APPENDIX I
OF THE
NATURA IMPACT REPORT

IN SUPPORT OF THE

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

OF THE

CLIFDEN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2018-2024

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

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Appendix I

Background information on European Sites

Table 1 List of European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Clifden Local Area Plan; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	**Site Name**	**Distance (km)**	**Qualifying Features** (Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests)	**Site Vulnerability**
002031	The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC	0	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150] Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355] Freshwater Pearl Mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)* [1029] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] *Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar)* [1106] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) [8110]	Large tracts of blanket bog are currently overgrazed by sheep and are vulnerable to erosion, a problem that could be accentuated by the striping of commonage which is taking place in some areas. Other threats are the further expansion of commercial afforestation on blanket bog, and the development of fish-farming in the oligotrophic lakes.
002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC	0	Alkaline fens [7230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Coastal lagoons [1150] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Marsh Fritillary *(Euphydryas aurinia)* [1065] European dry heaths [4030] Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Reefs [1170] Atlantic Salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Water courses of plain to montane levels with *Ranunculion*	The main damaging operations and threats in the Connemara Bog Complex are peat cutting, over-grazing and afforestation. Extensive peat extraction using 'Difco' machines has become common in the region in recent years, and cutting by excavator and hopper is also increasing. The hand-cutting of peat is less threatening as it is usually on a much smaller scale, but nonetheless it should be controlled within the site. Over-grazing and poaching by sheep and cattle is a widespread problem within the site, with erosion of peat ensuing. The above operations are the most extensive but other threats and potentially damaging operations include land drainage and reclamation, fertilization, quarrying and dumping.

			fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	
002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC	1.14	Alkaline fens [7230] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330] Coastal lagoons [1150] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] European dry heaths [4030] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.* [3140] *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) [6510] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) [6410] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)* [1395] Reefs [1170] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco-Brometalia)* (* important orchid sites) [6210] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes *(Ammophila arenaria)* [2120]	Main threats to site are further improvement for agriculture of heath and grassland habitats. Overgrazing is a general threat but especially to machair. Further housing developments within site would be locally damaging. Extension to the golf course at Aillebrack is a threat to the machair, while increase in leisure activities, especially caravanning is also a threat to machair. Lakes which are oligotrophic would be affected by intensification of agriculture in the immediate vicinity. Petalophyllum ralfsii population in part of the site is threatened by undergrazing and by heavy vehicle usage. Aquaculture activities seem to be the most immediate source of concern at Mannin Bay. The 'Coral Strand' of Mannin Bay is most vulnerable to activities that affect the maerl bed in the middle of the bay. Such activities include commercial extraction of maerl deposits, mollusc dredging, and suction dredging of bivalves such as *Ensis* and *Venerupis spp.* Ecological changes to maerl beds may be caused by removing predator or grazer species by fishing. Mechanical damage due to mooring boats is likely to be a result of increased leisure activities over maerl. Low intensity pollution from use of Invermectin is of particular concern to rocky shore communities at Mannin Bay. Part of the machair and dune system at Aillebrack has been damaged by the construction of a golf course and this area is excluded from the site. Leisure and tourist related activities may also be damaging parts of the machair system.
004181	Connemara Bog Complex SPA	1.16	Common Gull *(Larus canus)* [A182] Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017] Golden Plover *(Pluvialis apricaria)* [A140] Merlin *(Falco columbarius)* [A098]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
002998	West Connacht Coast SAC	4.35	Common Bottlenose Dolphin *(Tursiops truncates)* [1349]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
002265	Kingstown Bay SAC	5.35	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
004231	Inishbofin, Omey Island and Turbot Island SPA	6.89	Corncrake *(Crex crex)* [A122]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
002118	Barnahallia Lough SAC	6.95	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833]	A recent survey of the lake indicated that the water quality is good. However, owing to its small size, the lake would be sensitive to nutrient enrichment derived from agricultural activities.
000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	7.03	Grey Seal *(Halichoerus grypus)* [1364] Reefs [1170]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.

004221	Illaunnanoon SPA	7.13	Sandwich *Tern (Sterna sandvicensis)* [A191]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
004159	Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands SPA	7.18	Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194] Barnacle Goose *(Branta leucopsis)* [A045] Little Tern *(Sterna albifrons)* [A195] Sandwich Tern *(Sterna sandvicensis)* [A191]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
000330	Tully Mountain SAC	8.79	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] European dry heaths [4030]	On the slopes below 200 m over-grazing by sheep has resulted in erosion of the heath vegetation; burning of the lower slopes adds further to degradation of the site. Other activities which are impacting on the site include quarrying, burning, peat cutting and water abstraction.
002129	Murvey Machair SAC	8.89	Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)*[1395]	Most of the site is heavily grazed by sheep, cattle and rabbits. This is exacerbating the natural erosion along the back of the beach.
001309	Omey Island Machair SAC	9.2	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.* [3140] Machairs (* in Ireland) [21A0] Petalwort *(Petalophyllum ralfsii)*[1395]	The problem of widespread erosion on the machair is exacerbated by the large numbers of rabbits on the island. Over-grazing, burrowing by rabbits and increasing pressure from visitors make the machair more susceptible to erosion by wind and sea. In common with most of the machair in the county this site would benefit greatly from a reduction in grazing pressure.
001228	Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC	9.91	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
002130	Tully Lough SAC	10.05	Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)*[1833] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]	The main threat to this site is further agricultural intensification, leading to loss of bog and wet grassland habitats surrounding the lake, and ultimately to eutrophication of the lake. The oligotrophic vegetation, including Slender Naiad, could be adversely affected. Afforestation in the catchment would also be a serious threat. Modifications to the house where the bats roost could affect their use of the site.
000324	Rosroe Bog SAC	10.45	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of *Rhynchosporion* [7150]	The main threats to the site are turf-cutting and over-grazing - these can cause significant damage to blanket bog and heath. Fire also poses a threat as it causes damage to vegetation and dessication of the peat surface.
001251	Cregduff Lough SAC	10.89	Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
001257	Dog's Bay SAC	10.93	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] European dry heaths [4030] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes *(Ammophila arenaria)* [2120]	The main threats posed to this coastal system are over-grazing by domestic livestock and rabbits, and intensive visitor pressure during the summer. These activities are exacerbating the natural dune erosion, which is especially severe on the west side of the tombolo. Careful management is required to maintain the conservation interest and amenity value of the site.
004170	Cruagh Island SPA	11.77	Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013] Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.
001311	Rusheenduff Lough SAC	11.86	*Slender Naiad (Najas flexilis)* [1833] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the	The shingle beach to the north-west of the lough is included within the site both for its intrinsic habitat interest and for its importance in

			Littorelletea uniflorae and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea* [3130]	the maintenance of the existing hydrological conditions within the lough. Breaches of the shingle bar by the sea would lead to an alteration in the salinity of the waters of the lough and would threaten the survival of the rare and unusual vegetation communities there. Eutrophication of the lough waters through run-off from surrounding farmland or through the discharge of domestic sewage would also pose a threat.
002008	Maumturk Mountains SAC	13.74	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of *Rhynchosporion* [7150] Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110] Atlantic Salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	The main damaging activities and threats to the Maumturk Mountains are overgrazing, peat cutting and afforestation. Grazing, in particular by sheep, is widespread and quite severe within the site. This has resulted in the erosion of both lowland and mountain blanket bog, and in the modification and destruction of heath communities, particularly in the southern half of the site. Peat cutting, both by hand and by machine, has become more of a problem in recent years but is largely confined to areas of deep, lowland blanket bog. The above activities are the most extensive, but other threats and potentially damaging activities include land drainage and reclamation, fertilization, quarrying and dumping.
000278	Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC	14.02	Coastal lagoons [1150] European dry heaths [4030] Grey Seal *(Halichoerus grypus)* [1364] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)* [3110]	In recent times, over-grazing by sheep, and to a lesser extent rabbits, has caused damage to the vegetation cover of the islands. Cutting of the shallow peat is also considered a problem.
004144	High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA	14.02	Arctic Tern *(Sterna paradisaea)* [A194] Barnacle Goose *(Branta leucopsis)* [A045] Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009]	No site-specific threats were identified by the NPWS.

Table 2: List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have undergone assessment including summaries of current threats and sensitivity to effects

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Alkaline fens	Peat mining activities, land drainage; infilling; fertiliser pollution and eutrophication	Groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in nutrient or base status.
Alpine and Boreal heaths	Abandonment; overgrazing; burning; outdoor recreation; quarries; communication networks; and wind farm developments.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.
Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)*	Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*); infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Austropotamobius pallipes	Introduction of diseases transmitted by introduced American crayfish.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Blanket bog (active only)	Land reclamation, peat extraction; afforestation; erosion and landslides triggered by human activity; drainage; burning and infrastructural development.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Coastal lagoons	Drainage for agricultural and safety reasons; natural siltation; Water pollution in the form of excessive nutrient enrichment	Surface, ground and marine water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution. Changes in salinity and tidal regime.
Depressions on peat substrates of *Rhynchosporion*	Drainage; burning; peat extraction; overgrazing; afforestation; erosion; and climate change.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Erosion, land-use changes.
Drepanocladus vernicosus	Fertilization; abandonment of pastoral systems; undergrazing; afforestation; water pollution; and drainage.	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Euphydryas aurinia	Abandonment of traditional pastoral systems; infrastructure developments and increased urbanisation	Changes in management. Habitats are sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in nutrient base status.
European dry heaths	Afforestation, overburning, over-grazing, under-grazing and bracken invasion.	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Recreation; overgrazing and undergrazing: non-native plant species, particularly sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*),	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp*	Nutrient enrichment arising from intensification of agriculture and urban developments.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	Overgrazing; fire; agricultural expansion; invasion by alien species particularly *Rhododenron ponticum*; and poor regeneration.	Onset of inundation or waterlogging Inappropriate management.
Lampetra planeri	Channel maintenance, barriers, passage obstruction, gross pollution and specific pollutants.	Surface water dependent Highly sensitive to hydrological change.
Large shallow inlets and bays	Aquaculture, fishing, dumping of wastes and water pollution.	Surface and marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Aquaculture, fishing and pollution.
Lowland hay meadows *(Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)*	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems and the associated encroachment of rank vegetation and scrub.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Lutra lutra	Decrease in water quality: Use of pesticides; fertilization; vegetation removal; professional fishing (including lobster pots and fyke nets); hunting; poisoning; sand and gravel extraction; mechanical removal of peat; urbanised areas; human habitation; continuous urbanization; drainage; management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes; and canalization or modifying structures of inland water course.	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
Margaritifera margaritifera	Poor substrate quality due to increased growth of algal and macrophyte vegetation as a result of severe nutrient enrichment, as well as physical siltation.	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Very highly sensitive to pollution.
Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)*	Over-grazing by cattle or sheep; infilling and reclamation.	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clavey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)*	Agricultural intensification; drainage; abandonment of pastoral systems	Surface and groundwater dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
Najas flexilis	Fertilization; disposal of household waste; water pollution; eutrophication; and invasion by alien species.	Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Peat cutting, overgrazing and afforestation of peatland habitats.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Natural euthrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation	Nutrient enrichment; overgrazing; afforestation and general forest management; introduction of invasive species; and increased pressures from human activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	Reclamation, afforestation and burning; overstocking; invasion by non-heath species; exposure of peat to severe erosion.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in British Isles	The introduction of alien species; sub-optimal grazing patterns; general forestry management; increases in urbanisation and human habitation adjacent to oak woodlands; and the construction of communication networks through the woodland.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Introduction of alien species.
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains *(Littorelletalia uniflorae)*	Nutrient enrichment; afforestation; waste water; invasive alien species; sport and leisure activities.	Surface and groundwater dependant. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Disruption of the sediment supply, owing to the interruption of the coastal processes, caused by developments such as car parks and coastal defence structures including rock armour and sea walls. The removal of gravel.	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from recreational activity and gravel removal.
Petalophyllum ralfsii	Agricultural improvement and fertilisation; overgrazing; changes in agricultural practices i.e. land abandonment & undergrazing; drainage; erosion and drying out.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Sensitive to hydrological change.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation *(Cratoneurion)*	Peat or turf cutting; arterial drainage; local drainage; water abstraction and agricultural reclamation.	Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in nutrient or base status.
Petromyzon marinus	Obstructions to movement; pollution	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change
Phoca vitulina	Continued by-catch in fishing gear; occasional illegal culling; competition for prey resources with fisheries and disturbance at key breeding and moulting haul-out sites.	Marine water dependent. Sensitive to changes in food supply.
Reefs	Professional fishing; taking for fauna; taking for flora; water pollution; climate change; and change in species composition.	Sensitive to disturbance and pollution.
Rhinolophus hipposideros	Loss of suitable summer and winter roosting sites; loss of commuting routes linking roosts to foraging sites, and loss of suitable foraging sites.	Disturbance. Changes in Management.
Salmo salar	Numerous threats impact upon this species. Some of these include: cultivation, pesticides; fertilization; pollution; water pollution; biocenotic	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change.

Qualifying Interests	Current threats to Qualifying Interests	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
	evolution; accumulation of organic material; eutrophication; over-fishing; forest related pressures; parasites.	
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *(Festuco Brometalia)*(important orchid sites)	The main threats to this habitat include the abandonment of traditional agricultural practices and reclamation. Overgrazing; erosion; invasive species, particularly common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*); infilling and reclamation.	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)	Removal of beach material and interference with the supply of sand; construction of coastal defences; sand compaction caused by vehicles and trampling.	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
Transition mires and quaking bogs	Drainage, infilling, reclamation and pollution.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management
Turloughs	Nutrient enrichment and inappropriate grazing; drainage, peat cutting; marl extraction and quarrying.	Surface and Groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in nutrient or base status.
Common Bottlenose Dolphin *(Tursiops truncates)*	Food availability	Overfishing and noise/vibration disturbances.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Erosion; grazing; recreational pressures; development of golf courses and housing; dumping; cutting of peat; coastal protection works; climate change.	Coastal development. Erosion, over-grazing and recreation.
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	Eutrophication; overgrazing, excessive fertilisation; afforestation; and the introduction of invasive alien species.	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Highly sensitive to pollution.

Table 3 List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone assessment including summaries of current threats and sensitivity to effects

Special Conservation Interests	Vulnerabilities of Special Conservation Interests
Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]	Bird species are particularly vulnerable to direct disturbance due to noise and/or vibration. These effects are localised and disturbance effects are foreseen to be low at distances beyond 2km. Direct habitat loss is a serious concern for bird species, as well as the reduction in habitat quality. Habitat degradation could occur through effects such as local enrichment due to agricultural practices or damage to habitat through activities such as trampling. Land use change is an issue for bird species such as the *Crex crex*, which require the cover of tall vegetation throughout their breeding cycle and are strongly associated with meadows which are harvested annually, where they nest and feed. Annual cutting of these meadows creates a sward which is easy for the birds to move through. Changes in agricultural practices could affect the species due to their dependence on management practices for habitat availability. Prey species diversity and availability is a key element of species conservation. Community dynamics and ecosystem functionality are complex concepts and require site specific information. The site synopsis and conservation objectives for the SPA's identified within the ZOI were used to identify any specific prey sensitivities. Availability of nesting/roosting habitat. Vegetation composition, structure and functionality.
Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) [A045]	
Common Gull (*Larus canus*) [A182]	
Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]	
Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009]	
Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) [A140]	
Corncrake (*Crex crex*) [A122]	
Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) [A195]	
Merlin (Falco columbarius) [A098]	
Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013]	
Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) [A191]	
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Sensitivity and threats vary on a site to site basis. Direct land take is a common vulnerability to all sites; as well as significant water quality effects. The conservation objective of all SPA's designated for Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.