) [A098]	E01.03, A04, D01.01, B, C01.03, D01.02	Dispersed habitation, grazing, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, silviculture, forestry, peat extraction, roads, motorways

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**List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects**

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1065]	Marsh Fritillary ( <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> )	The pressures facing this species are associated with conversion of land into agricultural land or forestry, under-grazing and abandonment of land.	A01, A07, A10, B01	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage)	Habitat management; land use change and drainage.
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1150]	Coastal lagoons	Several high-ranking pressures were identified acting on this habitat: eutrophication, modification of hydrological flow, and drainage. Other pressures noted include erosion and silting up, accumulation of seaweed, and sedimentation from peat related to turf cutting and/or forestry.	C12, J02, K02, K04, L01, L03, N04	Extraction activities generating marine pollution, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), accumulation of organic material, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Erosion and silting up. Accumulation of seaweed. Land use management resulting in hydrological interactions.
[1160]	Large shallow inlets and bays	Pressures on the habitat include nutrient enrichment, dredging and invasive alien species.	A28, B23, F20, G01, G16, I02	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern))	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity, surface water runoff, discharge etc. On site management activities.
[1170]	Reefs	The main pressures on reefs come from fishing methods that damage the seafloor.	G01, G03	Marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) activities causing physical loss and disturbance of seafloor habitats	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1303]	Lesser horseshoe bat ( <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> )	The pressures facing Lesser Horseshoe Bats are associated with human disturbance (e.g. noise, light and heat pollution, construction or conversion of urban and recreational areas, including the removal of small landscape features and trees).	A05, A14, B09, F01, F02, F24, H08, L06, M08	Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation, livestock farming (without grazing), clear-cutting, removal of all trees, conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), construction or modification (e.g., of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas, residential or recreational activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes)	Temperature fluctuations in their roosts. Resource availability. Habitat connectivity. Lighting and noise effects. Urbanisation.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
					Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1365]	Harbour Seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> )	Pressures on this species in Irish waters mainly involve commercial vessel-based activities such as local/regional prey removal by fisheries or by-catch in fisheries, or geophysical seismic exploration; other possible impacts may occur from coastal tourism and localised human disturbance at haul-out sites.	C09, G01	Geotechnical surveying, marine fishing and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species	Prey availability, reduction in available habitat and water quality.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[3140]	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of muskgrass ( <i>Chara spp.</i> )	The hard-water lake habitat is under significant pressure from eutrophication, the primary sources of nutrient and organic pollution being agriculture and municipal and industrial wastewaters.	A25, A26, A31, B23, B27, C05, F12, F13, F33, I02	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, modification of hydrological conditions, or physical alteration of water bodies and drainage for forestry (including dams), peat extraction, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction of ground and surface waters (including marine) for public water supply and recreational use, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3150]	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	Most of the pressures on this habitat are as a result of pollution from agriculture, forestry activities and wastewater.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3180]	Turloughs	The main pressures associated with this habitat are related to drainage, groundwater pollution and ecologically unsuitable grazing.	A09, A26, A31	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, drainage for use as agricultural land	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
[3260]	Water courses of plain to montane levels with vegetation ( <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are caused by damage through hydrological and morphological change, eutrophication and other water pollution.	A25, A26, B23, C05, F11, F12, F13, K01, K04, K05	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, peat extraction, pollution to surface or ground water due to urban runoffs, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, plants, contaminated or abandoned industrial sites generating pollution to surface or ground water, abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, modification of hydrological flow, physical alteration of water bodies	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change and direct physical interactions.
[3270]	Rivers with muddy banks with vegetation	The only significant pressure on this habitat is a result of intensive grazing resulting in poaching.	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to



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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	( <i>Chenopodium rubri p.p.</i> and <i>Bidention p.p.</i> )				hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
[5130]	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	The pressures associated with this habitat are associated with overgrazing, erosion and scrub removal.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6130]	Calaminarian grasslands of the Murawy galmanowa ( <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> )	Pressures on this habitat are associated with abiotic natural processes (leaching of metals) and succession, as well as impacts from recreational activities (walking/hiking).	F07, L01, L02	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6210]	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates ( <i>Festuco-Brometalia</i> ) * important orchid sites)	The significant pressures related to this habitat are mainly associated with agricultural intensification causing loss of species-rich communities, or abandonment of farmland resulting in succession to scrub.	A02, A09, A10, C01, I02, I04	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6430]	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Pressures on the habitat include invasive species; and agricultural intensification and drainage in the lowlands.	A09, A31, I01, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, drainage for use as agricultural land, invasive alien species of union concern, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[6510]	Lowland hay meadows ( <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> )	The main pressures associated with this habitat are due to agricultural intensification (fertiliser application) and changes in agricultural practices.	A02, A06, A14, A19, A20	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), livestock farming (without grazing), application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7210]	Calcareous fens with species of mariscus sedge and bog cotton ( <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> )	Overgrazing, groundwater pollution, abandonment of grassland management and drainage are pressures associated with this habitat.	A06, A09, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[7220]	Petrifying springs with tufa formation ( <i>Cratoneurion</i> )	Pressures related to this habitat are associated with drainage, pollution to ground and surface waters, recreational activities, infrastructure, overgrazing and abandonment of grassland management.	A06, A10, E01, F07, H08, J01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g., caving)), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8240]	Limestone pavements	The main pressures facing this habitat are associated with conversion to agricultural land and housing construction, as well as scrub encroachment caused by under-grazing.	A01, A10, C01, F01, I02	Conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8310]	Caves not open to the public	There are no pressures facing this habitat.	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	None identified.
[91A0]	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	The significant pressure facing this habitat are associated with invasive non-native species such as <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> , cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and overgrazing by deer.	A09, B09, I02, I04, M07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, storm, cyclone	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), Indian balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) and currant species ( <i>Ribes nigrum</i> and <i>R. rubrum</i> ) as well as some native species such as brambles ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.
[91J0]	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	Pressures facing this habitat are mainly linked to the presence of alien species such as sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) and traveller's joy ( <i>Clematis vitalba</i> ), with overgrazing by deer also posing a pressure to the habitat.	A09, I02, I05	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.

List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A002	Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	G01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A003	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	G01, D01	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	G12, D01, F07, G10, J02, N06, N07, N01	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change
A028	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	x	X
A038	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	D01, D06, F07, F28	Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development



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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A046	Light-bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	F07, D06, F01, F08, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species
A050	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	F07, G07, N01, D01, F08, F28	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A052	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	G07, F07, D01, F28	Hunting, sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A069	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	E02, G01, D01	Shipping lanes and ferry lanes transport operations, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A082	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	B01, B03, A05, D01, A13, A02, B16, A11, A07, I04, A03, A31, A21, A15	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and gmos), removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, reseeded of grasslands and other semi-natural habitats, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), wood transport, burning for agriculture, abandonment of management/use of other agricultural and agroforestry systems (all except grassland), problematic native species, conversion from mixed farming and agroforestry systems to specialised (e.g. single crop) production, drainage for use as agricultural land, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, tillage practices (e.g. ploughing) in agriculture
A098	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	B03, B09, A01, C05, D01	Replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species (including new species and gmos), clear-cutting, removal of all trees, conversion into agricultural land (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A137	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A140	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	B01, I04, I02, A02, A11, A09, D01, H04, A31, G07, N01, F07, F28	Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), burning for agriculture, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, vandalism or arson, drainage for use as agricultural land, hunting, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A142	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A08, A21, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01, A06, A31, N01, F07, F28	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, use of plant protection chemicals in agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage for use as agricultural land, temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	G01, G19, D01, F08, N04, F07	Marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change, sports, tourism and leisure activities
A156	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	F07, G19, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	F07, G19, G01, F08, D01, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A160	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	A08, B01, I04, I02, A31, A02, C05, D01, A06, A11, F07, G01, G19, F08	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), drainage for use as agricultural land, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), burning for agriculture, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures)
A162	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A08, A09, B01, I04, I02, A02, C05, D01,	Mowing or cutting of grasslands, intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), problematic native species, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing), drainage

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Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
			A06, A31, F07, F08, N04	for use as agricultural land, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A169	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	F07, D01, F08, N04	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defences or coastal protection works and infrastructures), sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change
A179	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	F22, F23, I02, I04, D01, M08	Residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), industrial or commercial activities and structures generating marine macro- and micro- particulate pollution (e.g. plastic bags, styrofoam), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, flooding (natural processes)
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A09, I02, I04, D01	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure
A191	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	G12, I02, A09, D01, F07, I04, M08, N06, N07	Bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, problematic native species, flooding (natural processes), desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A09, G12, I02, I04, J02, L06, M08, D01, F07, G01, N06, N07	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, bycatch and incidental killing (due to fishing and hunting activities), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), flooding (natural processes), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, sports, tourism and leisure activities, marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species, desynchronisation of biological / ecological processes due to climate change, decline or extinction of related species (e.g. food source / prey, predator / parasite, symbiote, etc.) due to climate change
A395	Greenland White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	F07, G10, A02, B01, D01, D06, E01, F01, J02, G01	Sports, tourism and leisure activities, illegal shooting/killing, conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, transmission of electricity and communications (cables), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), mixed source marine water pollution (marine and coastal), marine fish and shellfish harvesting (professional, recreational) causing reduction of species/prey populations and disturbance of species

## **Appendix II Mitigation Measures from the existing Draft Plan and existing Development Plan**

This appendix outlines measures that have been incorporated into the Draft Plan and associated existing Galway County Development Plan in order to mitigate against potential effects to European sites as already identified by the Stage 2 AA for the Draft Plan.

**Measures that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources integrated into the Plan<sup>14</sup>**

<b>Component/ Source / Sensitivity</b>	<b>Plan Measure(s)<sup>15</sup></b>
Adherence to policy objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028	<p><b>Section 1.2 Planning Context</b></p> <p>The development strategy and planning policy objectives outlined in this Local Area Plan must align with the objectives set out in national, regional and local planning policy including, the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES), and the Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) 2022-2028.</p> <p><b>GSST 1 Consistency with Core Strategy</b></p> <p>Galway County Council will ensure that developments permitted within the settlement of Gort are consistent with the zoned land allocations in the Core Strategy and associated provisions of the <i>Galway County Development Plan 2022 - 2028</i>.</p>
Natural heritage, biodiversity and National / European sites	<p><b>GSST 3 Environmental Assessment</b></p> <p>To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP.</p> <p><b>GSST 55 European Sites</b></p> <p>Protect European Sites including Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) that form part of the Natura 2000 network. In accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010 (and any updated/superseding guidance). A plan or project (e.g., proposed development) within the plan area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence and an Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</li> <li>2.The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that does not host a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions, and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites; or</li> <li>3.The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of 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. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of European Sites.</li> </ol> <p><b>GSST 57 Biodiversity &amp; Ecological Networks</b></p> <p>Support the protection of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, peatlands, wetlands, stonewalls, and other landscape features, where these form part of the ecological network. Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors.</p> <p><b>GSST 56 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect important trees, tree clusters and hedgerows in the plan area and ensure that development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands. Ensure that all planting schemes use suitable native variety of trees.</li> <li>b) Seek to retain natural boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries, wherever possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable. Discourage the felling of mature trees where possible. All works to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946 (as amended);</li> </ol> <p>Carry out a tree survey on important tree stands within the plan area by suitably qualified personnel (excluding Ash).</p>
Surface water courses, groundwater, peatlands and other wetlands *WFD	<p><b>GSST 22 The River Walk</b></p> <p>Protect and enhance walkways along the Cannahowna/Gort River including the Kinincha and Pound Road in a sustainable manner where possible. Regard should be had to the protection of Otters and Otter breeding sites and resting places along the river walk.</p> <p><i>Any proposals shall be required to comply with environmental considerations and the relevant DM Standards.</i></p> <p><b>GSST 62 Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses</b></p> <p>Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in the riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate.</p> <p>To contribute towards protection and improvement of the status of surface and ground waters in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposed development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments.</p>

<sup>14</sup> These measures may be amended on foot of Proposed Material Alterations and/or further modifications, in advance of Plan adoption<sup>15</sup> All of the measures included in this table address the protection of European sites in relation to the QIs/SCLs in view of their respective COs and the potential effects identified in the Plan

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	<p><b>GSST 65 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters</b></p> <p>Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will support the protection and, where appropriate, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.</p>
Monitoring	<p><b>GSST 74 Implementation and Monitoring</b></p> <p>Monitor development for compliance with the policy objectives of the Core Strategy and adjust, where necessary, the approach taken to the consideration of development proposals to ensure effective alignment with the National, Regional and County policy objectives.</p>
Tourism and leisure activities	<p><b>GSST 21 Tourism</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall encourage and foster appropriate tourism opportunities that capitalise on Gort's tourist potential and better promote itself as a traditional Irish market town, with strong links to its natural, cultural and architectural heritage.</p> <p><i>Any proposals shall be required to comply with environmental considerations and the relevant DM Standards.</i></p> <p><b>GSST 19 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity</b></p> <p>Promote the sustainable management, use and/or development, as appropriate, of open space/recreation and amenity lands. This will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of open spaces and recreational activities, in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community;</li> <li>• Existing open space, sport and recreational facilities should be retained unless it can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of Galway County Council that these uses are surplus to requirements of the local community or are to be replaced by an equivalent or better provision;</li> <li>• Appropriate management and use of any flood risk areas within the OS zone to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate, the risk and potential impact of flooding;</li> <li>• Support the protection of habitats and species listed in the annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and species that are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, and stepping stones or ecological corridors in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive</li> <li>• Tourism</li> </ul> <p>Encourage and assist the development of the tourist potential within Gort in a manner that protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner.</p>
Built environment	<p><b>GSST 4 Compact Growth</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall support the delivery of new homes within the existing built-up footprint of Gort, by sites such as infill or opportunity sites in the settlement and prioritising underutilised land in preference to greenfield sites.</p> <p><b>GSST 5 Opportunity Sites</b></p> <p>To encourage and support the appropriate and sustainable development or redevelopment of lands identified as development opportunity sites within the Land Use Zoning Map. See Section 3.0 in respect of individual sites.</p>
Flood Risk Management	<p><b>Section 2.10 Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p>Chapter 14 Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource from the GCDP 2022 – 2028 sets out the Strategic Aims and key Policy Objectives pertaining to Flood Risk Management in County Galway.</p> <p>Any forthcoming proposals must comply with <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents), in addition to the flood risk management policies contained in the GCDP and this plan.</p> <p><b>GSST 25 Constrained Land Use</b></p> <p>To facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of land within Flood Zones A and B.</p> <p>New development in these areas will generally be limited (apart from where the Plan-level Justification Test outlined in the accompanying SFRA has been passed or where the uses comprise minor developments in existing developed areas, as outlined in Section 5.28 of the Guidelines as amended by Circular PL 2/2014) to water-compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B, and a detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas.</p> <p>This limitation shall take primacy over any other provision relating to land use zoning objectives.</p> <p>The Plan-level Justification Test has been passed for all lands zoned Town Centre overlapping within Flood Zone A or B.</p> <p><b>GSST 58 Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p> <p>It is the policy objective of Galway County Council to support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (2009) (and any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance) and Department Circular PL2/2014 or any updated / superseding version.</p> <p><b>GSST 59 Flood Risk Management and Assessment</b></p> <p>It is a Policy Objective of the Council to comply with the requirements of the DoEHLG/OPW <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> and its accompanying Technical Appendices Document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents). This will include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines;</li> </ol>

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	<p>b) Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a Site- Specific Flood Risk Assessment, and justification test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document); Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts;</p> <p>c) Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted;</p> <p>d) Galway County Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding.</p> <p><b>GSST 60 Principles of Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p> <p>The Council shall implement the key principles of flood risk management set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines as follows:</p> <p>a) Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible;</p> <p>b) Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and,</p> <p>c) Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible.</p> <p>Development should only be permitted in areas at risk of flooding when there are no alternative reasonable sites available in areas at lower risk that also meet the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development. Vulnerable development in areas which have the highest flood risk should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances (through a prescribed Justification Test) if adequate land or sites are not available in areas which have lower flood risk.</p> <p><b>GSST 63 Flood Risk Assessment for Planning Applications and CFRAMS</b></p> <p>Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standards 2 and 3. Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at elevated risk of flooding, even for developments appropriate to the particular flood zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The Council shall have regard to the results of any CFRAM Studies in the assessment of planning applications. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test in addition to the site-specific Flood Risk Assessment. In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required, and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed.</p> <p><b>GSST 64 Flood Risk Assessment and Climate Change</b></p> <p>Flood Risk Assessment in Gort shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regards to flood risk in relevant locations. The Flood Risk Management – Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019 (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p><b>GSST 65 River Basin Management Plan and Protection of Waters</b></p> <p>Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the National River Basin Management Plan or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council will support the protection and, where appropriate, the restoration of all water bodies in order to reach good status and will seek to prevent deterioration in the status of all water bodies.</p> <p><b>GSST 66 Flood Vulnerable Zones</b></p> <p>It is a policy objective of the Council to ensure that applications pertaining to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following – floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events.</p> <p><b>GSST 67 Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p>Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p>
Invasive species	As a result of alignment with the objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 through <b>policy GSST 1</b> and <b>Section 1.2 Planning Context</b> , objectives relating to the management and prevention of spread of invasive species within the Draft Plan area are provided for in the Draft Plan.
Agriculture	<p><b>GSST 23 Agriculture</b></p> <p>To promote the development of agriculture and agriculture-related uses in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. There will be a general presumption against residential development on Agricultural zoned lands, located within the plan boundary except for single house developments for family members on farm family-owned lands.</p>
Air Pollution	<p><b>GSST 35 Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall promote the benefit of open spaces and implement the integration of green infrastructure/networks (e.g., interconnected network of green spaces (including aquatic ecosystems) and other physical features on land) into new development and regeneration proposals in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p><b>GSST 46 Sustainable Transportation</b></p> <p>Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the plan area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicles rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes, cycle parking as appropriate.</p> <p><b>GSST 53 Climate Change</b></p> <p>Support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrated land use and low carbon transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon emissions</p>

## Screening for AA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Climate	<p><b>Section 1.3</b></p> <p>Climate change and its associated challenges has been covered throughout the GCDP 2022-2028 as an embedded theme. Chapter 14 <i>Climate Change, Energy and Renewable Resource</i> details the nature and extent of climate change and how it impacts people's lives, society and the broader economy. In line with the provisions of the GCDP 2022-2028, this LAP seeks to deliver well planned communities, where sustainable modes of transport are utilised in the first instance when travelling to local facilities such as education, work, and commercial activity.</p> <p><b>GSST 35 Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Galway County Council shall promote the benefit of open spaces and implement the integration of green infrastructure/networks (e.g., interconnected network of green spaces (including aquatic ecosystems) and other physical features on land) into new development and regeneration proposals in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p><b>GSST 46 Sustainable Transportation</b></p> <p>Facilitate any Smarter Travel initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the plan area and facilitate sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicles rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes, cycle parking as appropriate.</p> <p><b>GSST 53 Climate Change</b></p> <p>Support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrated land use and low carbon transportation, and maximise opportunities through development location, form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p><b>GSST 54 Climate Change and Local Renewable Energy Sources</b></p> <p>Support and facilitate the implementation of European, National and Regional objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p><b>GSST 72 Renewable Energy</b></p> <p>Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy and associated infrastructure within the LAP area and encourage the integration of micro-renewable energy sources into the design and construction of new developments as appropriate.</p>
Management of water services, wastewater and implementation of SuDS <sup>16</sup>	<p><b>Section 2.9 Water supply and wastewater treatment</b></p> <p>Galway County Council has had regard to Uisce Éireann's (formerly Irish Water) strategic plans in preparing this LAP. The <i>Draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050</i> (WSSP 2050) is Uisce Éireann's forthcoming long-term strategic plan setting out the strategic direction and objectives over a 25-year period.</p> <p>Galway County Council recognises that the delivery of infrastructure and utilities in a sustainable manner are critical to the future development of the county. Any development proposals within the settlement of Gort should liaise with Uisce Éireann in respect of water supply and wastewater infrastructure required as set out in Chapter 7 of the GCDP.</p> <p><b>GSST 31 Water Supply and Water Conservation</b></p> <p>Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply, promote water conservation to reduce the overall level of water loss in the public supply and require that new domestic developments provide for water supply metering in accordance with their connection agreement with Uisce Éireann.</p> <p><b>GSST 61 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)</b></p> <p>Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system in Gort. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments. Surface water runoff from development sites will be limited to pre-development levels and planning applications for new developments will be required to provide details of surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems proposals. To maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water, the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers is not permitted. Refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA, "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy".</p>
Waste Management	<p><b>GSST 2 Service - Led Development</b></p> <p>Development under the plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public wastewater infrastructure and potable water infrastructure. Potential developers shall make a Pre-Connection Enquiry to Uisce Éireann in order to establish the feasibility of a connection to the public network.</p> <p><b>GSST 68 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling</b></p> <p>Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in new developments, new development proposals shall be required to submit proposals demonstrating how this is to be achieved and shall seek to ensure on-site provision for waste storage and segregation (bio-waste/dry recyclables/residual waste) pending collection at all new domestic and non-domestic premises.</p>

<sup>16</sup> Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems  
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