

**HABITATS DIRECTIVE ASSESSMENT
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

NATURA IMPACT REPORT



**KENMARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
LOCAL AREA PLAN
2023-2029**

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Kerry County Council
County Buildings
Rathass
Tralee
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August 2023

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1. PREFACE

Kerry County Council has prepared the Draft Kenmare Municipal District Local Area Plan 2023-2029, hereafter referred to as the Kenmare MDLAP. The purpose of this Natura Impact Report (NIR) is to outline and record the assessment process which has been applied to date as part of the Appropriate Assessment for the MDLAP under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive [92/43/EEC] as transposed through Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report to inform the AA has been prepared and is included as Appendix A of this report. As part of this, the methodology and various stages of Appropriate Assessment are set out therein.

The European sites listed in Tables 1.1 and 1.2 were screened in for Stage two Appropriate Assessment, as the plan potentially facilitates development projects and activities in sensitive locations within, near and or upstream/downstream of these European sites, which unmitigated has potential to significantly affect same. No viable or realistic pathway (ecological, hydrological or otherwise) for impact on other European sites exists and potential for significant effect on same has been conclusively ruled out. It should be noted that Tables 1-1 and 1-2 include all European sites which overlap with the plan area or which are located within the same water sub-catchment as any of the plan areas settlements.

Table 1-1 Special Areas of Conservation screened in for Appropriate Assessment

Special Areas of Conservation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary, 000335• Castlemaine Harbour, 000343• Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353• Kilgarvan Ice House, 000364• Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment 000365• Mucksna Wood, 001371• Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood, 002098• Kenmare River, 002158• Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel, 002262

Table 1-2 Special Protected Areas screened in for Appropriate Assessment

Special Protected Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Castlemaine Harbour 004029• Iveragh Peninsula 004154

In preparing this NIR, a multi-stage approach has been taken. The purpose of this staged approach has been to align the AA process with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive [2001/42/EC] process which is also required to support the development of the Kenmare MDLAP. Art. 3.2(b) of the SEA Directive expressly links to assessments pursuant to Article 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC. The preparation of the SEA and AA reporting comprises an integrated approach, such as sharing of baseline data and mapping of European Sites, sharing of potential ecological effects of the MDLAP on European Sites. In turn the SEA is informed by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment undertaken for the MDLAP. These processes together have informed and shaped the development of the MDLAP.

It should be noted that all recommendations contained within this NIR have been incorporated into the published Draft Kenmare MDLAP.

In the case of land use plans such as this, further assessment is likely to be required to assess material amendments arising during the remainder of the plan making process and prior to adoption and finalisation. Such assessments will form addenda to this report.

The layout of the NIR is as follows:-

- Chapter 2 provides an introduction to the report and sets out the planning and legislative context of the plan and the NIR.
- Chapter 3 describes the Kenmare Municipal District Local Area Plan, including the scope of same in more detail.
- Chapter 4 provides an overview of the receiving environment.
- Chapters 5-7 contain the appropriate assessment. These should be read in conjunction with the information contained in the preceding sections and in the Appendices.
- Chapter 8 provides the (preliminary) Appropriate Assessment conclusion statement of the Natura Impact Report in relation to the MDLAP, mindful that the plan is likely to be amended prior to adoption and coming into effect.
- Chapter 9 provides an overview of the next steps in the plan making process and its relationship with this Natura Impact Report Appropriate Assessment.

2. INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING HIERARCHY CONTEXT

2.1. Introduction

The Kerry MDLAP is a land use plan, which primarily sets the framework for the settlements located within the plan area. The MDLAP is guided by the higher-level Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and also national and regional planning policy. For the purposes of this report the 'plan' is taken to be Kenmare MDLAP. The plan sets the framework for land use decision making within the plan area for the six-year period outlined. The MDLAP contains policy and land use zoning objectives for the settlements in the plan area, including the principal settlements of Kenmare, Cahersiveen and Killorglin.

2.2. Planning hierarchy

The plan aims to put in place objectives that will better manage land use planning and economic development in the plan area, guided by the more strategic Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 and higher-level plans. This MDLAP does not, in and of its own right, confer consent for any specific development.

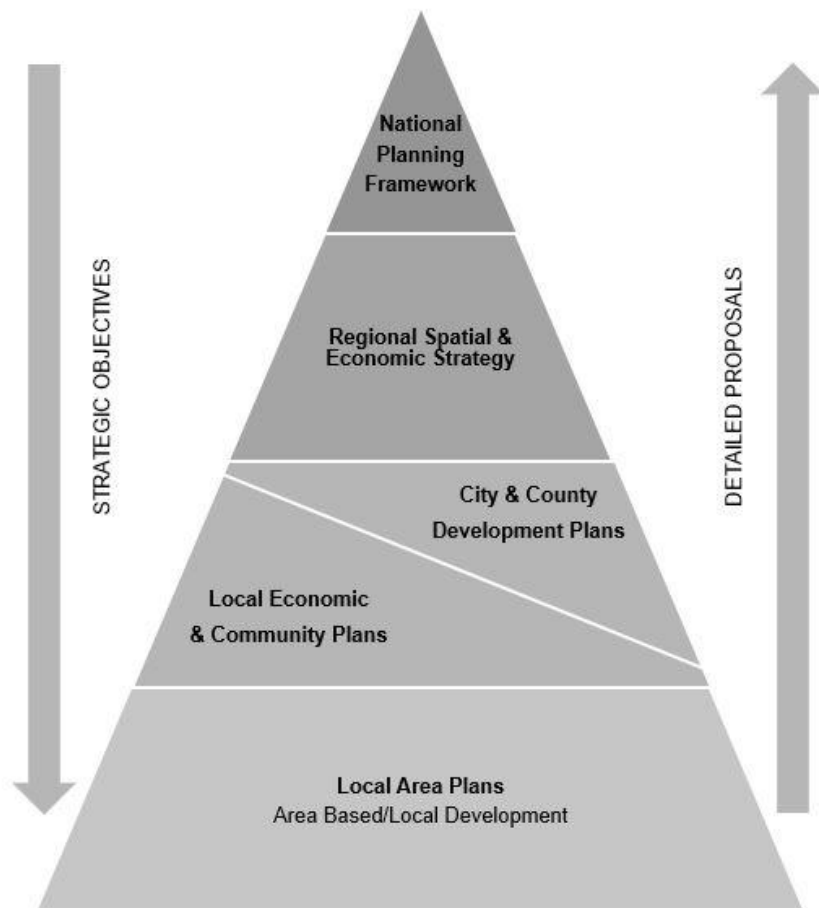


Figure 2-1 Planning Hierarchy context for the Local Area Plan within the National planning hierarchy for Spatial Planning

2.3. Legislative context of the Natura Impact Report (NIR)

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as "The Habitats Directive", provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community Interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as the Natura 2000 Network. In Ireland, the Natura 2000 network of European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC (hereafter referred to as the Birds Directive). In this report the terms 'Natura 2000 sites' and 'European Sites' are used interchangeably.

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). In the context of the MDLAP, the governing legislation is principally Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Regulation 27 of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations also has relevance as this sets out the general duties of public authorities in relation to the nature directives and nature conservation.

As the plan has been identified as one which, unmitigated has the potential to have significant effects on European (Natura 2000) sites, the plan is therefore subject to AA in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The responsibility for carrying out the AA lies with Kerry County Council. This NIR has been prepared in support of the AA process having regard for the legislative requirements of EU and national law. An NIR is defined under section 177T of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended: 177T.— (1) In this Part— (a) A Natura impact report means a statement for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a Land use plan, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

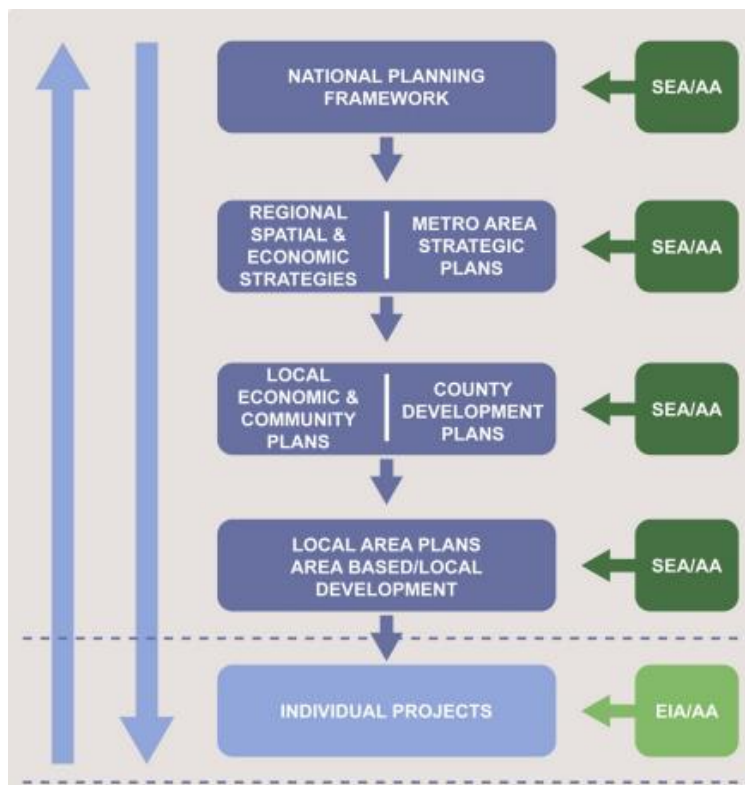
The NIR comprises an examination, analysis, evaluation, findings and conclusions and will inform the AA determination to be made by Kerry County Council prior to finalising and adopting the MDLAP, as to whether or not the MDLAP would adversely affect the integrity of a European site (alone or in combination with other plans and projects).

3. SCOPE, PARAMETERS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

3.1. Introduction

The growth and development targets outlined in the plan are in line with those specified in the Kerry County Development Plan (CDP) 2022-2028, which itself was subject to both SEA and AA. The likely environmental implications of same have therefore been previously assessed. This local area plan does, however, provide a degree of geographic specificity greater than that outlined within the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, and which now requires assessment. As part of this land use zoning objectives for the larger settlements are outlined, while settlement boundaries have been identified for the smaller villages. Elsewhere the objectives and policies that make up the Plan are for the most part generalised in nature and therefore the impact assessment for same is similarly generalised in its scope.

It should be noted that as per the planning hierarchy chart outlined below the greatest level of clarity and geographic specificity generally becomes available at the development consent stage, where a more specific Habitats Directive Assessment can be undertaken.



Above: AA within the land use planning hierarchy

3.2. The purpose of the plan

The LAP is being prepared by KCC to provide a statutory framework for the future growth, development and improvement of the Kenmare MD area. This has to be consistent with the policies and objectives of Chapter 3 in the KCDP 2022-2028 namely the Core strategy/settlement strategy. The purpose of the plan is to set out a comprehensive local planning framework with clear policies and objectives including land use zoning in the interests of the common good. The Local Area Plan will replace the previously adopted Local Area Plans contained in the Kenmare Functional Area Local Area Plan 2010, Killorglin Functional Area LAP 2010 and the West Iveragh Local Area Plan 2019-2025.

The Kenmare Municipal District covers a significantly large geographical area of the County. The area and main settlements of the LAP are shown in Figure 3. 1. The regional towns are Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin while Sneem and Waterville occupy an important role as district towns for the area as identified in the settlement hierarchy of the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028. The regional towns are significantly larger than the other settlements in the M.D. area. Valentia Island and the Gaeltacht area of Uíbh Ráthach are also situated in the Kenmare MDLAP.

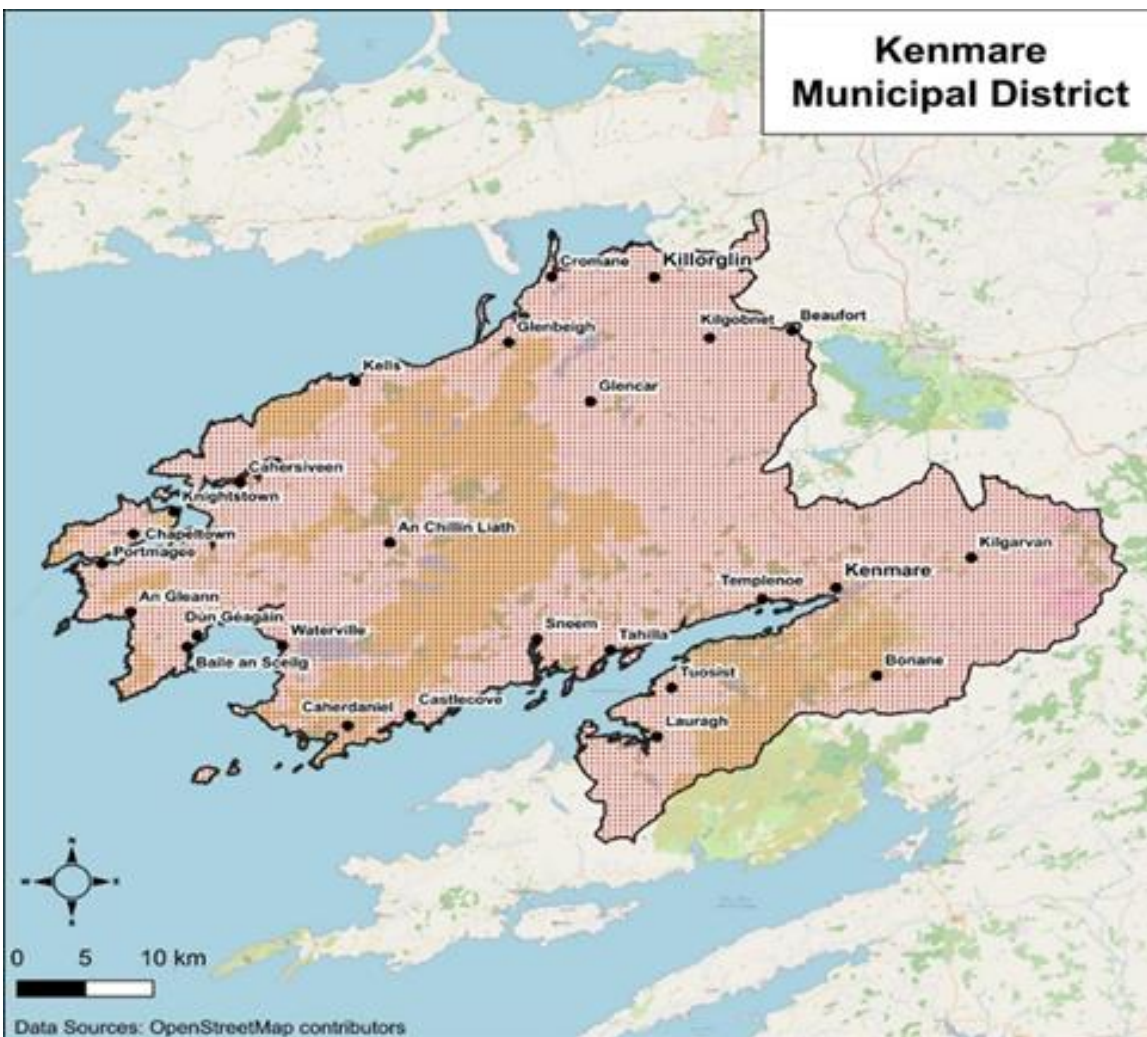


Figure 3. 1. Plan area and settlements

The LAP provides guidance for development in the following settlements:

Settlement Status	Settlement
Regional Town	Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Killorglin
District Town	Sneem, Waterville
Villages	Baile an Sceilg, Beaufort, Chapeltown, Dún Géagáin, Glenbeigh, Kilgarvan, Knightstown, Portmagee
Small Village Settlements	Bonane, Caherdaniel, Castlecove, Cromane, Lauragh, Glencar, Tahilla, Templenoe, Tuosist, Kilgobnet

The MD LAP is the principal statutory planning instrument for setting out a balanced understanding, vision and spatial strategies at the local level. The purpose of the LAP is to guide future plan led coordinated development within the towns and villages of the Kenmare MD. This is to be undertaken in a sustainable and equitable manner while balancing the wide ranging and sometimes competing needs of the local community, businesses, landowners and the environment. It functions to inform members of the public, the local community, stakeholders and developers of the policies and objectives for the development of this area. It includes provisions in relation to land use management, community facilities and amenities, transport and infrastructure, urban design, heritage and the environment. The MD LAP provides guidance as to how the development can be achieved, what new developments are needed, where public and private resource inputs are required and guidance for development proposed in the plan area.

Once adopted, planning applications received within the Kenmare MD will be measured against the contents of the MDLAP in addition to the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028. The Kenmare MD LAP must therefore be read in conjunction with the KCDP 2022-2028 and any variations thereof. Unless otherwise stated, KCDP 2022-2028 policies, objectives and development management standards still apply to the plan area. The successful implementation of the LAP will have a positive impact on the Kenmare Municipal District, ensuring it develops in a sustainable manner. Taken in conjunction with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the KCDP 2022-2028, the Municipal District Local Area Plan will complete the planning framework for the area.

3.3. Overall vision and Strategic Aims identified in the Kenmare MDLAP.

The Kenmare MD LAP's presents a key vision for the MD as follows:

To develop the area's settlements as a network of attractive, liveable towns and villages with sustainable levels of population, employment activity and enhanced levels of amenity which encourage a high quality of life and well-being and support a sustainable synergy with the rural countryside.

In aiming to achieve this vision a number of key strategic aims for the area have been identified. They are detailed in Section 2 subsection 2.1.4 of the Plan as follows:

- Reinforcement of the social and economic strength of the area by building critical mass of population and jobs in the designated towns and villages;
- Broadening the economic base to ensure future prosperity and maximise the potential of the region.
- To sustainably strengthen the role of Killorglin as an economic driver, key settlement in the Kerry Hub Knowledge Triangle and Atlantic Economic Corridor and build upon its inherent strengths as a centre of skills, innovation and enterprise growth.
- The need to sustainably strengthen the role of Kenmare as a centre of excellence in tourism, recreation and amenity sectors.
- To promote and strengthen Cahersiveen as a centre for economic growth and employment and as an attractive place to live and visit.
- Promotion of the sustainable development of the area's agricultural communities and other traditional rural based economic activity while simultaneously fostering sustainable economic diversification and development in rural areas.
- To build a sustainable tourism future that maximises and diversifies the tourism product to the highest standard particularly into non-traditional areas and extends the tourist season taking particular care of the natural and built environment.
- Increased connectivity of the area, both with strategic economic centres within the county and with the regional cities identified in the National Planning Framework through the development of critical infrastructure.
- Investment in key pieces of water infrastructure (including upgrade of the Kenmare WWTP and increased and appropriately sourced water supply for the Kenmare area) to realise the potential of the towns and villages of the plan area and to protect quality of the surrounding environment.
- The development of the technological capacity within the area through supporting the rollout of broadband and telecommunications infrastructure, facilitating the development of digital hubs and the establishment of start-up enterprise space in existing unoccupied buildings.
- The sustainable management of the land resource in the settlements, through targeting dereliction, vacant and under-utilised sites in towns and villages to ensure development is carried out in an integrated and consolidated manner and through regeneration stimulation opportunities, whilst avoiding inappropriate development.
- The creation of an age friendly environment that will cater for the needs of an ageing population
- To ensure that the Irish language will be preserved and promoted as the living community language of the Gaeltacht and that Gaeltacht communities will be supported to strengthen and expand the social networks that nourish Irish as the community language.

3.4. Overall Development Strategy of the Kenmare MDLAP

The overall development strategy of the MD is outlined in Section 2 subsection 2.1.6 of the plan. It recognises the importance of the growth of the towns and villages identified in the settlement hierarchy of the KCDP 2022-2028 in achieving the aims and objectives of the MD plan. This is a major challenge for the MD, particularly as rural areas outside of settlements have continued to attract a strong demand for one off rural type housing. The impact of low growth rates for the main towns and villages and the longer term social, economic physical and environmental implications for the Kenmare Municipal District are highlighted. The development and sustaining of a

critical population mass is identified as vital to the sustainability of the settlements in the Kenmare Municipal District. It is the aim of the settlement strategy as set out in section 3.10 of the KCDP 2022-2028 to:

- promote the growth and sustainable development of Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin as regional towns, (Kenmare subject to the provision of approved wastewater infrastructure) This implies that these regional towns are at the centre of sustainable economic growth in the MD,
- promote the growth and sustainable development of Sneem and Waterville as district towns, and
- facilitate sustainable compact growth relevant to the size of the settlement in the designated villages and small village settlements in compliance with the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The MD plan envisages that the development of these settlements will allow for the provision of local services, by encouraging and facilitating population growth at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of those settlements, where water services infrastructure is likely to be available or there are plans in place to develop such infrastructure. Strategic development objectives are listed in the plan to further this aim.

3.5. Local Area Plan – key aspects

Section 2 sub sections 2.2-Section 2.11 of the Kenmare MD plan proceeds to provide background information on the MD under the headings of: Population, Sustainable land use development, Rural areas, Sustainable communities, Gaeltacht Areas, Culture & Heritage, Economic Development, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation, Environment, Water & Wastewater Management, and Connectivity. Key points from these sections of the MD plan are summarised below.

3.5.1. Population, Housing and Sustainable land use development

The population of the Kenmare MD was recorded at 27,161 in 2022. This was a population increase of 8.4% on the 2016 figure which was recorded at 25,062.

A key objective of the KCDP 2022-2028 is to strengthen the urban structure of the regional towns, Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin. To meet this aim, the key objective of the Kenmare MD LAP is to therefore consolidate the core strategy by focusing projected population growth, over the lifetime of the plan into specific settlements – namely Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Killorglin, and to a lesser extent the district towns of Sneem and Waterville (Table 2 2). Development of Kenmare however is dependent on the approval and development of an approved wastewater treatment facility.

Table 2 2 Population allocation for Kenmare MD as outlined in the Core Strategy of KCDP 2022-2028

Main settlements	Population 2016 (CSO)	Population Projection 2022 (Estimate)	Population Growth Target	Housing Requirement
Cahersiveen	1041	1107	129	101
Kenmare	2376	2339	261	204
Killorglin	2199	1107	320	251
Sneem	288	306	27	21
Waterville	462	491	52	41

In the lifetime of the previous KCDP 2015-2021 (as extended), permission for 635 residential units have been granted in the plan area. Of these 280 units were granted in settlements, whilst 354 residential units have been granted in the rural areas of the MD. Relatively low number of residential units were permitted in two of the designated regional towns of the Plan area - Kenmare and Cahersiveen. The GeoDirectory residential address database indicates that the overwhelming majority 721 or 79% of new residential addresses in the plan area between 2012 and 2022 are located in the rural part of the plan area, that is, outside of the development boundary of the settlements in the plan area.

A principal focus of this plan is to encourage re-development and renewal of the town and village cores through various regeneration and renovation measures rather than continual expansion and sprawl of towns and villages out into the countryside. A number of Design Briefs have been prepared for undeveloped residential zoned greenfield sites within the main settlements. These design briefs seek to provide a development framework for the sustainable, phased and integrated development of these residential and other zoned lands and include the incorporation of existing features of biodiversity value (e.g hedgerows, trees, watercourses) & enhancement of biodiversity.

3.5.3. Rural Areas, Sustainable Communities, Gaeltacht Areas and Culture & Heritage

The Rural Area types have been identified in Chapter 5 in the CDP 2022-2028.

Rural areas in the MD are also recognised as facilitating transport and recreational links and development within the plan area. The plan recognises the importance of the proper provision of community and social infrastructure at appropriate locations

The plan supports the Irish language, culture and heritage in the plan area. As part of this the development of sustainable heritage-based tourism projects, the Valentia Transatlantic Cable UNESCO Project and the Bray Head project and the preservation of stone walls are supported.

3.5.5. Economic Development and Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

This section highlights relevant employment and economic activity to the Kenmare MD. The Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle is recognised as an innovative economic hub within the established network of Killorglin, Tralee, Killarney and the Atlantic Economic

Corridor. The plan also highlights that there are several enterprise hubs part of the Kerry Hub Network comprised located within the MD.

Kenmare Enterprise Hub (Kenmare)
RDI Hub (Killorglin)
Sneem Digital Hub (Sneem)
gteic Baile an Sceilg
Office Light (Cahersiveen)
Valentia Cable Station (Valentia)

The plan particularly recognises that towns and villages play a critical role in the overall socio-economic, environmental, cultural growth, development and quality of life of the citizens and visitors alike. The importance of the rural economy is also outlined.

The Plan area has attractive towns, a fantastic natural environment and is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. Its famous attractions include the internationally renowned Ring of Kerry driving route, Gap of Dunloe, Killarney National Park, Valentia Island and Sceilg Mhichíl which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the McGillicuddy Reeks, beaches and lakes.

3.5.8. Connectivity and infrastructure

The supply of residential zoned land is focused in areas where capacity in infrastructure exists, or where capital investment is planned in the short to medium term. Section 2 subsection 2.10 of the plan includes the latest wastewater treatment and water supply capacity register for the plan area received from Uisce Éireann in June 2023.

Strategic issues in relation to sustainable transport and wider connectivity are also outlined in the plan. Projects supported include:- Cahersiveen Rural Regeneration Project Proposals including Boardwalk and Urban Renewal Works, Kenmare walkways including the peninsula park trail improvement works (as per land use zoning map), Kenmare inner relief road, Killorglin Rural Regeneration Project Proposals (including extension and improvements to the River Laune Walkway, permitted extension to the Annadale Road Carpark, proposed linear parks along the River including a wetland park to the south of the Annadale Road Carpark), Killorglin western inner relief link road and bypass constraints area map, Killorglin cycleway/walkway on the N72 out to the Fexco building, Cycleway from Killorglin to Ballykissane Pier, Sneem indicative pedestrian walkways, Sneem footpath and lighting to the GAA grounds on the Sportsfield road, Waterville carpark extension, N70 Waterille to Ballybrack Road Improvement Scheme, wastewater treatment infrastructure upgrades, Ballinskelligs Monk's Trail Walk upgrade, Ballinskelligs Blueway between Ballinskelligs Beach and Ballinskelligs Pier, and the Knightstown and Cahersiveen Blueway, Chapeltown carparking and village green proposals, Glenbeigh to Rossbeigh pedestrian/cycleway links. The plan further supports the sustainable upgrading/development of piers for leisure, rowing and fishing/marine activities. Water services infrastructure improvements in the plan area are also supported, including, Kenmare water supply / storage supplementation proposals and proposals to increase reservoir storage capacity at the mid Kerry Water Treatment Plant, Gearha, Beaufort.

The MD plan includes a recognition of and commitment to the facilitation of the roll out of the National Broadband Plan (NBP). It particularly acknowledges a support for digital/business hubs; start-up enterprise spaces and/or co-working hubs.

3.5.9. Environment

The Kenmare MD LAP area contains several International, European, National and local sites of ecological interest with corresponding environmental designations. Information on the natural environment of the plan is contained in Section 2 subsection 2.9 of the plan.

3.5.10. Settlements

This section of the plan outlines in greater detail the settlement strategy envisaged in the LAP. The strategy is underpinned by the growth of Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin as the leading settlements and to a lesser extent the village of Sneem and Waterville (subject to the upgrading of the permitted wastewater treatment facility in Kenmare). This is consistent with the settlement hierarchy outlined in Chapter 3 of the KCDP 2022-2028.

Section 3 of the MD plan provides more information on how this settlement strategy is to be implemented. It is presented in three parts.

- 3.1: Is an introduction to settlements. This section introduces the overall development principles for the MD settlements including the key objectives.
- 3.2: Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin: This section sets out the planning proposals for the three Regional towns of the Kenmare Municipal District. Zoning maps for each settlement are also included in this section.
- 3.3: District Towns: This section sets out the planning proposals for the District Town settlements in the Kenmare Municipal District; namely Sneem and Waterville. Each settlement is accompanied by a zoning/objective map.
- 3.4: Villages: This section sets out the planning proposals for the village settlements in the Kenmare Municipal District. Each settlement is accompanied by a zoning/objective map.
- 3.5: Small Village Settlements: this section sets out general policy and objectives in respect to the identified small village settlements, within a defined development boundary.

4. OVERVIEW OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.1. Introduction

Ireland has obligations under EU law to protect and conserve biodiversity. This relates to habitats and species both within and outside designated sites. Nationally, Ireland has developed a Biodiversity Plan (DCHG, 2017) to address issues and halt the loss of biodiversity, in line with international commitments. The overall vision in the National Biodiversity Plan is that "biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally." The NBP includes seven strategic objectives cross referenced as appropriate to both the relevant Biodiversity targets and also the UN sustainability goals.

They include:

1. mainstreaming biodiversity across the decision-making process in the State;
2. strengthening the knowledge base underpinning work on biodiversity issues;
3. increasing public awareness and participation;
4. ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside;
5. ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the marine environment;
6. expanding and improving on the management of protected areas and protected species;
7. enhancing the contribution to international biodiversity issues.

Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) has been in development since October 2021. The Plan will set the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2027 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature. Notwithstanding the strategic National Biodiversity Action Plan review that is ongoing, more locally led biodiversity policy is a specific objective of the NBAP. The NBAP looks for more regional and local BAPs to be undertaken. It is within this framework that Kerry County Council formulated a Kerry Biodiversity Action Plan (KBAP) as part of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Volume 6). The Key Objectives of the KBAP are as follows:

- Objective 1: Mainstreaming biodiversity into decision making within the Local Authority
- Objective 2: To conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services in the county
- Objective 3: That biodiversity underpins KCC's responses to the challenges of climate change
- Objective 4: Work with a range of stakeholders to ensure protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the county
- Objective 5: Increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity within KCC and the community
- Objective 6: Support the strengthening of the knowledge base, information and data on biodiversity in the county

4.2. Overview of Biodiversity in the Plan Area

The Iveragh and Beara Peninsulas are significant for biodiversity and nature conservation. As part of this, the plan area contains qualifying interest habitat types on international importance, ranging from the highest uplands in the County to the estuaries and marine environments of Castlemaine Harbour and Kenmare Bay. Much of the plan areas biodiversity is found in farmland, be it within High Nature Value (HNV) farmland or within hedgerows and watercourses located in more intensively farmed areas. Hedgerows, wetlands, watercourses, patches of woodland or semi-natural grasslands all act as stepping-stones within the broader landscape and form an integral part of areas famed landscape. The biodiversity value of farmland is dependent on appropriate agricultural management. Intensification of farming practices but also abandonment of high nature value farmlands are threats to some of the most valued habitats and species in the plan area.

Some of the plan areas most natural habitats require active management to maintain or restore their conservation interest, for example Rhododendron management. Agri-environmental and NPWS schemes such as ACRES CO, the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Project and the Nattarjack Toad Scheme positively impact on biodiversity in the plan area.

The plan area contains some of the Country's most important freshwater loughs and rivers, including the River Laune, River Inny, Caragh Lake and Lough Currane, famed for aquatic riches such as Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout. Waterways in the plan area, including the River Caragh and Blackwater contain some of the most important populations of the endangered Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the world. The indented nature of the coastline provides high quality habitat for Otters, which the estuaries, saltmarshes and mudflats are important winter foraging grounds for waterbirds. Agricultural grasslands and heaths along the coastline support an important population of Chough while the many sea cliffs and offshore islands support breeding seabirds. Sand dune habitats found for example at Rossbeigh, Ballinskelligs Bay and Derrynane exhibit examples of priority annexed habitat, now rare across Europe. They also support rare plants of special conservation interest.

Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC contains a very vulnerable *Edwardsia delapiae*-associated (large shallow inlet and bays) type habitat. The plan area also supports one of the most internationally important populations of Lesser Horseshoe Bat, a species vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation. The plan area further supports an interesting collection of Mediterranean species native to Kerry but absent from much of the rest of the Country. These are collectively known as Lusitanian flora and fauna and include the Kerry lily, Kerry slug and the Nattarjack toad. The reintroduced white-tailed eagle is also found in the plan area.

4.3. Identification of European Sites

The European or Natura 2000 sites potentially affected by the plan, on a precautionary basis have been identified in the AA Screening Report contained as Appendix A of this report, as follows:-

Table 4-1 European Sites potentially affected

European (Natura 2000) Site Names and Codes
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary SAC, 000335
Castlemaine Harbour SAC, 000343
Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353
Kilgarvan Ice House SAC, 000364
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River SAC, 000365
Mucksna Wood SAC, 001371
Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC, 002098
Kenmare River SAC, 002158
Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC, 002262
Special Protected Areas (SPAs)
Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029
Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154

4.4. Conservation Objectives

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of annexed habitats and annexed species of community interest for which an SAC or SPA has been designated. The Conservation Objectives (COs) for a European site are set out to ensure that the QIs/SCIs of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition. Maintenance of favourable conservation condition of habitats and species at a site level in turn contributes to maintaining or restoring favourable conservation status of habitats and species at a national level and ultimately at the European site network level.

Detailed site synopses for each European site are also available from the NPWS website. In Ireland 'generic' COs have been prepared for all European sites, while 'site specific' COs have been prepared for a number of individual sites to take account of the specific QIs/SCIs of that site. Both the generic and the site-specific COs aim to define the requirements for favourable conservation condition for habitats and species at the site level. Generic COs which have been developed by NPWS encompass the spirit of site-specific COs in the context of maintaining and restoring favourable conservation condition as follows;

- For SACs: "To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected".
- For SPAs: "To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA".

Site-specific conservation objectives (SSCO) aim to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at a European site. Maintaining habitats and species in a favourable conservation condition then contributes to the wider objective to maintain those most vulnerable habitats and species at favourable status throughout their range within the Natura 2000 network.

At an individual site level, SSCO specify whether the objective is to maintain or to restore favourable conservation condition of the habitat or species, and they set out attributes and targets that define the objectives. It is the aim of the NPWS to produce SSCO for all European sites in due course. Qualifying interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) are annexed habitats and annexed species of community interest for which an SAC or SPA has been designated. The SSCO for European Sites are set out to ensure that the QIs/ SCIs of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition/ conservation status. The QIs for SACs and the SCIs for SPAs considered in this NIR are contained in Appendix F.

Favourable conservation status (or condition, at a site level) 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".

The favourable conservation status (or condition, at a site level) 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; and
- 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.

A full listing of the COs and QIs/ SCIs that each European Site is designated for, as well as the attributes and targets to maintain or restore the QIs/ SCIs to a favourable conservation condition are available from the NPWS website (www.npws.ie).

It is noted that the existing conservation condition of some habitats and species is unfavourable at present for various reasons, including because of exceedance in environmental quality parameters. This is discussed in greater detail in the following section of this report.

4.5. Conservation Status of EU protected Habitats and Species

In 2007, 2013 and again in 2019 the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) published a report detailing the conservation status in Ireland of habitats and species listed in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), often referred to as "the Article 17 Report". Under the Habitats Directive, each Member State is obliged to undertake surveillance of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species in the Annexes and under Article 17, to report to the European Commission every six years on their status and on the implementation of the measures taken under the Directive.

Appendix B sets out a summary of the 2019 conservation status of each habitat and species.

Ireland's 2019 Article 17 Habitats Report recorded 15% of habitats as "favourable", 46% as "inadequate" and 39% as "bad". Among the other key findings were:

- Many Irish habitats are in unfavourable status. Many are still declining albeit with some positive actions underway while almost half are demonstrating ongoing declines;
- The main pressures to habitats are from grazing (undergrazing and overgrazing); pollution of watercourses; drainage / cutting of peatlands and wetlands; invasive species; recreation; [urbanisation; fertilizer application; and road building among others];
- Some of the marine habitats are considered to be improving, and to have better prospects, due in part to implementation of other EU environmental directives;
- The status of raised bogs in Ireland is "bad"; and the trend is for an ongoing decline as restoration is necessary to cause improvement, notwithstanding the cessation of cutting on SAC bogs. However, The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017- 2022 sets out a commitment for protection and restoration activities within all raised bog SACs;
- Grasslands, such as orchid-rich grasslands and hay meadows, have undergone significant losses over the last decade, with 31% and 28% of the area monitored reported as being lost;
- Blanket bog is also assessed as "bad"; the report notes that, as one of the main impacts on this habitat is grazing, an improving trend might be expected due to the implementation of Commonage Framework Plans. However, this improvement appears to be offset and even exceeded by on-going deleterious effects such as peat cutting, erosion, drainage and burning;
- Although some of our woodlands are rated as "bad" because they are patchy and fragmented, improvements have been noted due to afforestation, the planting of native species, the removal of alien species and control of overgrazing. Improvements noted from 2013 are now recorded as stable in 2019;
- Many freshwater habitats are considered unfavourable due to nutrient loading within the catchment, however the RBMP (2018-2021) will aim to ensure improved targeting of mitigation measures

Ireland's 2019 Article 17 Species Report recorded that 57% of species were assessed as "favourable", 15% as "inadequate", 15% as "bad" and 13% as "unknown" or considered to be vagrant species (Notwithstanding the above, it is understood that the Killarney shad population may have deteriorated since the 2019 report). Among the key findings were:

- Otter, pine marten and many bat species have also been assessed as "favourable" with evidence of an expanding range;
- The Natterjack toad is not exhibiting adequate positive results but has gone from "bad" in 2013 to stable in 2019.
- Salmon (*Salmo salar*) is showing signs of improvement and the Killarney shad (*Alosa killarvensis*) is still assessed as "favourable", but some other fish remain at "bad" status; and
- Freshwater pearl mussel is "bad" and declining.

Ireland's Article 12 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), submission to the EU Commission on the Status and trends of bird species (2008-2012) covers 196 species which includes breeding, wintering and passage species. Appendix C sets out a summary of the conservation status of each bird species having regard to the Article 12 submission and to the Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 4:2020-2026 Report (Gilbert et al 2020). Among the key findings were:

- Results show 23 species moving onto the Red list and only six leaving it.
- 54 (25.6%) of Ireland's regularly occurring bird species are now on the Red list, with some species having shown dramatic declines and losses on this island.
- Existing conservation concerns are reinforced, such as the further catastrophic decline of waders with six more wading bird species joining the Red list; and generalist birds of farmland now Red-listed.
- When grouped by habitat, upland (50%) and farmland (35%) have the highest proportions of Red-listed species.
- Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* and European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* have moved from Red to Amber.

It is noted that the above does not take into account the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI code name HPAIV A (H5N1)) currently circulating in Ireland and which is likely to impact bird populations. It is thought that influenza events such as this may be facilitated by milder winters associated with climate change.

4.6. Threats and Pressures to EU protected Habitats and Species

Under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, member states are obliged to identify threats and pressures to QIs/SCIs using a standard set of criteria. A threat is defined as an "Activity expected to have an impact on a species/habitat type in the future", and a pressure is defined as an "Activity impacting a species/habitat type during the reporting cycle".

Threats and pressures considered to be most relevant and linked either directly or indirectly to the MDLAP were extracted from the full list of threats and pressures. The headline categories considered relevant to the MDLAP are presented below, with a more detailed breakdown of the threats and pressures under each headline category presented in Appendix D.

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Mining, quarrying and energy production;
- Biological resource other than agriculture & forestry;
- Transportation and service infrastructure;
- Urbanisation, residential and commercial development;
- Disturbance due to human activities;
- Pollution;
- Invasive and introduced species;
- Modification of natural conditions; and
- Climate change.

Ireland's latest Prioritised Action Framework 2021-2027 was published by the DHLH&H in 2021. The plan is a strategic multiannual planning tool, and is aimed, at providing a comprehensive overview of the prioritised measures that are needed to manage the EU-wide Natura 2000 network. It identified a range of actions needed to help improve the status of Ireland's habitats and species, based on reports on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland and the Status of Birds in Ireland submitted the European Commission in 2019.

The state of Kerry's water resources is reflected to differing degrees in national data published in 2019 and 2020 by the EPA. The plan area maintains several high or pristine catchments; no additional waterbody dropped to poor or bad status while coastal waters maintain a good status. Nonetheless, other trends are worrying notably the build-up of nutrients in estuaries and the continued loss of high-status waterbodies.

5. STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF THE MDLAP

5.1. Assessment Methodology

In line with the relevant guidance and case law, this stage of the Appropriate Assessment consists of three main steps, the first of which 'Impact Prediction' is contained in this section of the report:

- **Impact Prediction** – identify the aspects of the draft plan likely to affect the conservation objectives of European sites, the types of impacts include direct and indirect effects; short and long-term effects; construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and isolated, interactive and cumulative effects. A source-pathway-receptor model has been used to assess potential for impact.
- **Assessment of Effects** - where the effects of the draft plan are assessed as to whether they have any adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites as defined by conservation objectives; and
- **Mitigation Measures** - where mitigation measures are identified to ameliorate any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site.

5.2. Impact Prediction

As previously outlined a source-pathway-receptor model has been used to assess potential for impact. The source relates to the policy and objective measures outlined in the MDLAP which have the potential to adversely impact European Sites e.g. land use zonings or supported infrastructural developments. The pathways by which MDLAP can impact European Sites include changes in land use, habitat loss/fragmentation, emissions to air and via hydrological connections. The receptor in this instance will be the European sites, for which there is a pathway of connectivity as a result of the implementation of the MDLAP.

Impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the MDLAP can be classed within the following categories having regard to the EC 2021 methodological guidance document:

- **Direct loss:** reduction of habitat coverage as a result of its physical destruction (e.g. due to its removal or to the deposition of construction materials or sediments); loss of breeding, foraging, resting areas for species.
- **Degradation:** deterioration of habitat quality, leading to a reduced abundance of characteristic species or an altered community structure (species composition). This can be caused by changes in abiotic conditions (e.g. water levels or an increase in suspended sediments, pollutants or dust deposition); deterioration of breeding, foraging, resting areas for species.
- **Disturbance:** a change in existing environmental conditions (e.g. increased noise or light pollution, a greater frequentation of people and vehicles). Disturbance may cause, inter alia, the displacement of species individuals, changes in species behaviour, or the risk of morbidity or mortality.
- **Fragmentation:** leading to an alteration of distribution patches of relevant habitats and species, e.g. through the creation physical or ecological barriers in areas that are physically or functionally connected, or splitting them into smaller more isolated units.

- **Other indirect effects:** indirect change to the quality of the environment (resulting for example from a change in availability of nutrients and light, or an increase in the vulnerability of the site to other new threats such as invasive alien species, human and animal penetration).

In identifying the aspects of the plan likely to affect the conservation objectives of European sites, regard was had to the embedded protection measures included in the MDLAP, where relevant, including those outlined in section 5.2.1 and table 5.1 below:-

5.2.1. Embedded protection measures included in the MDLAP

This assessment has considered the potential to impact on the achievement of the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites, as required by Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The assessment has been developed in the context of the full policy base contained within the MDLAP which includes environmental protection policies, introduced with a view of avoiding adverse effects in line with recognised mitigation hierarchy.

Of specific relevance to the potential for impact on European sites, the following environmental commitments and objectives as set out in Table 5.1, are contained within the MDLAP and underpin the assessment which follows. Note these may have been further strengthened by way of the SEA and NIR recommendations.

Table 5.1 – Protective Policies and Objectives relevant to European Sites

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the MDLAP	
<p>Section 1 1.4.1 Role of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028</p>	<p>This section of the plan makes it clear that unless otherwise stated, the policies, objectives and development management standards as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028, apply to this Plan. The Kerry CDP was subject to Habitats Directive Assessment. All planning applications received within the area will be measured against the contents of this Local Area Plan and the current Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>Kerry CDP 2022-2028</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage system requirements: urban realm (Volume 1, S4.2.7), landscaping (Volume 6, S.1.5.4.5) and storm water management (Volume 1, S13.2.4). • Landscape level protection (Volume 6, S1.3.2). • Fine Sediment Control (Volume 6, S1.3.6).
<p>Section 1. Introduction 1.5 Sustainable Development Interpretation</p>	<p>Section 1.5 presents an over-arching protection policy for European (Natura 2000) sites which underpins their protection within the context of the Plan. This section makes it clear that the compliance with the Habitats Directive is an inherent component of sustainable development.</p> <p>S1.5 of the plan outlines that ‘the conservation of species and habitats in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives is considered to be an important component of</p>

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the MDLAP	
	<p>sustainable strategies, policies and objectives', that 'all policies and objectives supported by the plan are required to be carried out in a manner which does not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites' and 'that the plan only supports strategies plans and projects or aspects of same which are compatible with the requirements of the Habitats Directive'.</p> <p>This section further outlines that any reference to development in this plan should be considered to refer to '<i>sustainable development</i>', and that 'the conservation of species and habitats in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives is considered to be an important component of sustainable strategies, policies and objectives'.</p>
<p>S2 Overall Development Strategy – includes consideration of water and wastewater capacity</p> <p>S2.10</p>	<p>It is noted that development within the settlements is contingent on availability of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure. Nature based solutions to storm water management are also supported throughout.</p> <p>The plan restricts development where infrastructural deficits occur as could impact on water quality downstream. As part of this the plan outlines that Development in Kenmare is subject to the construction of the permitted upgraded wastewater treatment facilities while the development of other settlements including Glenbeigh, Kilgarvan and Beaufort is restricted due to absence of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure and plans for capital investment. The provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is supported.</p> <p>Section 2 subsection 2.10 of the plan includes the latest wastewater treatment and water supply capacity register for the plan area received from Uisce Éireann in June 2023. It is noted that this was used to inform the plan and is required to be taken into consideration at development consent stage.</p>
<p>Section 2 Housing allocations and targets</p>	<p>These are as outlined in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and which was previously subject to AA.</p>
<p>Section 2 S2.8 Tourism</p>	<p>S2.8 of the plan outlines that 'Recreational and amenity facilities must be developed and managed in a sustainable manner so as to ensure that the quality of the underlying environment is not unduly compromised. This includes the protection of the natural environment. Issues to be considered include the potential for wildlife disturbance (light, noise etc), trampling and erosion of sensitive vegetation / soils and the potential for the introduction / spread of invasive introduced species'.</p>
<p>Section 2 2.9</p>	<p>The plan outlines that 'it is important that nature-based tourism and recreational projects/activities are carried out in a manner which</p>

Embedded protective policies and objectives relevant to European Sites in the MDLAP	
Environment and Heritage	does not unduly harm sensitive species or habitats' and that 'In certain areas extra care will need to be taken to ensure that developments are compatible with nature conservation objectives for designated sites'.
Development Objective: KENMD – 45	It is an objective of the Council to support biodiversity protection and enhancement measures within the plan area and ensure development proposals are compatible with the conservation objectives and biodiversity interests of European sites (SACs and SPAs) and National / proposed National designations (NHAs and pNHAs).

5.3. Aspects of the Plan likely to affect the conservation objectives of European sites:-

The individual elements of the plan, in combination with other plans and projects that may result in impacts on Natura 2000 sites have been identified as follows:-

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects
Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary, SAC 000335	<p>This site is located downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area (Waterville, Bhaile an Sceillig, Dún Géagáin, An Chillín Liath). Potential for indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Ballinskelligs. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
Castlemaine Harbour, SAC 000343	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area (Killorglin, Beaufort, Kilgobnet, Glenbeigh, Glencar).</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC. Road infrastructure proposals within the potential zone of influence of the SAC are also supported in the</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects
	<p>plan.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
<p>Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353</p>	<p>This small village settlement of Templenoe is located approx. 400m from the site which is designated for Lesser Horseshoe Bat. The settlement is within the potential core foraging sustenance zone for the species.</p> <p>As a small village settlement, a settlement boundary has been outlined in Section 3 subsection 3.5 of the plan, within which cluster type residential development is open to consideration.</p> <p>Potential for impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
<p>Kilgarvan Ice House, SAC 000364</p>	<p>This site is located within 2.5Km of the settlement of Kilgarvan and in close proximity to the disused railway located between Kenmare and Headford Junction, which is supported as a possible future greenway in the plan.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via habitat fragmentation. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
<p>Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365</p>	<p>This site is located upstream of the river Laune. The River Laune links Lough Leane, which forms part of this SAC, with Castlemaine Harbour and is used by migratory fish associated with the SAC (Atlantic Salmon and Lamprey). Killorglin, Beaufort and Kilgobnet are identified settlements within the plan area which are located upstream of the River Laune. Unmitigated, their development could indirectly impact on the River Laune by way of reduced water quality. Road infrastructure proposals within the potential zone of influence of the SAC are also supported in the plan.</p> <p>In addition, the settlement of Waterville is located in close proximity Lough Currane and the outlet of same to Ballinskelligs Bay. Lough Currane also forms part of this SAC while the downstream river is likely used by Otter and to be an important corridor for Qualifying Interest migratory fish associated with the</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects
	<p>SAC.</p> <p>The plan also supports the development of the small village of Glencar and the Cappanalea outdoor education centre, which are located within this SAC.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
Mucksna Wood, SAC 001371	<p>This site is located in proximity to Kenmare Town.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood, SAC 002098	<p>This site is located within 2.5Km of the settlements of Sneem and Tahilla.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via habitat fragmentation. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated)</p>
Kenmare River, SAC 002158	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, (Kenmare Town, Kilgarvan, Bonane, Lauragh, Tousist, Templenoe, Tahilla, Sneem, Castlecove and Caherdaniel. Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Derrynane. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
Valencia Harbour / Portmagee	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, (Cahersiveen,</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects
Channel, SAC 002262	<p>Portmagee, Knightstown and Chapelstown). Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality. Road infrastructure proposals within the potential zone of influence of the SAC are also supported in the plan.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of White Strand, Cahersiveen. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>
Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029	<p>A number of beaches are located within this SPA, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SPA by way of species disturbance.</p>
Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154	<p>This Natura 2000 site is geographically removed from the settlements of the plan area. However, given the large overlap between the SPA boundaries and those of the plan area, it is considered on a precautionary basis that there is some potential for impact by way of possible development pressure. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area, including potential road infrastructure supported in the plan.</p>

6. ASSESSMENT OF IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

6.1. Introduction

The assessment of in-combination effects with other plans or projects is a crucial and often difficult aspect of Article 6(3) assessment, particularly at the plan level. This step aims to consider the policy and framework within which the draft MDLAP is being developed and to identify at this early stage any possible in-combination effects of the MDLAP with other plans and projects.

In theory, there are many other plans/ projects that interact with or have the potential to combine pressures and threats to European sites; however, the in-combination assessment is a matter of applying a practical and realistic approach. In relation to the potential for in combination effects, other plans and projects have been taken into consideration within section 7 of this report (assessment of affects and mitigation measures). Appendix F should be referred to in this regard. The potential for in-combination effects in this instance is reduced by the embedded mitigation contained within the plan.

7. ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

7.1. Introduction

This section of the report assesses the effects of the plan, in combination with other plans and projects, on a site-by-site basis, to ascertain whether they are likely to have any adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites as defined by their conservation objectives. As part of this the location settlements to watercourses and European Sites was taken into consideration. Figures 7-1 and 7-2 show the location of the plan areas settlements relative to European Sites.

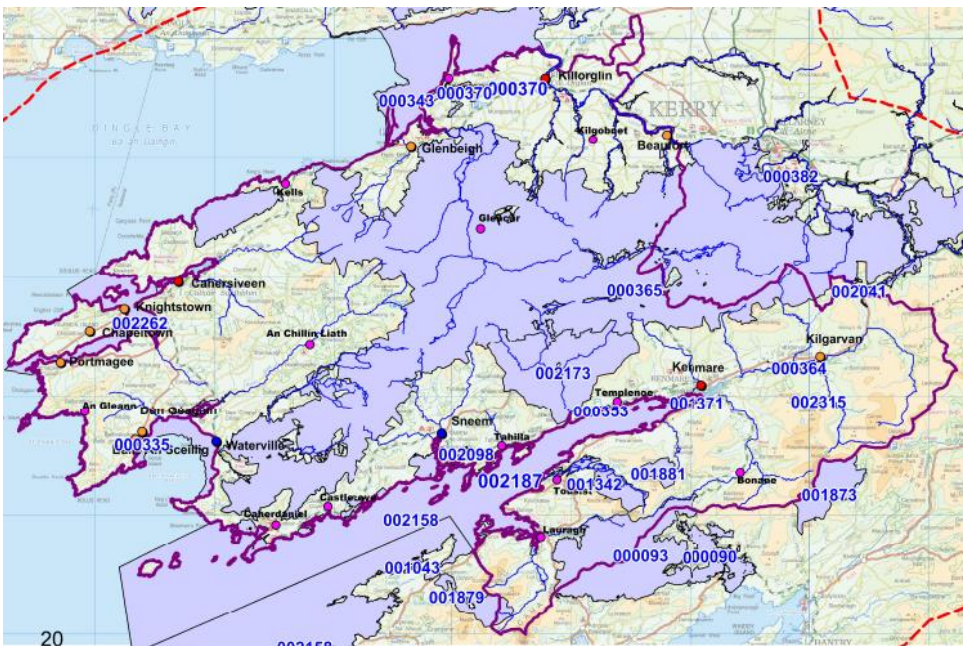


Figure 7.1. Plan area, Settlements, Special Areas of Conservation, and watercourses



Figure 7.2. Plan area, Settlements, Special Protected Areas, and watercourses

Where appropriate, recommendations and mitigation measures are identified to avoid or ameliorate any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Site. As part of this assessment the following protective measures embedded into the plan and / or contained in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, have been taken into consideration:-

7.2. Embedded Protective measures

These are outlined in Section 5 of this report and include:--

Kenmare MDLAP 2023-2029

- Section 1 Subsection 1.5 of the plan provides a high / over-riding level of protection for European Sites.
- Section 2 subsection 2.10 of the plan outlines that development is contingent on the availability of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Section 2 subsection 2.8 of the plan outlines that it is important that nature-based tourism and recreational projects/activities are carried out in a manner which does not unduly harm sensitive species or habitats' and that 'In certain areas extra care will need to be taken to ensure that developments are compatible with nature conservation objectives for designated sites'.
- Development Objective: KENMD – 45 outlines that it is an objective of the Council to support biodiversity protection and enhancement measures within the plan area and ensure development proposals are compatible with the conservation objectives and biodiversity interests of European sites (SACs and SPAs) and National / proposed National designations (NHAs and pNHAs).

Kerry CDP 2022-2028

- Nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage system requirements: urban realm (Volume 1, S4.2.7), landscaping (Volume 6, S.1.5.4.5) and storm water management (Volume 1, S13.2.4).
- Landscape level protection (Volume 6, S1.3.2)
- Fine Sediment Control (Volume 6, S1.3.6).

It is noted that the above Kerry CDP requirements are specifically referenced in Section 2 Subsection 2.9 of the Kenmare MDLAP.

7.3. Assessment of effects on European Sites and Mitigation Measures

7.3.1. Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC, Site Code 000335

Potential significant effects

This SAC is located downstream of and / or in proximity to the settlements of Waterville, Bhaile an Sceillig, Dún Géagáin and An Chillín Liath. Potential exists for indirect impacts via water quality arising from the construction of projects facilitated by the plan and / or from operational stage foul and surface water run-off.

Land use zoning objectives have been outlined in the plan for the district town of 'Waterville' and the villages of 'Bhaile an Sceillig' and 'Dun Géagáin'. For the smaller village settlement of 'An Chillín Liath' future development is guided towards infill sites and redevelopment and the growth of the settlement is to be small in scale and compact. The plan allows for the consideration of clusters of housing served by suitable individual wastewater treatment systems within such smaller village settlements. The Kerry CDP (Volume 6, S1.5.8.2) outlines the Council's requirements in this regard.

A number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Ballinskelligs. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.

Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning objectives

There is no overlap between the development zonings outlined and the SAC boundaries. In addition, the qualifying interest habitats and species for the SAC are not located near the settlement boundaries. It is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact on this SAC by way of the land use zoning objectives contained in the plan. As part of this, it is noted that an extension to the waterfront carpark has the benefit of a development consent, which screened out the need for AA.

Water quality

Having regard to the water quality protection measures and the overall protections for European sites set out in the plan and in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, it is considered that potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites by way of water quality impacts, can be conclusively ruled out.

Tourism / Recreation proposals

Development Objective KENMD – 41 outlines that it is an objective of the council 'to facilitate the sustainable improvement and enhancement of beach access and beach infrastructure, at appropriate locations and subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites'. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

Development Objective KENMD-BG-7 outlines that 'it is an objective of the Council to support the upgrade of the existing Monk's Trail Walk, as required and subject to environmental assessments. It is considered that this development objective has

incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

Development Objective KENMD-WE-15 outlines that 'it is an objective of the Council to support the N70 Waterville to Ballybrack Road Improvement Scheme, subject to environmental assessments. This proposal is located upstream of the SAC. However, as support for this proposal is subject to environmental assessment, it is considered that the objective as outlined is acceptable. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

Development Objective KENMD-BG-8 outlines that 'it is an objective of the Council to support the sustainable provision of a Blueway in Ballinskelligs' Bay, between Ballinskelligs' Beach and Ballinskelligs' Pier, subject to inclusion in National Strategy and subject to environmental assessments. It is noted that this proposal was previously screened for Appropriate Assessment at project level. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

(Other) Recommended mitigation measures

None required. It is considered that development objectives of potential relevance to this European Site, including those referred to above, have incorporated adequate safeguards for European Sites and are not likely to adversely impact the integrity of same.

7.3.2. Castlemaine Harbour SAC, Site Code 000343

This SAC is located downstream of and / or in proximity to the settlements of Killorglin, Beaufort, Kilgobnet, Cromane and Glencar. Potential exists for indirect impacts via water quality arising from the construction of projects facilitated by the plan and / or from operational stage foul and surface water run-off.

Land use zoning objectives have been outlined in the plan for the regional town of 'Killorglin' and the village of 'Beaufort'. For the smaller village settlements of 'Glencar' 'Cromane' and 'Kilgobnet' future development is guided towards infill sites and redevelopment and the growth of the settlement is to be small in scale and compact. The plan allows for the consideration of clusters of housing served by suitable individual wastewater treatment systems within such smaller village settlements. The Kerry CDP (Volume 6, S1.5.8.2) outlines the Council's requirements in this regard. Supported proposals for upgraded wastewater infrastructure such as for Beaufort and Glenbeigh would likely impact positively on the SAC by way of improved water quality. Also supported is increase reservoir storage capacity at the mid Kerry Water Treatment Plant, Gearha, Beaufort, which is located upstream of this SAC.

A number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC. It is considered that proposals to improve active travel between Glenbeigh and Rossbeigh are not likely to adversely impact the SAC, having regard to existing infrastructure and the nature and location of proposed works and safeguards built into the plan. As part of this it is noted that there is an existing walkway adjoining the roadway at Rossbeigh Beach.

Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning objectives

It is noted that all lands within the SAC and which overlap with the Killorglin town settlement boundaries, are proposed to be zoned G3 landscape protection. This sub-category zoning is intended for zones where the main aim is to provide some level of conservation, whether of biodiversity or visual amenity and as such is not likely to result adverse impacts on the SAC. It is noted that existing walkways are also outlined in the Killorglin land use zoning map, some of which are located within the SAC boundaries. Related objectives facilitating the upgrade of same have in-built caveats so as to ensure the protection of the SAC. Elsewhere, there is no overlap between development zonings outlined and SAC boundaries. Where opportunity sites are located close to the SAC this has generally been highlighted within the supporting policy text. Proposed carpark and tourism zoning adjoining the river Laune will be discussed further below:-

Proposed carpark zoning



This proposed zoning is located to the west of the River Laune and incorporates the existing Annadale Road carpark. It is noted that an extension of this carpark has the benefit of a development consent. As part of the permitted proposal, a buffer was provided between the proposed carpark extension and the River Laune. It is considered that the proposal is not likely to have significant effects on the SAC.

Proposed C5 Tourism & related zoning

In relation to the proposed C5 Tourism & related zoning to the east of the River Laune, it is noted that these lands were identified as an opportunity site in the Killorglin FALAP 2010 document. As part of that, a development brief for the lands were included which highlighted the need to ensure that proposals were compatible with the conservation objectives for the Castlemaine Harbour SAC. Given the proximity of the zoning to the River Laune / SAC, mitigation is recommended as set out below:-



Mitigation for proposed C5 Tourism & related zoning to the east of the River Laune

The following to be included in the plan as development guidance for the proposed C5 Tourism & related zoning to the east of the River Laune, in the Killorglin Town Plan. This guidance is generally as per that included in the existing Killorglin Functional Area Local Area Plan 2010 amended so as to include references to Inland Fisheries Ireland's guidance document on managing watercourses in urban environments.

Development Constraints

Nature Conservation

These lands adjoin a European Natura 2000 site, which is a nature conservation site of international importance. Accordingly, development proposals for these lands will be required to demonstrate compatibility with the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and possibly a Natura Impact Statement should be submitted as part of any development proposal. A buffer zone between the European site and a development proposal may be required. As part of the AA screening, the potential for wildlife disturbance, water quality degradation, trampling of sensitive vegetation and the potential spread of invasive introduced species should be considered. It is noted that stands of Japanese Knotweed are currently located in the vicinity. This is a vigorous introduced invasive species and accordingly development proposals for these lands should include proposals for the removal and long-term control of this species, as appropriate.

Flood Risk Management The site is also partly located on the historic floodplain of the River Laune. Development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainable flood risk management designs and practices as recommended in the DoEHLG (2009) publications 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Technical Appendices'. As part of this proposals should not reduce the overall flood water storage capacity in the area and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) should be incorporated.

Water Quality

Development proposals should include detailed proposals for dealing with surface water runoff from the site so as to ensure that water quality of the River Laune is not adversely affected. As part of this hydrocarbon filters and sediment traps should be incorporated, where appropriate.

Access

Access onto these lands is via the N72. Proposals should be supported with a road safety audit and a traffic and transport assessment.

Visual impact / landscaping

Proposals should be appropriately screened and carefully designed having particular regard to its sensitive location on the approach road to the Town from Killarney and to its visibility from the opposite bank of the River Laune, which is used for recreational purposes. Landscaping proposals should be compatible with the Nature Conservation objectives of the adjoining Natura 2000 site, while a high standard of finished materials will be expected. Proposals should have regard to Inland Fisheries Ireland's guidance document on managing watercourses in urban environments, as appropriate.

Waste Management

Development proposals shall be accompanied with a detailed waste management plan which shall cover both the construction and operation phases of the development.

Water quality

Having regard to the water quality protection measures and the overall protections for European sites set out in the plan and in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, it is considered that potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites by way of water quality impacts, can be conclusively ruled out.

Tourism / Recreation proposals

Development Objective KENMD – 41 outlines that it is an objective of the council 'to facilitate the sustainable improvement and enhancement of beach access and beach infrastructure, at appropriate locations and subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites'.

Increased reservoir storage at the mid Kerry water treatment plant

Development objective KENMD – 55 supports proposals to increase reservoir storage capacity at the mid Kerry Water Treatment Plant, Gearha, Beaufort. This objective outlines clearly that support for same is subject to environmental assessment and compatibility with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. It is considered that this proposal is not likely to adversely impact the SAC.

Other infrastructure proposals

The plan supports the provision of the Killorglin western inner relief link road, the Killorglin cycleway/walkway on the N72 out to the Fexco building and a cycleway from Killorglin to Ballykissane Pier. These proposals are required to be undertaken in a sustainable manner and supporting objectives have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case-by-case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment. Also supported is a proposed linear park along the River as part of the proposed Killorglin Town Centre Smart Regeneration Project. This may incorporate a wetland park to the south of the Annadale Road Carpark. These proposals are similarly subject to environmental assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment, as appropriate. Specific guidance on the requirement to safeguard the conservation interest of the alluvial woodland south of the Annadale Carpark is included within Section 3 subsection 3.2.3.5.4 of the Killorglin Plan.

(Other) Recommended mitigation measures

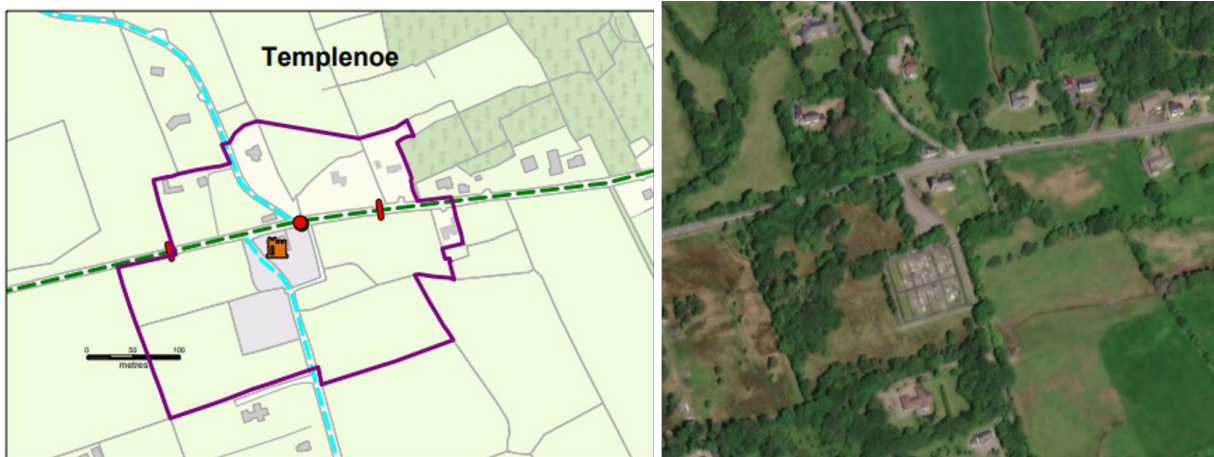
None required. It is considered that development objectives of potential relevance to this European Site, other than those relating to the proposed C5 Tourism & related zoning to the east of the River Laune, have incorporated adequate safeguards for European Sites and are not likely to adversely impact the integrity of same.

7.3.3. Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC Site Code 000353

This small village settlement of Templenoe is located approx. 400m from this SAC, which is designated for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (LHB). The settlement is within the potential core foraging sustenance zone for LHB associated with the SAC. As a small village settlement, a settlement boundary has been outlined in Section 3 subsection 3.5 of the plan, within which cluster type residential development is open to consideration.

The LHB population in this area co-exists with development and the settlement of Templenoe. It is important to note that the LHB population at this location is outlined within the conservation objectives for the SAC to be at favourable conservation status, reflecting a general compatibility with existing land uses in the area.

Development of land can potentially result in direct habitat loss or fragmentation. Light spillage can indirectly impact habitats or commuting routes as LHB are sensitive to light and seek out dark cover.



Above: Settlement Boundary for Templenoe and aerial photograph (bing maps)

Appropriate Assessment

It is noted that the extent of the settlement boundary for Templenoe is small in scale, compact in shape and while located within the core sustenance area for the bat roost site 454, the settlement boundary does not extend into or adjoin areas identified as potential foraging grounds in map 3 of the (2018) Conservation Objectives Report for the SAC. Lighting and illumination in the County are governed by S1.14.2, Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and by way of the Kerry County Biodiversity Action Plan which is also contained in Volume 6 of the CDP. The importance of nature conservation inc Bat requirements as part of preparing and assessing lighting proposals is highlighted. As part of this, the Bat Conservation Trust 2018 Guideline Note 08/18 guidelines are referred to, which recommend LED luminaires to be used due to the fact that they are highly directional, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.



Above: location of Templenoe settlement + relative to identified core sustenance area and potential foraging grounds for Lesser Horseshoe Bat associated with Bat Site Code 454. Source Conservation Objectives for Old Domestic Woods SAC (npws.ie)

Recommended mitigation

Upon inclusion of the following recommended mitigation, it is considered that potential for impact on the SAC, including by way of the small village settlement boundary as set out in the plan, can be conclusively ruled out.

It is recommended that the following be included in Section 3 subsection 3.5 (small village settlements) of the plan:-

As the settlement of Templenoe is located in the vicinity of an important Lesser horse bat roosting site associated with the Old Domestic Building Dromore Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), development proposals within this settlement will be required to be compatible with the conservation objectives of the SAC. As part of this careful consideration should be given to lighting and landscaping proposals so as to avoid unnecessary light spillage / pollution.

7.3.4. Kilgarvan Ice House SAC, Site Code 000364

Kilgarvan village is located within the potential foraging range of Lesser Horseshoe Bats (LHB) associated with the Kilgarvan Ice House SAC. The LHB population in this area co-exists with development and the settlement of Kilgarvan. It is important to note that the LHB population at this location is outlined within the conservation objectives for the SAC to be at favourable conservation status, reflecting a general compatibility with existing land uses in the area.

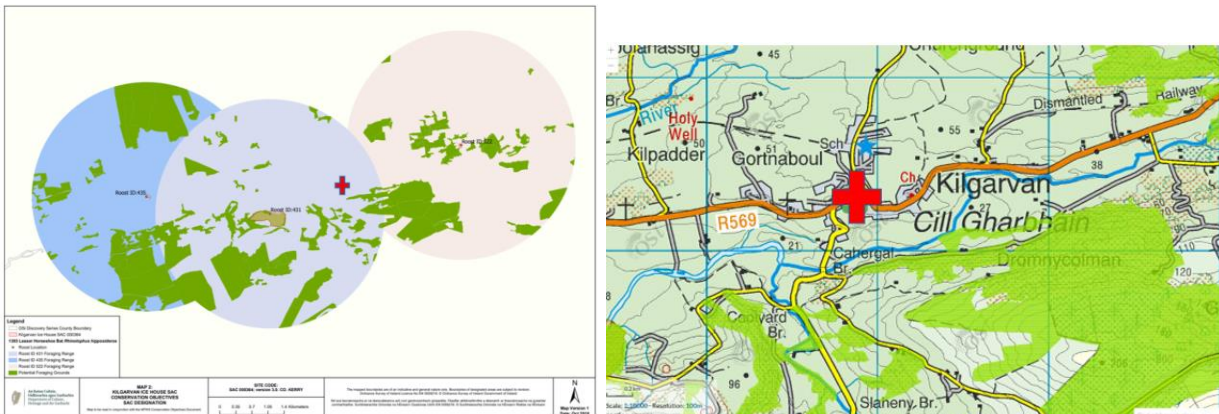
Development of land can potentially result in direct habitat loss or fragmentation. Light spillage can indirectly impact habitats or commuting routes as LHB are sensitive to light and seek out dark cover.

Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning objectives

It is noted that the extent of zoned land outlined for the settlement of Kilgarvan is small in scale, compact in shape and that none of these zonings extend into or adjoin areas identified as potential foraging grounds in map 2 of the (2018) Conservation Objectives Report for the SAC. Lighting and illumination in the County are governed by S1.14.2, Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and by way of the Kerry County Biodiversity Action Plan which is also contained in Volume 6 of the CDP. The importance of nature conservation inc Bat requirements as part of preparing and assessing lighting proposals is highlighted. As part of this, the Bat Conservation Trust 2018 Guideline Note 08/18 guidelines are referred to, which recommend LED luminaires to be used due to the fact that they are highly directional, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.

Kilgarvan is located at the outer edge of the core sustenance zones and no identified foraging grounds within same would be impacted. Having regard to the above, it is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact the SAC by way of the land use zoning objectives outlined in the plan or otherwise.



Above: Location of Kilgarvan + relative to Kilgarvan Ice House SAC and associated potential foraging grounds highlighted in green

Tourism / Recreation proposals

The SAC is also in close proximity to the disused railway located between Kenmare and Headford Junction, which is supported as a possible future greenway in the plan. This may, in part, contain habitat of value for the species which may be compromised by development. The greenway strategy for the County is primarily set out in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, which makes it clear that support for such proposals is subject to full environmental assessment and protection of Natura 2000 site interests.

(Other) Recommended mitigation measures

None required. It is considered that development objectives of potential relevance to this European Site, including those referred to above, have incorporated adequate safeguards for European Sites and are not likely to adversely impact the integrity of same.

7.3.5. Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC, Site Code 000365

The River Laune while not part of this SAC is one of the most important rivers used by fish migrating between this SAC and the Sea. As discussed in Section 7.3.2 of this report, the settlements of Killorglin, Beaufort and Kilgobnet are located upstream of the River Laune and development within same has theoretical potential to impact on its water quality. Water quality within the river is important for Qualifying Interest species associated with the SAC, including Atlantic Salmon and Lamprey.

In addition, the settlement of Waterville is located in close proximity Lough Currane, the outlet of which discharges to Ballinskelligs Bay. Lough Currane forms part of this SAC while the river leading to the Bay is likely used by Otter and to be an important corridor for Qualifying Interest migratory fish associated with the SAC. Potential exists for indirect impacts via water quality arising from the construction of projects facilitated by the plan and / or from operational stage foul and surface water run-off. Land use zoning objectives have also been outlined in the plan for the settlement of Waterville.

The plan also supports the development of the small village of Glencar and the Cappanalea outdoor education centre, which are both located within the SAC. For the smaller village settlement of 'Glencar', future development is guided towards infill sites and redevelopment and the growth of the settlement is to be small in scale and compact. The plan allows for the consideration of clusters of housing served by suitable individual wastewater treatment systems within such smaller village settlements. The Kerry CDP (Volume 6, S1.5.8.2) outlines the Council's requirements in this regard.

Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning objectives

It is noted that all lands within the SAC which are located within the Waterville town settlement boundaries are proposed to be zoned G3 landscape protection. This sub-category zoning is intended for zones where the main aim is to provide some level of conservation, whether of biodiversity or visual amenity and is not likely to result adverse impacts on the SAC. Elsewhere, there is no overlap between development zonings outlined and SAC boundaries. It is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact the SAC by way of the land use zoning objectives outlined in the plan.

Regarding the N70 Waterville to Ballybrack Road Improvement Scheme to the south of Waterville, **Development Objective KENMD-WE-15** outlines that 'it is an objective of the Council to support the N70 Waterville to Ballybrack Road Improvement Scheme, subject to environmental assessments. As support for this proposal is subject to environmental assessment, it is considered that the objective as outlined is acceptable. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

Water quality

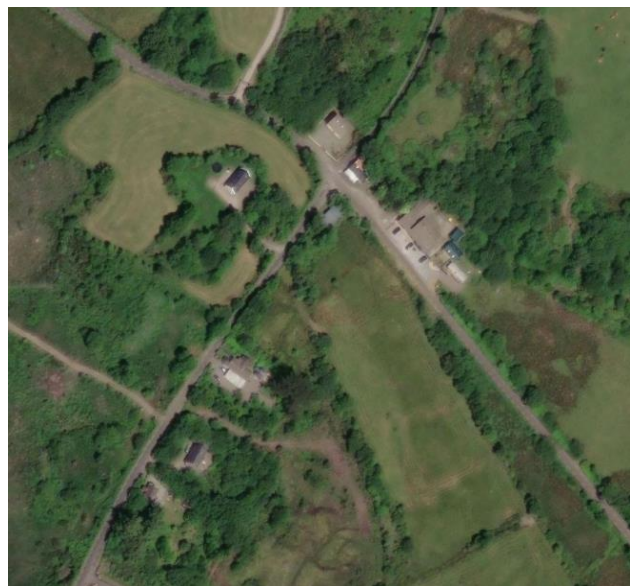
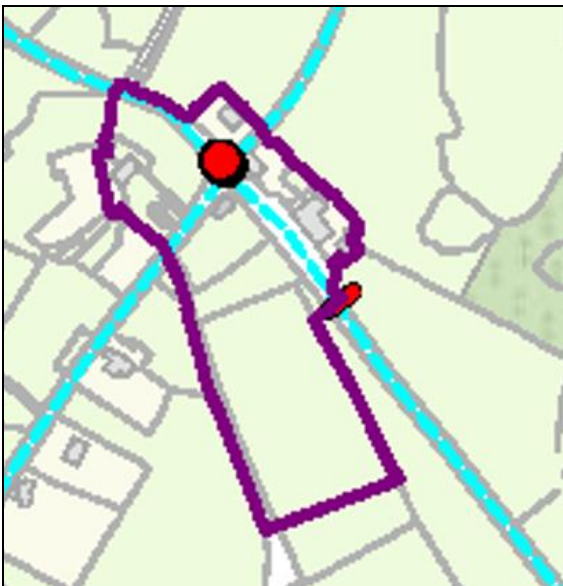
Having regard to the water quality protection measures and the overall protections for European sites set out in the plan and in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, it is considered that potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites by way of water quality impacts, can be conclusively ruled out.

Other development

Proposed Development Objective KENMD – 33 outlines that it is an objective of the council to 'facilitate and support the sustainable development of an Observatory at Kerry College's Cappanalea Centre subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites'. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites.

Glencar

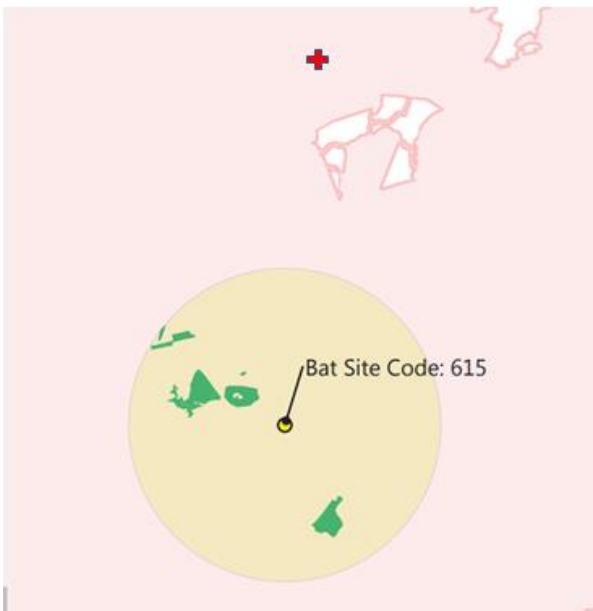
Elsewhere in the plan, development in the smaller village of Glencar, which is located within the SAC, is supported. As part of this a settlement boundary has been proposed as follows.



Above: Settlement Boundary for Glencar and aerial photograph (bing maps)

Habitat / species impact

While the settlement boundary is located within the SAC boundaries, the lands in question appear to largely consist of either developed made ground or improved agricultural grasslands. As such the potential to impact qualifying interest habitat is considered to be low. Furthermore, it is noted that the settlement boundary is approx. 5 km from the nearest Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosting site identified in the conservation objectives report for the SAC (roost site code 615). The proposal is also geographically removed from core sustenance foraging area associated this bat roost site and has no potential to impact on same. No watercourses of significance are located within the proposed settlement boundary.



Above: location of Glencar settlement + relative to core sustenance area for Lesser Horseshoe Bat associated with Bat Site Code 615. Source Conservation Objectives for the SAC (npws.ie)

It is noted that Section 3 subsection 3.5 (small village settlements) of the plan outlines the following:- *'As the settlement of Glencar is located within the boundaries of the 'Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC', development proposals will be required to be compatible with the conservation objectives of this SAC. Proposals which would adversely impact the integrity of the SAC will not be permitted.'* Having regard to the above, it is considered that the plan is not likely to adversely impact the SAC or its conservation objectives.

(Other) Recommended mitigation measures

None required. It is considered that development objectives of potential relevance to this European Site, including those referred to above, have incorporated adequate safeguards for European Sites and are not likely to adversely impact the integrity of same.

7.3.6. Mucksna Wood SAC, Site Code 001371

This site is located in proximity to Kenmare Town. Land use zoning objectives have also been outlined in the plan for the settlement of Kenmare.

Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning objectives

It is noted that there is no overlap between development zonings outlined and SAC boundaries and that these are separated by the Kenmare River Estuary. It is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact the SAC by way of the land use zoning objectives outlined in the plan or otherwise.

(Other) Recommended mitigation measures

None required. No realistic pathway for impact identified.

7.3.7. Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC, Site Code 002098

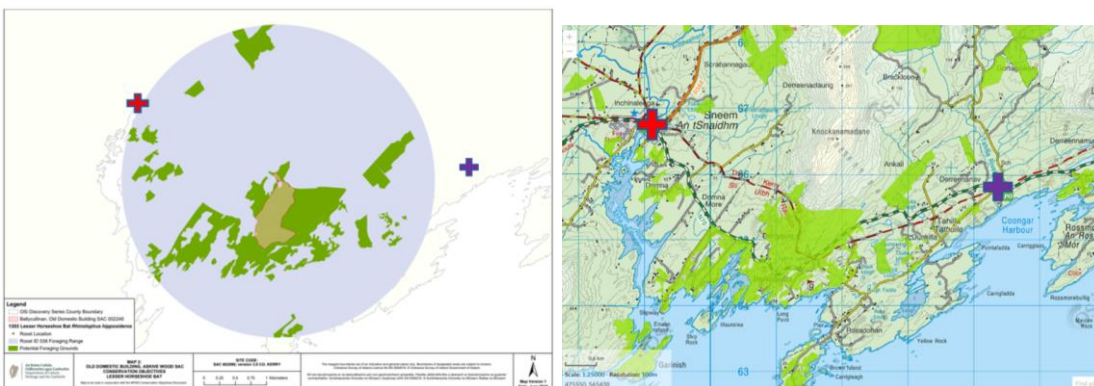
The district town of Sneem and the small village of Tahilla are located within the potential foraging range of Lesser Horseshoe Bats (LHB) associated with this SAC. The LHB population at this location is outlined within the conservation objectives for the SAC to be at favourable conservation status, reflecting a general compatibility with existing land uses in the area. The LHB population in this area co-exists with development and the settlements of Sneem and Tahilla. Development of land can potentially result in direct habitat loss or fragmentation. Light spillage can indirectly impact habitats or commuting routes as LHB are sensitive to light and seek out dark cover.

Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning / settlement objectives

It is noted that the extent of zoned land outlined for the settlement of Sneem is small in scale, compact in shape and that none of these zonings extend into or adjoin areas identified as potential foraging grounds in map 2 of the (2018) Conservation Objectives report for the SAC. The plan also supports the development of the small village of Tahilla by way of small-scale infill and redevelopment. Potential foraging grounds identified in map 2 of the (2018) Conservation Objectives report for the SAC would not be impacted. Neither would the commuting routes / foraging grounds identified as of importance from a 2008 LHB radio tracking survey (and which was published in the planning application PLREF:21/708) be impacted. Lighting and illumination in the County are governed by S1.14.2, Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and by way of the Kerry County Biodiversity Action Plan which is also contained in Volume 6 of the CDP. The importance of nature conservation inc Bat requirements as part of preparing and assessing lighting proposals is highlighted. As part of this, the Bat Conservation Trust 2018 Guideline Note 08/18 guidelines are referred to, which recommend LED luminaires to be used due to the fact that they are highly directional, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.

It is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact on the SAC by way of the land use zoning objectives, footways and sports facilities upgrade proposals outlined in the plan or otherwise.



Above: Location of Sneem + and Tahilla + relative to Askive Wood SAC and associated potential foraging grounds highlighted in green

Mitigation Measures recommended

None required

7.3.8. Kenmare River SAC, Site Code 002158

This SAC is located downstream of and / or in proximity to the settlements of Kenmare Town, Kilgarvan, Bonane, Lauragh, Tousist, Templenoe, Tahilla, Sneem, Castlecove and Caherdaniel. Potential exists for indirect impacts via water quality arising from the construction of projects facilitated by the plan and / or from operational stage foul and surface water run-off.

Land use zoning objectives have been outlined in the plan for the regional town of 'Kenmare' and the village of 'Kilgarvan'. For the smaller village settlements of Bonane, Lauragh, Tousist, Templenoe, Tahilla, Sneem, Castlecove and Caherdaniel future development is guided towards infill sites and redevelopment and the growth of the settlement is to be small in scale and compact. The plan allows for the consideration of clusters of housing served by suitable individual wastewater treatment systems within such smaller village settlements. The Kerry CDP (Volume 6, S1.5.8.2) outlines the Council's requirements in this regard.

A number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Derrynane. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.

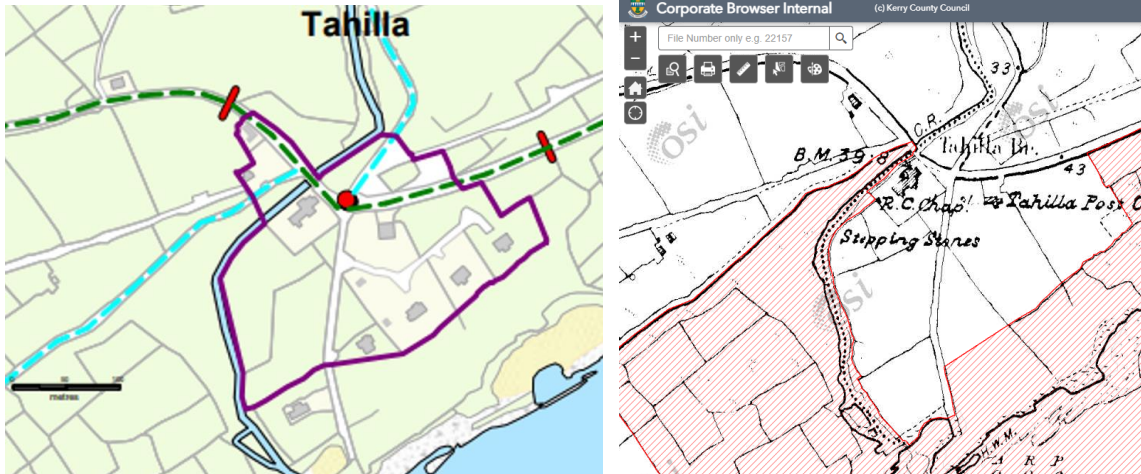
Appropriate Assessment

Land use zoning objectives

The SAC boundaries in the vicinity of Kenmare Town extend up to the high watermark. Therefore, there is no overlap between development zonings outlined in the plan and the SAC boundaries. The plan supports the further development of the Kenmare inner relief road. The indicative route shown for same seeks to utilise an existing bridge crossing over the River Finnihy at a location upstream of the SAC boundaries. It is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact the SAC by way of the proposed indicative inner relief road proposal. Potential for impact on Otter and Lesser Horseshoe Bat will be assessed in greater detail further on in this section, as these are mobile species who may utilise areas outside of the SAC boundaries.

The land use zoning for Kilgarvan are geographically removed from the SAC boundaries and there is no realistic potential for impact on this SAC from the development of same.

It is noted that the proposed development boundary for Tahilla, in part overlaps with the Kenmare River SAC and includes the Tahilla River and associated riparian vegetation possibly of use for Qualifying interest species associated with the SAC. It is therefore recommended that the western settlement boundary be relocated to the east of the Tahilla River / Kenmare River SAC. Potential Lesser Horseshoe bat foraging grounds identified in map 9 of the (2013) Conservation Objectives report for the SAC would not be impacted. Lighting and illumination in the County are governed by S1.14.2, Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and by way of the Kerry County Biodiversity Action Plan which is also contained in Volume 6 of the CDP.



Above: Settlement boundary as outlined in the plan and SAC boundaries

Mitigation Measures recommended

It is recommended that the western settlement boundary for Tahilla be relocated to the east of the Tahilla River / Kenmare River SAC.

Water quality

Having regard to the water quality protection measures and the overall protections for European sites set out in the plan and in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, it is considered that potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites by way of water quality impacts, can be conclusively ruled out.

Tourism / Recreation proposals

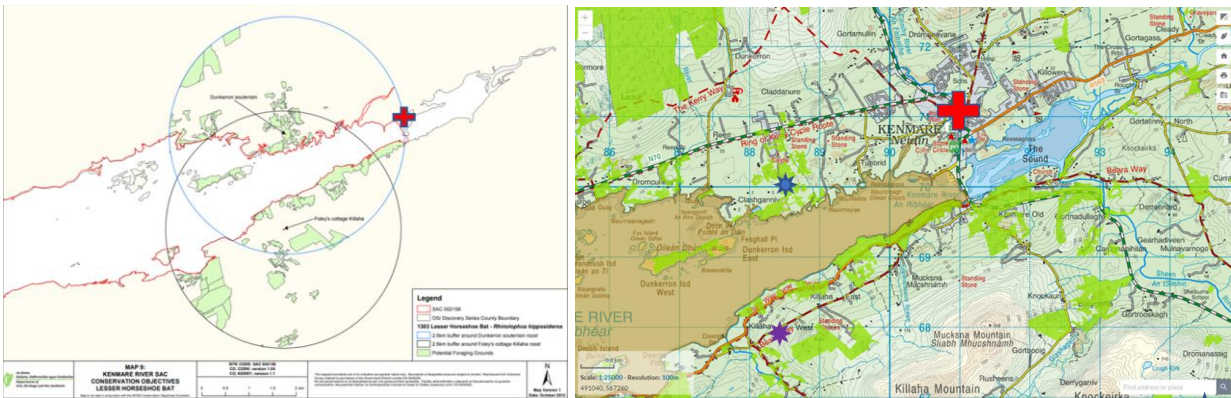
Development Objective KENMD – 41 outlines that it is an objective of the council ‘to facilitate the sustainable improvement and enhancement of beach access and beach infrastructure, at appropriate locations and subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites’. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

Kenmare water supply / storage supplementation proposals

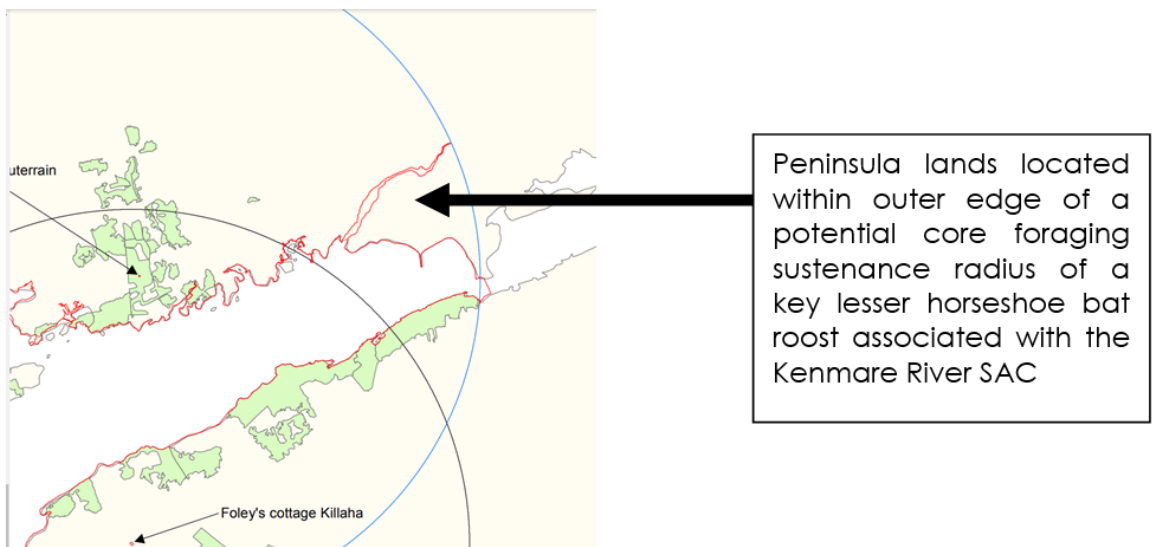
Development objective KENMD – 55 supports the Kenmare water supply / storage supplementation proposals. This objective offers high level support for the proposals as it has not progressed to project level stage. This objective outlines clearly that support for the proposal is subject to environmental assessment and compatibility with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. It is considered that this proposal is not likely to adversely impact this or any other European Site.

Kenmare zoning objectives and potential for impact on Lesser Horseshoe Bat (LHB) populations associated with the SAC

It is noted that the extent of zoned land for the settlement of Kenmare is relatively small in scale and are compact in shape. While land use zonings in Kenmare Town on lands known as the Peninsula lands overlap with a potential core sustenance zone associated with the Kenmare River SAC for LHB, no potential foraging grounds outlined in map 9 of the (2018) Conservation Objectives report for the SAC (refer to extract below) are located within or are adjoining the Town Boundaries. In addition, it is noted that lighting and illumination in the County are governed by S1.14.2, Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and by way of the Kerry County Biodiversity Action Plan which is also contained in Volume 6 of the CDP. The importance of nature conservation inc Bat requirements as part of preparing and assessing lighting proposals is highlighted. As part of this, the Bat Conservation Trust 2018 Guideline Note 08/18 guidelines are referred to, which recommend that LED luminaires be used due to the fact that they are highly directional, lower intensity, good colour rendition and dimming capability.

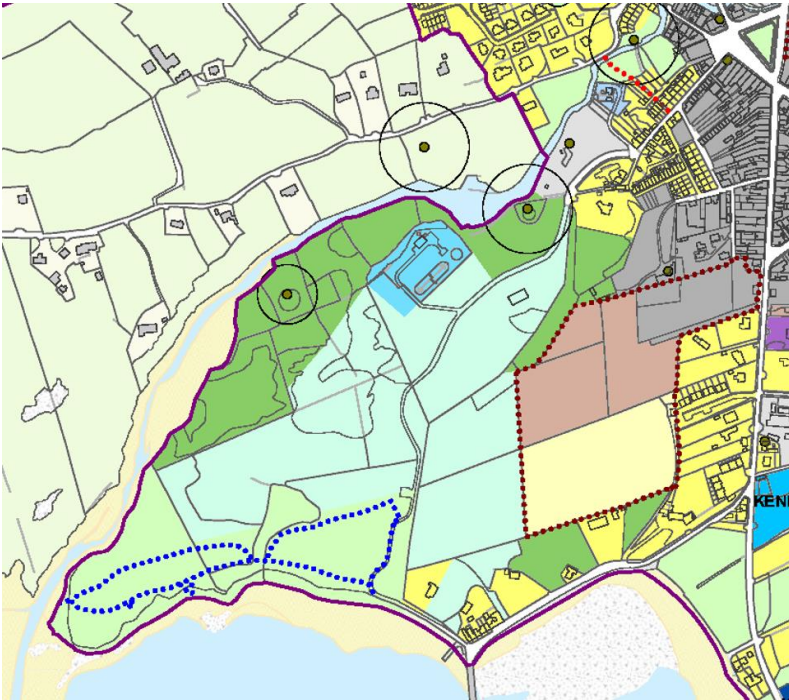


Above: Location of Kenmare + relative to Kenmare River SAC, LHB Winter Roost * , LHB Summer Roost * and potential foraging grounds associated with the SAC highlighted in green



Above: Extract from MAP 9: Kenmare River SAC conservation objectives for Lesser horseshoe bat (npws.ie)

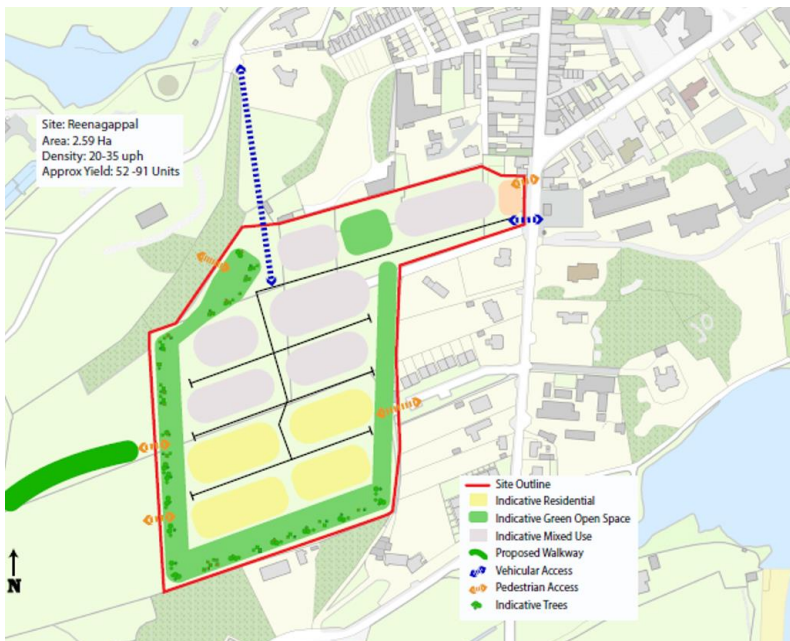
Nonetheless, in order to ensure that the plan would not impact potential landscape level connectivity for the species, land use zoning objectives for within the Peninsula / Reenagappal lands will be further considered as follows:-



Above: proposed land use zonings for Peninsula lands and surroundings

Bantry Road (The Shrubberies)/Peninsula Lands/Reenagappal Opportunity site

It is noted that a design brief has been included for these lands (Section 3 subsection 3.2.2.5.2 . As part of this, a landscaped buffer area of indicative green open space has been shown on an indicative design layout.



Above: indicative design layout included in Section 3 subsection 3.2.2.5.2 of the plan

The design brief also outlines that 'NPWS should be consulted with and careful consideration should be given to proposed lighting and landscaping proposals to ensure that the development would not form a significant barrier to LHB movement through the landscape'. This opportunity site does not adjoin the Kenmare River SAC. It is considered that the proposals as outlined are not likely to adversely impact the conservation objectives or the integrity of the SAC.

Peninsula Park Proposals

The peninsula park proposals correspond with the development proposals contained in the Kenmare Looped Paths Part 8 proposal and constitute no more than minor works. It is noted that Kerry County Council has determined that those proposals are not likely to result in significant effects on European Site interests.

M4 Mixed use built up area

These lands appear to be greenfield lands with no valid planning permission. It is noted that planning permission for the construction of a motorhome park with associated individual pitches, access roads and parking facilities was refused by an Bord Pleanála for reasons which related to wastewater treatment and the lack of a Natura Impact Statement (KCC PLREF:17.1050, ABP REF:302796-18). An Bord Pleanála's planning inspector noted that the limekiln building located on the site provides for suitable bat roost habitat. The lands were not zoned as part of the existing Kenmare FALAP as they were not located within the settlement boundaries for Kenmare. They are also, at least in part, subject to flood risk.

Recommended mitigation for lands proposed to be zoned M4 Mixed use built up area to the south of the River Finnihy

The following to be included after the second paragraph in Section 3 subsection 3.2.2.7.3 Natural Heritage of the Kenmare plan.

The development of lands adjoining the River Finnihy including lands adjoining the tidal waters downstream of Cromwell bridge will be subject to project level environmental assessment and be required to take into consideration the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Departmental flood risk management guidelines and Inland Fisheries Ireland's planning guidelines on urban watercourses, as appropriate.

Kenmare maps

An indicative buffer to be shown between proposed M4 mixed-use built-up site and the River Finnihy.

In addition, it is recommended that the proposed M4 'Mixed use built up area' zoning south of the River Finnihy should be reconsidered as it suggests that the area is already built up.

Potential for impact on Otter populations associated with the SAC

It is noted that the extent of zoned land for the settlement of Kenmare is relatively small in scale, compact in shape and that none of the proposed development zonings extend into the SAC. Proposals which have the potential to impact Otter habitat and movements, such as the Kenmare Flood Relief scheme require project level environmental assessment. This is highlighted in the plan.

Other

Other proposals supported are required to be undertaken in a sustainable manner and supporting objectives have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case-by-case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment.

(additional) Mitigation Measures recommended

None required.

7.3.9. Valencia Harbour / Portmagee Channel SAC, Site Code 002262

This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, (Cahersiveen, Portmagee, Knightstown and Chapeltown). Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality. In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of White Strand, Cahersiveen. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC. The plan supports the Valencia to Cahersiveen Blueway, the Cahersiveen rural regeneration project and infrastructure proposals.

Land use zoning objectives

The SAC is located c.1.5Km downstream of Cahersiveen and while the boundaries adjoin the settlements of Portmagee and Knightstown they do not extend beyond the high-water mark. Therefore, there is no overlap between development zonings outlined in the plan and the SAC boundaries. The outlined land use strategy for lands adjoining the SAC in the settlements is generally outlined as Green/ recreation/conservation and or is reflective of existing land uses. It is considered that there is no realistic potential for impact the SAC by way of the land use zoning objectives outlined in the plan. The land use zoning for Chapeltown are geographically removed from the SAC boundaries and there is no realistic potential for impact on this SAC from the development of same.

Tourism / Recreation proposals

Development Objective KENMD – 41 outlines that it is an objective of the council 'to facilitate the sustainable improvement and enhancement of beach access and beach infrastructure, at appropriate locations and subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites'. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Cycling routes, the Renard to Glenbeigh Greenway and the Knightstown and Cahersiveen Blueway are also supported by the plan, in a manner compatible with the Habitats Directive. It is noted that this blueway was previously subject to AA Screening – at project level. Adverse impacts on site integrity can be conclusively ruled out.

Water quality

Having regard to the water quality protection measures and the overall protections for European sites set out in the plan and in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, it is considered that potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites by way of water quality impacts, can be conclusively ruled out.

Other

Other proposals supported, including road and pier upgrade proposals are required to be undertaken in a sustainable manner and supporting objectives have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case-by-case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment. The Cahersiveen Rural Regeneration Project Proposals are also supported. It is noted that Kerry County Council has previously determined that those works would not be likely to have significant effects on European Sites.

Mitigation Measures recommended

None required.

7.3.10. Castlemaine Harbour SPA, Site Cide 004029

A number of beaches are located within this SPA, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SPA by way of species disturbance.

Further Tourism / Recreation proposals

Development Objective KENMD – 41 outlines that it is an objective of the council 'to facilitate the sustainable improvement and enhancement of beach access and beach infrastructure, at appropriate locations and subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites'. It is considered that this development objective has incorporated adequate safeguards for the protection of European Sites. Adverse impacts on site integrity are unlikely to arise.

Other

Other proposals supported, including road proposals are required to be undertaken in a sustainable manner and supporting objectives have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case-by-case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment.

Mitigation Measures recommended

None required.

7.3.11. Iveragh Peninsula SPA, Site Code 004154

This SPA incorporates much of the coastal fringe of the Iveragh Peninsula. The site encompasses the high coast and sea cliff sections of the peninsula from just west of Rossbehy in the north, around to the end of the peninsula at Valencia Island and Bolus Head, and as far east as Lamb's Head in the south. The site includes the sea cliffs, the land adjacent to the cliff edge and also areas of sand dunes at Derrynane and Beginish. The high-water mark generally forms the seaward boundary with the landward boundary varying but generally extends approximately 300m inland.

This Natura 2000 site is geographically removed from the settlements of the plan area and there is no realistic potential for impact on this SPA from the plan.

Other

Other proposals supported, including road proposals are required to be undertaken in a sustainable manner and supporting objectives have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case-by-case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment.

Mitigation Measures recommended

None required.

8. PRELIMINARY APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

8.1. Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

This Natura Impact Report has considered the potential of the (draft) Kenmare MDLAP to give rise to likely significant effects which could adversely affect any European site, with regard to their qualifying interests, associated conservation status and the overall site integrity. In considering the potential for adverse effects, it has been noted that the aim of the plan is to guide project level design and assessment. The policies and objectives proposed and supported by the MDLAP are underpinned by the principles of sustainability of which the protection of Natura 2000 European Sites forms part. Where necessary, the requirement for project level environmental assessment is emphasised.

In conclusion, it is considered that the (draft) Kenmare MDLAP, subject to securing the mitigation detailed in this report, is not likely to adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 European Site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

8.2. Reasons for Conclusion Statement

It is noted that all mitigation measures and recommendations made in this Natura Impact Report have been incorporated into the draft plan.

Policies and objectives contained within the plan will either not lead to development, are intended to protect conserve or enhance the natural environment, will positively steer development and pressure away from Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas, positively make provision to ensure that implementation will not have a significant effect or an adverse effect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and or have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment.

Therefore, there is no viable or realistic pathway for adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites.

8.3. Recommended Mitigation Measures

The following to be included in the plan as development guidance for the proposed C5 Tourism & related zoning to the east of the River Laune, in the Killorglin Town Plan.

Development Constraints

Nature Conservation

These lands adjoin a European Natura 2000 site, which is a nature conservation site of international importance. Accordingly, development proposals for these lands will be required to demonstrate compatibility with the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and possibly a Natura Impact Statement should be submitted as part of any development proposal. A buffer zone between the European site and a development proposal may be required. As part of the AA screening, the potential for wildlife disturbance, water quality degradation, trampling of sensitive vegetation and the potential spread of invasive introduced species should be considered. It is noted that stands of Japanese Knotweed are currently located in the vicinity. This is a vigorous introduced invasive species and accordingly development proposals for these lands should include proposals for the removal and long-term control of this species, as appropriate.

Flood Risk Management The site is also partly located on the historic floodplain of the River Laune. Development proposals will be required to incorporate sustainable flood risk management designs and practices as recommended in the DoEHLG (2009) publications 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Technical Appendices'. As part of this proposals should not reduce the overall flood water storage capacity in the area and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) should be incorporated.

Water Quality

Development proposals should include detailed proposals for dealing with surface water runoff from the site so as to ensure that water quality of the River Laune is not adversely affected. As part of this hydrocarbon filters and sediment traps should be incorporated, where appropriate.

Access

Access onto these lands is via the N72. Proposals should be supported with a road safety audit and a traffic and transport assessment.

Visual impact / landscaping

Proposals should be appropriately screened and carefully designed having particular regard to its sensitive location on the approach road to the Town from Killarney and to its visibility from the opposite bank of the River Laune, which is used for recreational purposes. Landscaping proposals should be compatible with the Nature Conservation objectives of the adjoining Natura 2000 site, while a high standard of finished materials will be expected. Proposals should have regard to Inland Fisheries Ireland's guidance document on managing watercourses in urban environments, as appropriate.

Waste Management

Development proposals shall be accompanied with a detailed waste management plan which shall cover both the construction and operation phases of the development.

It is recommended that the following be included in Section 3 subsection 3.5 (small village settlements) of the plan:-

As the settlement of Templeoe is located in the vicinity of an important Lesser horse bat roosting site associated with the Old Domestic Building Dromore Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC), development proposals within this settlement will be required to be compatible with the conservation objectives of the SAC. As part of this careful consideration should be given to lighting and landscaping proposals so as to avoid unnecessary light spillage / pollution.

The following amendment to be made to the proposed Tahilla settlement boundary

It is recommended that the western settlement boundary for Tahilla be relocated to the east of the Tahilla River / Kenmare River SAC.

The following to be included after the second paragraph in Section 3 subsection 3.2.2.7.3 Natural Heritage of the Kenmare plan.

The development of lands adjoining the River Finihy including lands adjoining the tidal waters downstream of Cromwell bridge will be subject to project level environmental assessment and be required to take into consideration the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Departmental flood risk management guidelines and Inland Fisheries Ireland's planning guidelines on urban watercourses, as appropriate.

The following amendment to be made to the proposed Kenmare maps

An indicative buffer to be shown between proposed M4 mixed-use built-up site and the River Finihy.

In addition, it is recommended that the proposed M4 'Mixed use built up area' zoning south of the River Finihy should be reconsidered as it suggests that the area is already built up.

9. NEXT STEPTS

9.1. Introduction

The next step in the process is wider public consultation on the Draft Kenmare MDLAP, the accompanying SEA Environmental Report, Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Submissions or aspects of submissions made relating to the Natura Impact Report should be clearly marked as such.

Where changes are made to the draft MDLAP following public consultation and consideration by the Chief Executive and the elected members, these will be assessed and this NIR will be updated by way of addendum document(s) to reflect any such changes.

Prior to adoption, Kerry County Council, as the Competent Authority for the Appropriate Assessment must consider the NIR and any other relevant information and determine whether the plan either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects would adversely affect the integrity of any European Site. Only having ascertained this can the Plan be adopted and come into effect.

Kenmare MDLAP

Natura Impact Report

Appendices

APPENDIX A: Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (Pages 1-40)

APPENDIX B: Summary overview of the 2019 conservation status of habitats and species (Pages 41-44)

APPENDIX C: Summary overview of the conservation status of bird species (Pages 45-46)

APPENDIX D: Generic threats and pressures to Natura 2000 sites and key generic issues in maintaining site integrity (Pages 47-53)

APPENDIX E: Generic Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation interests (SCIs) for SPAs considered within the NIS. (Pages 54-64)

APPENDIX F: Other plans and projects (in-combination effects) (Pages 64-71)

APPENDIX A
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT



KENMARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA
PLAN 2023-2029

Environment Assessment Unit
Kerry County Council
County Buildings
Rathass
Tralee
Co. Kerry

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1. Executive Summary

This Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening Report considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites arising from the proposed Kenmare Municipal District Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (MDLAP). For the purposes of this report the 'plan' is taken to be MDLAP. The plan, guided by the Kerry CDP 2022-2028, sets the local policy framework for land use decision making within the Kenmare Municipal District for the six-year period outlined. The MDLAP also contains policy and land use zoning objectives for the settlements in the plan area, including the principal settlements of Kenmare, Cahersiveen and Killorglin.

It is important to note that this screening assessment is based wholly on objective information. Where likely significant effects on European Sites has been ruled out, there has been no reliance on measures intended to reduce or avoid impacts on European Sites.

This report concludes that significant effects are likely or that sufficient uncertainty remains, to indicate that an appropriate assessment should be carried out for the plan. The European sites listed in Tables 1.1 and 1.2, were screened in for Stage two Appropriate Assessment. No viable or realistic pathway (ecological, hydrological or otherwise) for impact on other European sites exists and potential for significant effect on those other sites has been conclusively ruled out.

Table 1.1 Special Areas of Conservation screened in for Appropriate Assessment

Special Areas of Conservation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary, 000335• Castlemaine Harbour, 000343• Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353• Kilgarvan Ice House, 000364• Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment 000365• Mucksna Wood, 001371• Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood, 002098• Kenmare River, 002158• Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel, 002262

Table 1.2 Special Protected Areas screened in for Appropriate Assessment

Special Protected Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Castlemaine Harbour 004029• Iveragh Peninsula 004154

Reasons:

The plan potentially facilitates development projects and activities in sensitive locations within, near and or upstream/downstream of these European sites, which unmitigated has potential to significantly affect same.

2. Introduction

2.1. Overview

This land use plan, hereafter referred to as the LAP is required to set out objectives which will be used to guide the development of the Municipal District Local Area Plan in a manner complementary to the Kerry CDP 2022-2028. All land use plans, such as the LAP, must be scientifically examined and assessed to ensure that there will not be any adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites which include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) are nature conservation sites of International Importance.

Where significant effects cannot be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, at screening stage, a Appropriate Assessment contained within a Natura Impact Report (NIR) is required, providing a more detailed analysis of the potential effects of a proposed plan on Natura 2000 Sites.

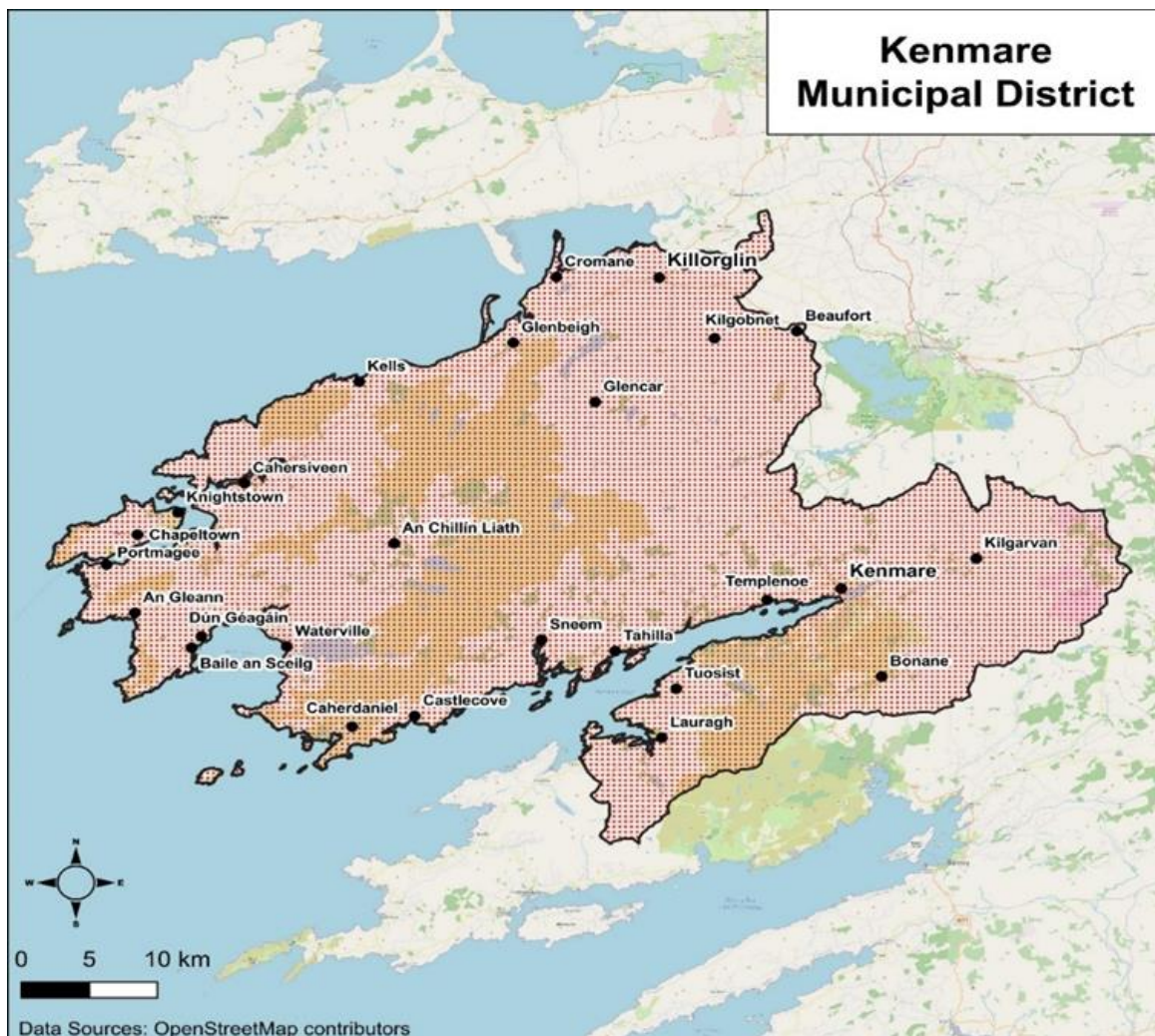


Figure 2-1 The plan area – Kenmare Municipal District Local Area Plan and main settlements

3. Introduction to Stage One Screening

Screening is used to identify whether the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site. This screening assessment follows European Commission (2021) guidance which recommends that screening follow a four step process as outlined below:-

Step one: Ascertain whether the plan or project is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a Natura 2000 site.

Step two: Description of the plan or project and its impact factors

Step three: Identify which Natura 2000 sites may be affected by the plan or project

Step four: Assess whether likely significant effects can be ruled out in view of the site's conservation objectives, taking into consideration potential cumulative effects.

Within this report assessment and identification of potential effects on European Sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor 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 mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works.
- Pathway(s) – e.g. waterway connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats.
- Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites. In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features which 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 Proposed Plan which is known to have interactions with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor.

As part of this Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment Screening process regard was had to the following information, documents, datasets: -

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (2010 revision) (now the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- 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, (2021); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document.

- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000 updated draft April 2015).
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie, bing maps and Google Earth
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie
- Natura 2000 standard Data forms
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie
- Information on the River Basin Districts from www.wfdireland.ie
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019)
- Kerry County Council internal GIS Datasets
- Birdwatch information on Ireland Birds of Conservation Concern 2014-2019 and Bird Sensitivity Mapping
- Publicly accessible plans, strategies, development consent documents, case law and biodiversity datasets

The following guiding principles and case law have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this screening report:-

- Nature and Biodiversity Cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. European Commission (2006).
- Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Rulings of the European Court of Justice. Ecosystems Ltd (2014).
- It is not necessary, in order to trigger the requirement to proceed to stage 2 appropriate assessment, that the proposed development will “definitely” have significant effects on the protected site but such a requirement will arise if it is a “mere probability” that such an effect exists (Waddenzee, para. 41). This was developed by the CJEU in Waddenzee (at para. 43) where the court stated that the requirement to carry out an appropriate assessment will be satisfied if there is a “probability or a risk” that the development will have “significant effects” on the protected site.
- The Habitats Directive is underpinned by the precautionary principle. Accordingly, where there is “doubt as to the absence of significant effects” an appropriate assessment must be carried out (Waddenzee, para. 44). The requirement to conduct an appropriate assessment will arise where, at the screening stage, it is ascertained that the particular development is “capable of having any effect” (albeit this must be any “significant effect”) on the European site (para. 46 of the

opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in Sweetman). The “possibility” of there being a “significant effect” on the European site will give rise to a requirement to carry out an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3). There is no need to “establish” such an effect and it is merely necessary to determine that there “may be” such an effect (para. 47 of opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in Sweetman).

- In order to meet the threshold of likelihood of significant effect, the word “likely” in Article 6(3) and s. 177U(1) should be read as being less than the balance of probabilities. The test does not require any “hard and fast evidence that such a significant effect was likely”. It merely has to be shown that there is a “possibility” that this significant effect is likely (per Haughton J in Alen-Buckley, para. 83).
- The assessment of whether there is a risk of “significant effect” on the European site must be made in light, inter alia, of the “characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned” by the relevant plan or project.
- While the threshold at the screening stage of Article 6(3) and s. 177U is “very low” (Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in Sweetman, para. 49; judgment of Finlay Geoghegan J. in Kelly, para. 30), nonetheless it is a threshold which must be met before it is necessary to proceed to the stage 2 appropriate assessment stage.”
- Where a plan or project is likely to undermine the conservation objectives of the site concerned, it must necessarily be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site. Waddenzee Ruling (C-127/02 para. 48).

4. Consideration of the need for AA Screening

As the proposed plan is a land use plan and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 site, Appropriate Assessment screening is required.

5. Description of the plan and impact factors

5.1. Introduction

This is the second step of the Stage One Screening process and provides a description of the plan, its impact factors in addition to other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European (Natura 2000) site.

In identifying elements of the plan likely to impact on European (Natura 2000) sites, appropriate details about the projects and activities facilitated by the plan need to be considered, having regard but not limited to the following factors:-

- size (e.g. in relation to direct land-take);
- overall affected area including the area affected by indirect impacts (e.g. noise, turbidity, vibrations);
- physical changes in the environment (e.g. modification of riverbeds or morphology of other water bodies, changes in habitats of importance);
- changes in the intensity of an existing pressure (e.g. increase in noise, pollution, recreation or traffic);
- resource requirements (e.g. water abstraction, mineral extraction);
- emissions (e.g. nitrogen deposition) and waste (and whether they are disposed of on land, water or in the air);
- transportation requirements (e.g. access roads / greenways);
- duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;
- temporal aspects (timing of the different stages of a plan or project);
- distance from Natura 2000 sites and in particular from their designating features;
- cumulative impacts with other projects and plans.

Section 1: Introduction

This section outlines the local area plan, explains the background to the plan, and core principles that have contributed to its preparation. The introduction to the plan (S1.5) makes it clear that any reference to development in the LAP should be considered to refer to 'sustainable development'. Similarly, the conservation of species and habitats in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives is considered to be an important component of sustainable strategies, policies and objectives of the plan that 'all policies and objectives supported by the plan are required to be carried out in a manner which does not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites' and 'that the plan only supports strategies plans and projects or aspects of same which are compatible with the requirements of the Habitats Directive'.

The primary function of the MDLAP is to provide a coordinated guide for development within the towns and villages of the plan area, in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development and the requirements of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028. The principal towns in the plan area are Kenmare, Killorglin and Cahersiveen, which are designated as regional towns in the Kerry CDP. The settlement hierarchy for the plan area follows that set out in the Kerry CDP.

Table 5.1 Settlements and settlement hierarchy within the plan area as set out in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028

Settlement Hierarchy	Settlement
Regional Town	Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Killorglin
District Town	Sneem, Waterville
Villages	<u>Baile an Scailg</u> , <u>Beaufort</u> , <u>Chapletown</u> , <u>Dún Géagaín</u> , <u>Glenbeigh</u> , <u>Kilgarvan</u> , <u>Knightstown</u> , <u>Portmagee</u>
Small Village Settlements	<u>An Chillín Liath</u> , <u>An Gleann</u> , <u>Bonane</u> , <u>Caherdaniel</u> , <u>Castlecove</u> , <u>Cromane</u> , <u>Glencar</u> , <u>Kells</u> , <u>Kilgobnet</u> , <u>Lauraagh</u> , <u>Tahilla</u> , <u>Templenoë</u> and <u>Tuosist</u> .

Section 2: Local Area Strategy

Strategic goals

This section sets out the overall strategic vision and development strategy for the area as a whole, guided by the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and the National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework (NPF). The plan is underpinned by a strategic vision which is intended to guide the future development of the plan area in a sustainable manner, in a way that reflects the existing character and amenities of the area and improves quality of life for the existing and future population.

The plan restricts development where infrastructural deficits occur as could impact on water quality downstream. As part of this the plan outlines that Development in Kenmare is subject to the construction of permitted upgrade works to the wastewater treatment facilities while the development of other settlements including Glenbeigh, Kilgarvan and Beaufort is restricted due to absence of adequate water services infrastructure and plans for capital investment. The provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is supported. S2.10 of the plan includes the latest wastewater treatment and water supply Capacity Register for the Plan area, which was used to inform the plan and is required to be taken into consideration at development consent stage.

Section 1, sub-section 1.5 of the plan outlines:- ‘the plan only supports strategies plans and projects or aspects of same which are compatible with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and all policies and objectives supported by the plan are required to be carried out in a manner which does not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites’.

Population

it is noted that the population and housing allocation and targets for the Regional and District towns in the plan area have been determined by the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and are therefore generally beyond the scope of this Habitats Directive Assessment (refer to Section 1 subsection S2.2.2 of the plan).

Main settlements	Population Growth Target	Housing Requirement
Cahersiveen	129	101
Kenmare	261	204
Killorglin	320	251
Sneem	27	21
Waterville	52	41

Above: Population and Housing Allocations as set out in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028

Employment and Economic Activity

As part of this, the importance of tourism is highlighted. County Kerry is more dependent on tourism than any other county in Ireland with over 20% of its workforce employed in tourism related enterprises and with the plan area located in a strategically important tourist area. Future major infrastructural projects committed to by the Local Authority include the development of a recreational greenway between Cahersiveen/Renard and Glenbeigh. The importance of the Wild Atlantic Way and the potential for the development of Blueways is highlighted. Areas of urban and village renewal and regeneration are outlined. Sustainable land-use development, including development of brownfield and opportunity sites, and urban enhancement areas, is promoted in the plan as a driver for economic prosperity and improved quality of life.

Infrastructure

The plan outlines that the supply of zoned land is focused in areas where infrastructure has been or will be invested in and capacity is currently available. Infrastructural deficits will play a key role in limiting development in certain settlements of the West Iveragh area. In cases where infrastructural deficits arise and centrally located suitable lands are available for development; these lands have been zoned under the category of 'Strategic residential reserve' (R4) or 'Strategic reserve' (O1). These lands are zoned in line with the long-term objective of encouraging consolidation of the town/village core and the retention and improvement of local services and facilities. This section refers to and supports the proposed upgrading of infrastructure in the plan area, including water and broadband services. Key infrastructure objectives in the plan area, as outlined, relate to upgrade of road, water, wastewater, pier and harbour infrastructure and the provision of a more cycling friendly environment through improved cycling infrastructure.

Environment and Heritage

In this section, which includes section 1 subsection 2.9, the importance of the plan areas natural environment is outlined. The plan area has many designated landscapes with

International, European and National protection status, including both SACs (Special Conservation Areas) and SPAs (Special Protection Areas). The plan highlights the importance of maintaining/improving biodiversity in the plan area while also ensuring that nature-based tourism and recreational projects/activities are carried out in a manner which does not unduly harm sensitive species or habitats. The following development objective is included:- It is an objective of the Council to support biodiversity protection and enhancement measures within the plan area and ensure development proposals are compatible with the conservation objectives and biodiversity interests of European sites (SACs and SPAs) and National / proposed National designations (NHAs and pNHAs).

The plan promotes the rich arts, cultural, built and archaeological heritage of the West Iveragh area and the contribution these sectors can make to the economy, employment and local enterprise.

Rural Areas

Rural development in the plan area is governed by the policies and objectives set out in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028. This plan highlights certain aspects of relevance to the plan area, including the promotion of the tourism industry in rural areas through the promotion of cycle paths/walkways and greenways, in particular the South Kerry Greenway and Wild Atlantic Way, as well as in the area of astrotourism, a relatively new branch of the Irish tourism industry focussing on the scientific, educational and cultural value of the night sky.

Valentia Island

This area encompasses two of the plan's man settlements; Knightstown and Chapeltown. Tourism is an important element of the island's economy and this section outlines the importance of protecting and growing the island's tourism industry making reference to the island's untouched rural landscape, birdlife, the marine environment, the built heritage and the areas interesting history which includes the Trans-Atlantic Cable, the Skellig Experience, the Observatory, and the Slate Quarry etc. The plan also supports the permitted refurbishment of Bray Head Tower as a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery point and the development of green routes throughout the island.

Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh

This area encompasses a significant amount of the plan area. The area constitutes an important part of the linguistic, social, and cultural tradition of the county. Landscape, folklore, historic, archaeological, musical, linguistic and literary diversity gives the area a unique character and sense of identity. Efforts must be made to maintain and preserve the Gaeltacht tradition, in particular the area's linguistic heritage, being one of the remaining areas throughout the country where the Irish language is spoken.

Land use Zoning Classifications

These broadly follow the Myplan.ie General Zone Types (GZTs) classification scheme, supplemented by a zoning matrix table. The land use zoning section also outlines that 'within the development boundaries of the towns and villages, in areas that are not

subject to specific zoning objectives, proposals for development will be considered within the context of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.

Section 3: Settlements

This section introduces the overall development principles for the plan area settlements. The strategy for the plan is dependent on the growth of Kenmare, Killorglin and Cahersiveen as the regional towns and to a lesser extent on the district towns of Waterville and Sneem. The plan outlines that the targeted growth can only be achieved through creating employment opportunities and attracting people to live in these settlements, thereby strengthening their urban structure and creating a demand to support local services.

Regional Towns

Kenmare, Killorglin and Cahersiveen

District Towns

Waterville and Sneem

Villages

Baile an Sceilg, Beaufort, Chapletown, Dún Géagáin, Glenbeigh, Kilgarvan, Knightstown, Portmagee

Small villages

An Chillín Liath, An Gleann, Bonane, Caherdaniel, Castlecove, Cromane, Glencar, Kells, Kilgobnet, Lauragh, Tahilla, Templenoe and Tuosist.

Volume Two Environmental Reports

This includes the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the Habitats Directive Assessment Report (HDA), and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

5.2. Impact factor consideration

In general, any development that may result from implementation of the Plan, such as construction of housing, roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, provision of tourism facilities and telecommunications infrastructure could lead to significant effects depending on where development is sited, the scale and characteristics of development and types and quantities of emissions. All commitments in the plan in relation to development or increased usage or pressures need to be explored and assessed.

In identifying the elements that have potential for significant effects, cumulative and in combinations effects with other projects and plans were taken into account. Based on the precautionary principle where significant effects cannot be conclusively ruled out a stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

It is noted that rural development within the plan area, including rural housing, quarrying, agricultural and energy development are regulated by way of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028

and are therefore generally beyond the scope of the LAP and this Habitats Directive Assessment.

In relation to urban development, population and housing allocations for the towns are as outlined in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028. In relation to the smaller village settlements, allocation is provided indirectly by way of land zoning and development objectives for as set out in this plan. Only small-scale compact growth is provided for and subject to availability of services.

In relation to the potential for in combination effects, other plans and projects have been taken into consideration. Appendix F should be referred to in this regard.

The individual elements of the plan, in combination with other plans and projects that may result in impacts on Natura 2000 sites have been identified as:

1. Land use zoning and development objectives for the settlements located within the plan area,
2. Development allocations and targets for the villages and small villages located within the plan area. Allocations for the towns is determined by the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.
3. Specified infrastructure, tourism, heritage and amenity proposals not included within the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 or where greater clarity and or geographic specificity is now available at this the local area plan stage than was available at the Kerry CDP stage.

Further details in relation to the above are outlined in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Elements of the Plan that may result in impacts on Natura 2000 sites

Elements of the plan or project considered	Impact factors
Land use zoning and development objectives for the settlements	Settlements contain, adjoin or are located upstream of European Natura 2000 sites. Potential for direct land-take, habitat degradation and / or species disturbance.
Population, housing and development allocations / targets for the villages and small villages located within the plan area	Settlements contain, adjoin or are located upstream of European Natura 2000 sites. Potential for direct land-take, habitat degradation and / or species disturbance. Population allocations were determined as part of the Kerry CDP preparation process.
Specified infrastructure, tourism, heritage and amenity proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective to facilitate Uisce Éireann Investment in 	These proposals may not be specifically identified within the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 or greater clarity / geographic specificity may be provided within this plan than was outlined in the CDP.

Elements of the plan or project considered	Impact factors
<p>capital projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective to develop green routes throughout Valentia Island. • Objective to develop the South Kerry Greenway and associated infrastructure along or near the route of the former railway line between Glenbeigh and Reenard. • Objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure • Objective to facilitate and support the development of an Observatory at Kerry College's Cappanalea Centre 	<p>Potential for direct land-take, habitat degradation and / or species disturbance.</p>
<p>Rural development / other</p>	<p>These developments are governed by Kerry CDP 2022-2028. No realistic potential for impact</p>

6. Identify which Natura 2000 sites may be affected by the plan

6.1. Introduction

This is the third step of Appropriate Assessment Screening Process, the purpose of which is to identify which European (Natura 2000) sites may be affected by the plan, in combination with other plans and projects. As part of this Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity and elements of the plan with potential to give rise to effects have been identified.

6.2. Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the plan area

The spatial scope of the plan corresponds to the plan area. However, for the purpose of AA screening, it is necessary to consider areas beyond the plan area due to potential for impacts on European sites that occur in surrounding areas.

Identifying the Natura 2000 sites that may be affected should be done by taking into consideration all aspects of the plan or project that could have potential effects on any Natura 2000 sites located within the zone of influence of the plan or project. This considers all of the designating features (species, habitat types) that are significantly present on the sites and their conservation objectives.

In particular, it identifies:

- any Natura 2000 sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g. water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- Natura 2000 sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g. loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range);
- Natura 2000 sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

It is general practice, when screening a plan for compliance with the Habitats Directive, to identify all European sites within the functional area of the plan itself and within 15km of the boundaries of the area the plan applies to. This approach is currently recommended in the Department of the Environmental, Heritage and Local Government's document Guidance for Planning Authorities and as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected European sites are included in the screening process. This accounts for the possibility of emissions of pollutants potentially having effects over long distances. In the case of sites with water dependent habitats or species, and a plan or project that

could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.

Based on the above approach, a total of 36 European sites, comprising 23 SACs and 13 SPAs have been included for preliminary assessment. These are presented in Table 6.1 and shown on Figures 6.1 and 6.2. Following consideration of hydrological data and other potential pathways for impact, potential to significantly effect Natura 2000 sites located beyond 15km from the plan area has been conclusively ruled out as no viable pathway for impact exists.

Table 6.1 Natura 2000 sites within 15Km potential zone of influence of the plan area

<p>SAC (18 in situ sites)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caha Mountains, 000093 • Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary, 000335 • Castlemaine Harbour, 000343 • Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, 000353 • Kilgarvan Ice House, 000364 • Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment 000365 • Lough Yganavan And Lough Nambrackdarrig, 000370 • Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood, 001342 • Mucksna Wood, 001371 • Glanmore Bog, 001879 • Maulagowna Bog, 001881 • Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood, 002041 • Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood, 002098 • Kenmare River, 002158 • Blackwater River (Kerry), 002173 • Drongawn Lough, 002187 • Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel, 002262 • Glanlough Woods, 002315
<p>SAC (5 ex-situ sites)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glengarriff Harbour And Woodland (Cork), 000090 • Ardagh (Sheheree Bog), 000382 • Mount Brandon SAC 000375 • Mullaghanish Bog, 001890 • Tralee Bay And Magharees Peninsula,

	West To Cloghane, SAC 002070
SPA (6 in situ sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puffin Island 004003 • Skelligs 004007 • Castlemaine Harbour 004029 • Eirk Bog 004108 • Iveragh Peninsula 004154 • Deenish Island and Scariff Island 004175
SPA (7 ex situ sites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killarney National Park 004038 • Dingle Peninsula SPA 004153 • Beara Peninsula (Cork) 004155 • Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA 004162 • Tralee Bay Complex 004188 • The Bull and Crow Ricks SPA 4066 • Sheep's Head to Toe Head 4156

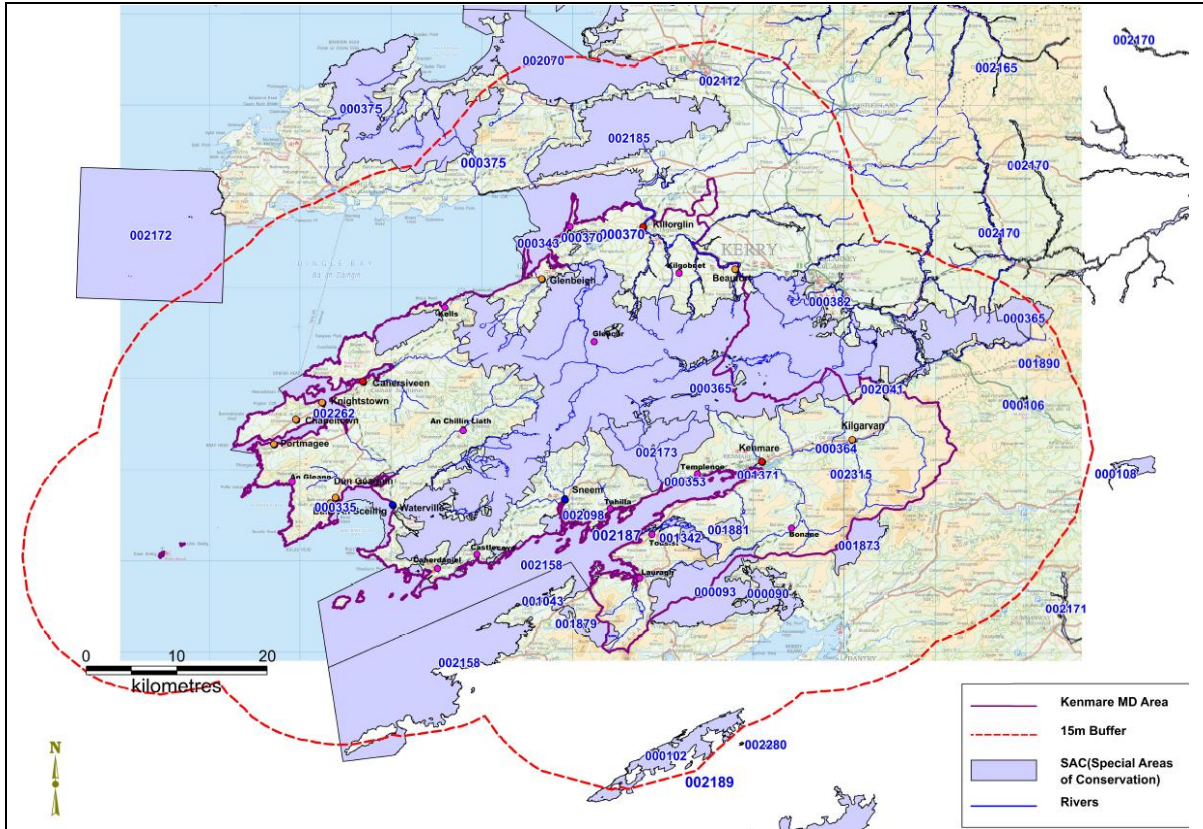


Figure 6-1 Special Areas of Conservation located within or in the vicinity of the plan area.

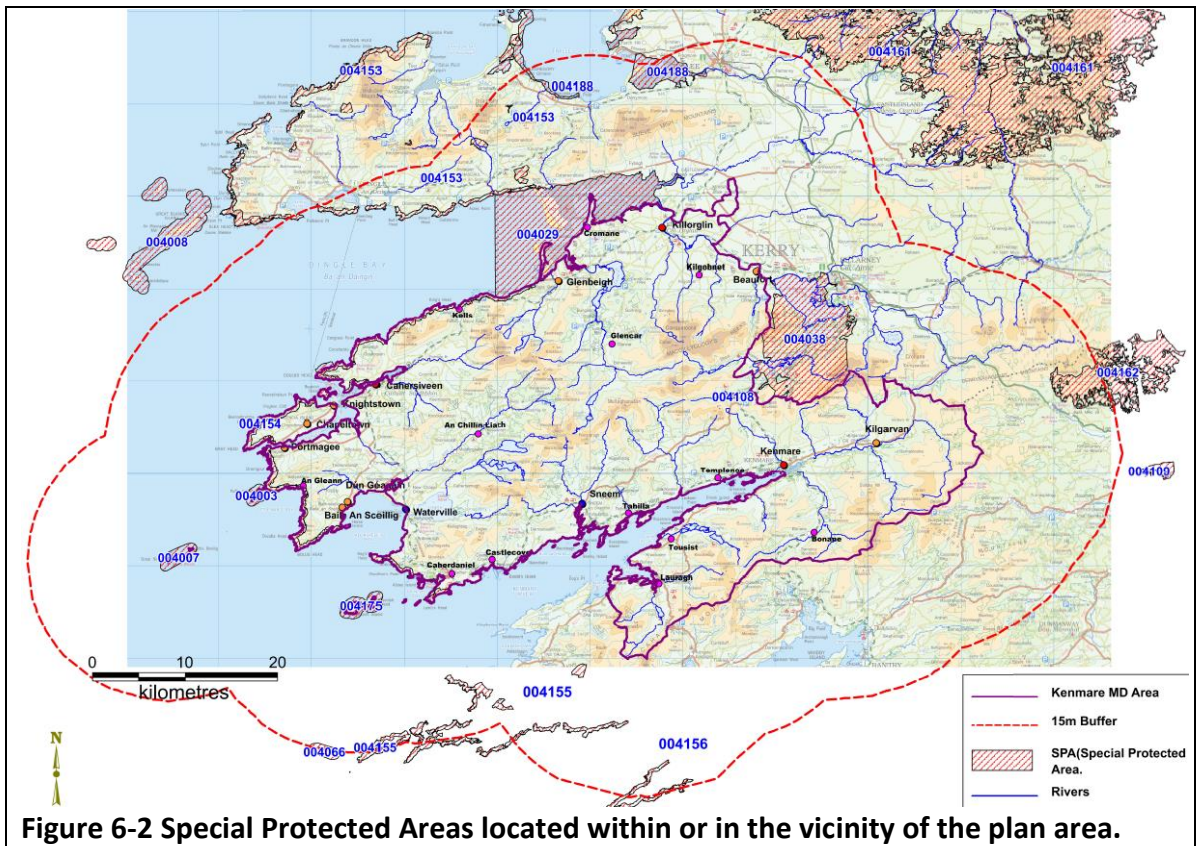


Figure 6-2 Special Protected Areas located within or in the vicinity of the plan area.

6.3. Identification of impact on Natura 2000 sites

Not all Natura 2000 sites identified within S6.2 are likely to be impacted or significantly affected. This section of the assessment identifies which of those can be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, at this stage of the process.

To determine the possible effects of the plan or project on Natura 2000 sites, it is necessary to identify not only the relevant sites but also the habitats and species that are significantly present within them, as well as the site-specific conservation objectives. Since the conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 sites focus on maintaining or restoring the favourable conservation condition of the qualifying interests of each site, the screening process concentrated on assessing the potential implications of the implementation of the plan against the qualifying interests / special conservation interests of each site as presented in the conservation objective reports for the sites (available on NPWS.ie).

This assessment process considers whether the changes brought about by the Plan are likely to cause any direct, indirect or secondary impacts (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 network of sites. It is acknowledged that some projects or plans that do not directly affect Natura 2000 sites may still have a significant impact on them if they cause a barrier effect or prevent ecological linkages. This may happen, for example, when plans affect features of the landscape that connect Natura 2000 sites or that may obstruct the movements of species or disrupt the continuity of a fluvial or woodland ecosystem.

As part of the identification of impact assessment, regard was had to the following information and data sources:-

- Ireland's Article 17 Reports to the European Commission "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland",
- Site Synopses, NATURA 2000 Standard Data Forms and Conservation Objectives supporting documents (including site specific Conservation Objectives, where available).
- Maps, aerial photographs and geographical information systems,
- Existing data, including that contained within consent applications in the vicinity of the plan area,
- Relevant state of the environment reports,
- The SEA and AA undertaken as part of the Kerry CDP 2022-2028 and environmental assessments, including AA's undertaken for other plans and projects in the area.

The following principles have been adhered to:-

- All European (Natura 2000) sites located within, adjoining or downstream of settlements located within the plan area were screened in due to potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts (in absence of mitigation);

- Where proposals in the plan would affect features of the landscape that connect European (Natura 2000) sites or that may obstruct the movements of qualifying interest species / species of conservation interest, associated with European (Natura 2000) sites, those sites are screened in due to potential for indirect and cumulative impacts (in absence of mitigation);
- Natura 2000 Special Protected Area (SPA) sites (designated for protection of birds) and SAC sites (designated for bat species) that occur within 5km of the settlements in the plan area are screened in, on a precautionary basis, due to the potential to impact these highly mobile species.

Table 6.2 Preliminary screening of Natura 2000 sites within potential zone of influence of the plan area

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
Caha Mountains, SAC 000093	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary, SAC 000335	<p>This site is located downstream of and in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, including Waterville. Potential for indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Ballinskelligs. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p>	Yes
Castlemaine Harbour, SAC 000343	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, including Killorglin, Cromane, Beaufort and Kilgobnet.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and</p>	Yes

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p>	
<p>Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353</p>	<p>This small village settlement of Templenoe is located approx. 400m from the site which is designated for Lesser Horseshoe Bat. The settlement is within the potential core foraging sustenance zone for the species.</p> <p>There is no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No land use zonings, roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site. However as a small village settlement, a settlement boundary has been outlined in Section 3 subsection 3.5 of the plan, within which cluster type residential development is open to consideration.</p> <p>Potential for impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Kilgarvan Ice House, SAC 000364</p>	<p>Located within 2.5Km of the settlement of Kilgarvan and in close proximity to the Kenmare to Headford Junction disused</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>railway, supported as a possible future greenway in the plan.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via habitat fragmentation.</p>	
<p>Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365</p>	<p>This site is located within, downstream / upstream of and in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, including Killorglin, Waterville and Glencar.</p> <p>In addition, the plan supports the development of the Cappanalea outdoor education centre, which is located within this SAC.</p> <p>The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lough Yganavan And Lough Nambrackdarrig, SAC 000370</p>	<p>This site is located approx. 650m from the small village settlement of Cromane and there is no hydrological connectivity between same. They are located indifferent sub-catchments.</p> <p>No land use zonings, roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Sheheree (Ardagh)</p>	<p>Geographically distant from any</p>	<p>No</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
Bog SAC, 000382	<p>settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	
Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood, SAC 001342	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Mucksna Wood, SAC 001371	<p>This site is located in proximity to Kenmare Town.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance.</p>	Yes
Glanmore Bog, SAC 001879	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Maulagowna Bog, SAC 001881	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood, SAC 002041	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p>	No

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	
<p>Tralee Bay And Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane, SAC 002070</p>	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood, SAC 002098</p>	<p>Located within 2.5Km of the settlements of Sneem and Tahilla.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via habitat fragmentation.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Kenmare River, SAC 002158</p>	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, including Kenmare Town, Kilgarvan, Bonane, Lauragh, Tousist, Templenoe, Tahilla, Sneem, Castlecove and Caherdaniel.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Derrynane. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Blackwater River (Kerry), SAC 002173</p>	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p>	<p>No</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	
<p>Drongawn Lough, SAC 002187</p>	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Valencia Harbour / Portmagee Channel, SAC 002262</p>	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, including Cahersiveen, Portmagee, Knightstown and Chapelstown.</p> <p>The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of White Strand, Cahersiveen. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Glanlough Woods, SAC 002315</p>	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no</p>	<p>No</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	
Glengarriff Harbour And Woodland (Cork), SAC 000090	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Mullaghanish Bog, 001890	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Mount Brandon SAC 000375	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Puffin Island SPA 004003	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Skelligs SPA 004007	Geographically distant from any	No

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	
<p>Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029</p>	<p>A number of beaches are located within this SPA, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SPA by way of species disturbance.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Eirk Bog SPA 004108</p>	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 site is geographically removed from the settlements of the plan area. The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028. It is noted that the plan facilitates the provision of green routes throughout Valentia Island, a portion of which is located within this SPA.</p> <p>Having regard to the above and given the large overlap between the SPA boundaries and those of the plan area, it is considered that there is some</p>	<p>Yes</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	potential for impact by way of possible development pressure and disturbance.	
Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA 004175	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Killarney National Park SPA 004038	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Dingle Peninsula SPA 004153	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Beara Peninsula (Cork) SPA 004155	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA 004162	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within</p>	No

European (Natura 2000) Site	Impact identification	Potential for impact (Yes / No)
	<p>or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	
Tralee Bay Complex 004188	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
The Bull and Crow Ricks SPA 4066	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No
Sheep's Head to Toe Head 4156	<p>Geographically distant from any settlement within the plan area and no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site.</p> <p>No realistic potential for impact.</p>	No

7. Assess whether likely significant effects can be ruled out in view of the site's conservation objectives, taking into consideration potential cumulative effects

7.1. Introduction

This is the fourth and final step of the Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise and involves an assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites. As outlined in the EC Commission 2021 guidance on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites, in case of plans, depending on the level of definition and details of the various aspects and components of the plan, it may be difficult to assess the magnitude and significance of all potential effects on individual sites at this stage. Nevertheless, the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 site can still be assessed for instance in light of the type of plan or project and its potential zone of influence. Plans must therefore be screened with a sufficient degree of caution (beyond reasonable doubt), and in light of the precautionary principle, to avoid ruling out components or actions with a potential impact on a Natura 2000 site and excluding them from further scrutiny in the appropriate assessment.

impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the plan can be categorised under a number of headings: -

- Loss / reduction of habitat area
- Habitat degradation
- Habitat or species fragmentation
- Disturbance to Key Species
- Reduction in species density
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value such as changes in water quality / quantity
- Other indirect effects

These are discussed in more detail in section 7.2.

Decisions on likelihood of significance are taken on a case by case assessment of Natura 2000 sites, having regard to significance indicators in addition to:-

- The possibility of effects manifesting themselves in the short, medium and long-term, in combination effects and the potential impacts of climate change,
- The precautionary principle,
- The requirement to undertake screening in the absence of mitigation.
- The sensitivity of the Natura 2000 sites, in view of their conservation objectives

7.2. Significance indicators

7.2.1 Loss / Reduction of Habitat Area

Direct habitat loss is caused where there is removal of a habitat type, for example arising from the development of new projects or infrastructure or via change of land use which alters the existing habitat. Habitat loss can also occur through the reduction of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions. It can arise from the introduction / spread of invasive species, toxic contamination, or physical alteration. Development on greenfield sites will likely give rise to direct habitat loss in the footprint of the new site infrastructure.

Should any habitat loss occur within designated Natura 2000 sites, this would potentially significantly effect same. Habitat loss in areas outside of Natura 2000 sites could also lead to significant effects should the affected habitat constitute key functionally linked supporting habitat.

Example of significance indicator: Hectares of habitat lost, percentage of the habitat lost.

7.2.2 Habitat degradation

Habitat degradation results in the diminishment of habitat quality and a loss of important habitat functions.

It can arise from changes in management, water or water pollution, contamination from spillages or physical alteration (e.g. arising from poor management during construction and subsequent operation of new infrastructure).

Example of significance indicator: Area (in absolute terms and percentage) where the attributes used to determine the conservation status of the species or habitat has worsened as well as the scale of degradation for each of the attributes.

7.2.3 Habitat / Species Fragmentation

Habitat and species fragmentation can occur through the breaking up of or loss of habitats resulting in interference with existing ecological units. Fragmentation can also result from impediments to the natural movements of species. This is relevant where important landscape features / corridors for movement or migration are likely to be disrupted such as along river corridors when construction and or development may introduce a barrier to the free movement of species from one area of habitat to another.

Example of significance indicator: Change in comparison with the original and desired states (e.g. creation of several small habitat patches instead of one large one, hectares of habitat exposed to the edge effect)

7.2.4 Disturbance to Key Species

Key species are defined as those listed on the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive for which sites are designated. Disturbance to species supported by a

European site is likely to increase where there is an increase in activity levels from developments within or adjacent to designated areas.

Sources of disturbance include noise, vibration, light, emanating from construction and / or operational activities. In relation to the activities provided for by the plan, disturbance to key species could result from construction associated with new development. Operational phase disturbance could occur where species are disturbed by operational aspects of a proposal, including altered, increased or intensified public access.

Example of significance indicator: Degree of intensity, duration or permanence of the disturbance factor, its distance from breeding areas

7.2.5 Reduction in Species Density

Reduction in species density may result from loss / reduction of habitat area, disturbance or habitat fragmentation, either individually or in combination. In addition, changes in habitat quality could lead to reductions in populations of sensitive species. Developments can also increase mortality risk of species or displace them from an area to otherwise less suitable habitat – which could impact on species density and populations.

Example of significance indicator: Degree to which the population(s) are impacted having regard to conservation objective requirements.

7.2.6 Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value

Key indicators of conservation value for sites potentially impacted by development within the plan area include water quality, nutrient status and hydrology. Deterioration in water quality within surface and ground water dependant ecosystems can lead to direct and indirect impacts on a range of habitats and species of conservation importance. Changes in water quantity (water table height; flow regime; flow rates etc) can impact on habitats and associated species. Fugitive dust and emissions such as Nitrogen oxides which can potentially arise from certain development proposals can potentially alter soil and water nutrient status in the vicinity.

Example of significance indicator: Degree to which the key indicators of conservation value are altered or diminished having regard to conservation objective requirements.

7.2.7 Other indirect effects

Adjoining habitat and species could also be impacted by indirect effects, some of which may impact key indicators of conservation value as listed above e.g. water quality.

Example of significance indicator: Degree to which the area is opened to other threats (invasive alien species, human and animal penetration, additional developments).

7.3. Assessment

Section 6 of this report identified potential for impact on 9 No. European (Natura 2000) sites (8 SACs and 1 SPA). This section of the report builds on the previous sections to assess whether likely significant effects can be ruled out in view of the site's conservation objectives, taking into consideration potential cumulative effects.

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects	AA requirement
Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary, SAC 000335	<p>This site is located downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area (Waterville, Bhaile an Sceillig, Dún Géagáin, An Chillín Liath). Potential for indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Ballinskelligs. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.
Castlemaine Harbour, SAC 000343	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area (Killorglin, Beaufort, Kilgobnet, Glenbeigh, Glencar).</p> <p>The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects	AA requirement
	<p>could impact the SAC.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	
<p>Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353</p>	<p>This small village settlement of Templeoe is located approx. 400m from the site which is designated for Lesser Horseshoe Bat. The settlement is within the potential core foraging sustenance zone for the species. There is no hydrological connectivity between same.</p> <p>No land use zonings, roads / greenways, tourism, water or other infrastructure identified for within or proximate to this site. However as a small village settlement, a settlement boundary has been outlined in Section 3 subsection 3.5 of the plan, within which cluster type residential development is open to consideration.</p> <p>Potential for impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Kilgarvan Ice House, SAC 000364</p>	<p>This site is located within 2.5Km of the settlement of Kilgarvan and in close proximity to the disused railway located between Kenmare and Headford Junction, which is supported as a possible future greenway in the plan.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via habitat fragmentation. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated)</p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment is required.</p>

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects	AA requirement
Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365	<p>development within the plan area.</p> <p>This site is located upstream of the river Laune. The River Laune links Lough Leane, which forms part of this SAC, with Castlemaine Harbour and is used by migratory fish associated with the SAC (Atlantic Salmon and Lamprey). Killorglin, Beaufort and Kilgobnet are identified settlements within the plan area which are located upstream of the River Laune. Unmitigated, their development could indirectly impact on the River Laune by way of reduced water quality.</p> <p>In addition, the settlement of Waterville is located in close proximity Lough Currane and the outlet of same to Ballinskelligs Bay. Lough Currane also forms part of this SAC while the downstream river is likely used by Otter and to be an important corridor for Qualifying Interest migratory fish associated with the SAC.</p> <p>The plan also supports the development of the small village of Glencar and the Cappanalea outdoor education centre, which are located within this SAC.</p> <p>The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.
Mucksna Wood,	This site is located in proximity to Kenmare	Appropriate

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects	AA requirement
SAC 001371	<p>Town.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	Assessment is required.
Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood, SAC 002098	<p>This site is located within 2.5Km of the settlements of Sneem and Tahilla.</p> <p>Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via habitat fragmentation. It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated)</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.
Kenmare River, SAC 002158	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, (Kenmare Town, Kilgarvan, Bonane, Lauragh, Tousist, Templenoe, Tahilla, Sneem, Castlecove and Caherdaniel. Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of Derrynane. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.
Valencia Harbour / Portmagee Channel, SAC	<p>This site is located within, downstream of and / or in proximity to a number of settlements within the plan area, (Cahersiveen, Portmagee,</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects	AA requirement
002262	<p>Knightstown and Chapelstown). Potential for direct impact via habitat loss / degradation / disturbance and indirect impact via water quality.</p> <p>The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028. In addition, a number of beaches are located within this SAC, including the Blue Flag beach of White Strand, Cahersiveen. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SAC.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	
Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029	<p>A number of beaches are located within this SPA, including the Blue Flag beach of Rossbeigh. Tourism / Recreation proposals and enabling infrastructure e.g objective to improve and enhance beach access and infrastructure could impact the SPA by way of species disturbance.</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.
Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154	<p>This Natura 2000 site is geographically removed from the settlements of the plan area. The disused railway line which forms part of the South Kerry Greenway is located in the vicinity of this European Site. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the related objective in the plan only supports the sustainable development of this project and associated infrastructure. This project is supported in the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p> <p>It is further noted that the plan facilitates the</p>	Appropriate Assessment is required.

European (Natura 2000) Site	Likelihood of significant effects	AA requirement
	<p>provision of green routes throughout Valentia Island, a portion of which is located within this SPA. Having regard to the above and given the large overlap between the SPA boundaries and those of the plan area, it is considered that there is some potential for impact by way of possible development pressure and disturbance.</p> <p>It is not possible to screen out significant effects on this Natura 2000 site at this stage of the assessment as it may be impacted by way of future (unmitigated) development within the plan area.</p>	

8. Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion

The likely significant effects that may arise from the implementation of the plan have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially have significant effects on the Natura 2000 network, either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects. On the basis of the findings of this Screening for Appropriate Assessment, it is concluded that the plan:

- (i) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site; and
- (ii) may have significant impacts on the Natura 2000 network.

Therefore, applying the Precautionary Principle and in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, an Appropriate Assessment within a Natura Impact Report is required.

Reasons for conclusion

The plan potentially facilitates development projects and activities in sensitive locations, within, near and or upstream/downstream of these European sites, which unmitigated has potential to significantly affect same.

European Sites with potential to be significantly effected by the plan

- Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary SAC, 000335
- Castlemaine Harbour SAC, 000343
- Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood, SAC 000353
- Kilgarvan Ice House SAC, 000364
- Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River Catchment SAC, 000365
- Mucksna Wood SAC, 001371
- Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC, 002098
- Kenmare River SAC, 002158
- Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC, 002262
- Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029
- Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154

No viable or realistic pathway (ecological, hydrological or otherwise) for impact on other European sites exists and potential for significant effect on same has been conclusively ruled out.

Appendix B: Summary overview of the 2019 conservation status of habitats and species

The following tables are sourced from the NPWS 2019 report entitled The Status of Protected EU Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 1: Summary Overview. This report is available online at <https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019>.

Code	Common name	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Area	2019 Structure & Functions	2019 Future Prospects
1110	Sandbanks	●	●	=	=	=	=	●
1130	Estuaries	●	▲	▼	=	=	▼	●
1140	Tidal mudflats and sandflats	●	▲	▼	=	=	▼	●
1150	Lagoons*	●	=	▼	=	=	▼	●
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	●	▲	▼	=	=	▼	●
1170	Reefs	●	▼	=	=	=	=	●
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases			=	=	=	=	●
1210	Drift lines	●	▼	▼	=	▼	=	●
1220	Vegetated shingle	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
1310	Salicornia mud	●	▼	=	=	=	=	●
1320	Spartinion	●						
1330	Atlantic salt meadows	●	=	▼	=	▼	=	●
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows	●	=	▼	=	▼	=	●
1420	Halophilous scrub	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	=	●
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
2120	Marram dunes (white dunes)	●	=	=	=	▼	=	●
2130	Fixed dunes (grey dunes)*	●	=	▼	=	=	▼	●
2140	Empetrum dunes*	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
2150	Dune heath*	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
2170	Dunes with creeping willow	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
2190	Dune slacks	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	=	●
21A0	Machair*	●	=	=	=	▼	=	●
3110	Oligotrophic isoetid lake habitat	●	▼	=	=	=	=	●
3130	Mixed Najas flexilis lake habitat	●	=	▼	=	=	▼	●
3140	Hard water lakes	●	▼	▼	=	=	▼	●
3150	Rich pondweed lake habitat	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
3160	Acid oligotrophic lakes	●	▼	=	=	=	×	●
3180	Turloughs*	●	=	=	=	=	=	●
3260	Vegetation of flowing waters	●	▼	▼	=	=	▼	●
3270	Chenopodium rubri	●	●	=	=	=	=	●

STATUS: ● Favourable ● Unfavourable-Inadequate ● Unfavourable-Bad ● Unknown

TREND: ▲ Improving = Stable ▼ Declining × Unknown

* priority habitat. Please note "Spartinion" was not considered post-2007 as this habitat is comprised of non-native species.

Code	Common name	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Area	2019 Structure & Functions	2019 Future Prospects
4010	Wet heaths	●	▬	▼	▬	▼	▬	●
4030	Dry heaths	●	▬	▬	▬	▼	▬	●
4060	Alpine and subalpine heath	●	▲	▲	▬	▼	▲	●
5130	Juniper scrub	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
6130	Calaminarian grasslands	●	▬	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
6210	Orchid-rich calcareous grassland*	●	▬	▼	▬	▼	▬	●
6230	Species-rich Nardus grassland*	●	▼	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
6410	Molinia meadows	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▬	●
6430	Hydrophilous tall-herb swamp	●	▬	▼	▼	▼	▬	●
6510	Hay meadows	●	▬	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
7110	Raised bog (active)*	●	▼	▼	▬	▼	▼	●
7120	Degraded raised bogs	●	▼	▼	▬	▼	▼	●
7130	Blanket bog (active)*	●	▼	▼	▬	▼	▼	●
7140	Transition mires	●	×	▬	▬	▬	×	●
7150	Rhynchosporion depressions	●	▼	▼	▬	▼	▼	●
7210	Cladium fens*	●	×	▬	▬	▬	×	●
7220	Petrifying springs*	●	▬	▼	▬	▬	▼	●
7230	Alkaline lens	●	×	▼	▬	▼	×	●
8110	Siliceous scree	●	▲	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
8120	Eutric scree	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
8240	Limestone pavement*	●	▬	▬	▬	▼	▲	●
8310	Caves	●	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
8330	Sea caves	●	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
91A0	Old oak woodland	●	▲	▼	▬	▼	▬	●
91D0	Bog woodland*	●	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
91E0	Alluvial woodland*	●	▲	▼	▬	▼	▼	●
91J0	Yew woodland*	●	▲	▬	▬	▬	▬	●

STATUS: ● Favourable ● Unfavourable-Inadequate ● Unfavourable-Bad ● Unknown

TREND: ▲ Improving ▬ Stable ▼ Declining × Unknown

* priority habitat. Please note "Spartinion" was not considered post-2007 as this habitat is comprised of non-native species.

Code	Species name	Amnes	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and operator	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Population	2019 Habitat for the species	2019 Future Prospects
0965	Kilamey fern (<i>Vandenboschia speciosa</i>)	II, IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1528	Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>)	II, IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1833	Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)	II, IV	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
6216	Slender green feather moss (<i>Hemitocaulis vermicosus</i>)	II	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1395	Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>)	II	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1376	Mohr (<i>Lithothamnium coralloides</i>)	V	●	▲	▼	●	●	▼	●
1377	Mohr (<i>Phymatholthon calcareum</i>)	V	●	▲	▼	●	●	▼	●
1400	White cushion moss (<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>)	V	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1409	Sphagnum genus (<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>)	V	●	●	●				
1413	Lycopodium group (<i>Lycopodium spp.</i>)	V	●	●	●				
1378	Cladonia subgenus cladina (<i>Cladonia (Cladonia) subsp.</i>)	V	●	●	●				
1013	Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>)	II	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)	II	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo desmouliniana</i>)	II	●	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●
1024	Kerry slug (<i>Geomalacus maculatus</i>)	II, IV	●	●	▲	▲	▲	●	●
1029	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	II, V	●	▼	▼	●	▼	▼	●
1990	Nore pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera durroverensis</i>)	II, V	●	▼					
1092	White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	II, V	●	●	▼	▼	▼	●	●
1065	Marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)	II	●	▼	▲	▲	▲	●	●
1095	Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	II	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1096	Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	II	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1099	River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	II, V	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5046	Kilamey shad (<i>Alosa kilameensis</i>)	II, V	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1103	Twite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	II, V	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5076	Pollan (<i>Coregonus pollan</i>)	V	●	×	●	●	●	●	●
1106	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	II, V	●	●	●	●	▼	●	●
6284	Natterjack toad (<i>Epistalna calamita</i>)	IV	●	▲	●	●	×	▲	●
1213	Common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)	V	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1223	Leatherback turtle (<i>Demochelys coriacea</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1303	Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	II, IV	●	●	▼	▼	▲	▼	●
1309	Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	IV	●	●	▲	●	▲	●	●
5009	Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus nyctalus</i>)	IV	●	●	▲	●	▲	●	●
1317	Nathusius' pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1322	Natterer's bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

STATUS: ● Favourable ● Unfavourable-Inadequate ● Unfavourable-Bad ● Unknown ● Vagrant
TREND: ▲ Improving ● Stable ▼ Declining × Unknown

Code	Species name	Annex	2007 Overall Status	2013 Overall Status and opinion	2019 Overall Status and trend	2019 Range	2019 Population	2019 Habitat for the species	2019 Future Prospects
1314	Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	IV	●	●	▲	▬	▲	▬	●
1330	Whiskered bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
1326	Brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	IV	●	●	▲	▬	▲	▬	●
1331	Leisler's bat (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>)	IV	●	●	▲	▬	▲	▬	●
1334	Mountain hare (<i>Lepus timidus</i>)	V	●	●	▬	▬	▬	✖	●
1355	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	II, IV	●	●	▲	▬	▲	▬	●
1357	Pine marten (<i>Martes martes</i>)	V	●	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	●
1364	Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>)	II, V	●	●	▲	▬	▲	▬	●
1365	Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	II, V	●	●	▬	▬	▬	▬	●
1345	Humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>)	IV	●	●	●	▬	✖	▬	●
1349	Common bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	II, IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
1350	Common dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
1351	Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)	II, IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2027	Killer whale (<i>Orcinus orca</i>)	IV	●	●	●	▬	✖	▬	●
2029	Long-finned pilot whale (<i>Globicephala melas</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2030	Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2031	White-sided dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2032	White-beaked dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albobrostris</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2034	Striped dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2035	Cuvier's beaked whale (<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2038	Sowerby's beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2618	Minke whale (<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
2621	Fin whale (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
5020	Blue whale (<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>)	IV	●	●	●	▬	✖	▬	●
2624	Sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
5033	Northern bottlenose whale (<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>)	IV	●	●	●	▬	✖	▬	●
2619	Sei whale (<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>)	IV	●	●	▬	▬	✖	▬	●
1348	Northern right whale (<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2028	False killer whale (<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2037	True's beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon minor</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2622	Pygmy sperm whale (<i>Kogia breviceps</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5029	Beluga/White whale (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
5034	Gervais' beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon europaeus</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1102	Allos shad (<i>Alosa alosa</i>)	II, V	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1320	Brandt's bat (<i>Myotis brandtii</i>)	IV	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

STATUS: ● Favourable ● Unfavourable-Inadequate ● Unfavourable-Bad ● Unknown ● Vagrant
TREND: ▲ Improving ▬ Stable ▼ Declining ✖ Unknown

Appendix C: Summary overview of the conservation status of bird species

The following information is sourced from the Birds of Conservation Concern Report BOCCI3, Colhoun and Cummins (2013). **Note*** This information does not take into account the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI code name HPAIV A (H5N1)) currently circulating in Ireland and which is likely to impact bird populations such as Gannets. It is thought that the influenza events such as this may be facilitated by milder winters associated with climate change.

Bird Species	Status BoCCI3 2014-2019
Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)	Green (breeding)
Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Leach's Storm-petrel (<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>)	Red (breeding)
Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	Green (breeding/wintering)
Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	Red (wintering)
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)	Red (wintering)
Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	Green (wintering)
Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	Red (wintering)
Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)	Red (wintering)
Pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)	Red (wintering)
Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	Red (wintering)
Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)

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Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)	Red (breeding)
Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	Red (wintering)
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	Green (breeding/wintering)
Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Green (breeding)
Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>)	Red (breeding)
Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	Amber (breeding/wintering)
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	Green (wintering)
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	Red (breeding/wintering)
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	Red (breeding/wintering)
Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)	Green (wintering)
Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)	Green (wintering)
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	Red (breeding/wintering)
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	Red (breeding/wintering)
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	Red (breeding/wintering)
Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	Green (wintering)
(Ruddy) Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	Green (wintering)
Black Headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	Red (breeding)
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	Red (breeding)
Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>)	Amber (breeding)
Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	Amber (wintering)
Wetland & Waterbirds	-

Natura Impact Report Appendix C: Summary overview of the conservation status of bird species

Appendix D: Generic threats and pressures to Natura 2000 sites and key generic issues in maintaining site integrity

A Agriculture

A01 Cultivation

A02 Modification of cultivation practices

A02.01 Agricultural intensification

A02.02 Crop change

A02.03 Grassland removal for arable land

A04 Grazing

A04.01 Intensive grazing

A04.02 Non-intensive grazing

A04.03 Abandonment of pastoral systems, lack of grazing

A05 Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)

A05.01 Animal breeding

A05.03 Lack of animal breeding

A06 Annual and perennial non-timber crops

A06.03 Biofuel production

A06.04 Abandonment of crop production

B Silviculture, forestry

B01 Forest planting on open ground

B01.01 Forest planting on open ground (native trees)

B01.02 Artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees)

B02 Forest and Plantation management & use

B02.01 Forest replanting

B02.01.01 Forest replanting (native trees)

B02.01.02 Forest replanting (non-native trees)

B02.02 Forestry clearance

B02.03 Removal of forest undergrowth

B02.04 Removal of dead and dying trees

B02.05 Non-intensive timber production (leaving dead wood/ old trees untouched)

B02.06 Thinning of tree layer

B03 Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth

C Mining, extraction of materials and energy production

C01 Mining and quarrying

C01.01 Sand and gravel extraction

C01.01.01 Sand and gravel quarries

C01.01.02 Removal of beach materials

C01.02 Loam and clay pits

C01.03 Peat extraction

Natura Impact Report Appendix D: Generic threats and pressures to Natura 2000 sites

- C01.03.01 Hand cutting of peat
- C01.03.02 Mechanical removal of peat
- C01.04 Mines
 - C01.04.01 Open cast mining
 - C01.04.02 Underground mining
- C01.05 Salt works
 - C01.05.01 Abandonment of saltpans (salinas)
 - C01.05.02 Conversion of saltpans
- C01.06 Geotechnical survey
- C01.07 Mining and extraction activities not referred to above
- C02 Exploration and extraction of oil or gas
 - C02.01 Exploration drilling
 - C02.02 Production drilling
 - C02.03 Jack-up drilling rig
 - C02.04 Semi-submersible rig
 - C02.05 Drill ship
- C03 Renewable abiotic energy use
 - C03.01 Geothermal power production
 - C03.02 Solar energy production
 - C03.03 Wind energy production
 - C03.04 Tidal energy production

D Transportation and service corridors

- D01 Roads, paths and railroads
 - D01.01 Paths, tracks, cycling tracks
 - D01.02 Roads, motorways
- D02 Utility and service lines
 - D02.01 Electricity and phone lines
 - D02.01.01 Suspended electricity and phone lines
 - D02.01.02 Underground/submerged electricity and phone lines
 - D02.02 Pipe lines
 - D02.03 Communication masts and antennas
 - D02.09 Other forms of energy transport
- D03 Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions
 - D03.01 Port areas
 - D03.01.04 Industrial ports
 - D03.02 Shipping lanes
 - D03.02.01 Cargo lanes
 - D03.02.02 Passenger ferry lanes (high speed)
 - D03.03 Marine constructions
- D04 Airports, flightpaths

E Urbanisation, residential and commercial development

- E01 Urbanised areas, human habitation
 - E01.01 Continuous urbanisation

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- E01.03 Dispersed habitation
- E02 Industrial or commercial areas
 - E02.01 Factory
 - E02.02 Industrial stockage
 - E02.03 Other industrial / commercial area
- E03 Discharges
 - E03.01 Disposal of household / recreational facility waste
 - E03.02 Disposal of industrial waste
 - E03.03 Disposal of inert materials
 - E03.04 Other discharges
 - E03.04.01 Coastal sand suppletion/ beach nourishment
- E04 Structures, buildings in the landscape
 - E04.01 Agricultural structures, buildings in the landscape
 - E04.02 Military constructions and buildings in the landscape
- E05 Storage of materials
- E06 Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities
 - E06.01 Demolishment of buildings & human structures

G Human intrusions and disturbances

- G01.01 Nautical sports
 - G01.01.01 Motorised nautical sports
- G01.03 Motorised vehicles
- G02 Sport and leisure structures
 - G02.03 Stadium
 - G02.04 Circuit, track
 - G02.06 Attraction park
- G05.03 Penetration/ disturbance below surface of the seabed

H Pollution

- H04 Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
 - H04.02 Nitrogen-input
 - H04.03 Other air pollution
- H06 Excess energy
- H07 Other forms of pollution

I Invasive, other problematic species and genes

- I01 Invasive non-native species
- I02 Problematic native species

J Natural System modifications

- J01 Fire and fire suppression
- J02 Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
 - J02.01 Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general
- J03 Other ecosystem modifications
 - J03.01 Reduction or loss of specific habitat features

Natura Impact Report Appendix D: Generic threats and pressures to Natura 2000 sites

L Geological events, natural catastrophes

L01 Volcanic activity

L09 Fire (natural)

M Climate change

M01 Changes in abiotic conditions

M01.01 Temperature changes (e.g. rise of temperature & extremes)

M01.02 Droughts and less precipitations

M01.03 Flooding and rising precipitations

M01.04 pH-changes

M01.05 Water flow changes (limnic, tidal and oceanic)

M01.06 Wave exposure changes

M01.07 Sea-level changes

M02 Changes in biotic conditions

M02.01 Habitat shifting and alteration

M02.02 Desynchronisation of processes

M02.03 Decline or extinction of species

M02.04 Migration of species (natural newcomers)

XO Threats and pressures from outside the Member State

Key generic issues of importance in maintaining site integrity

Issues considered to be of importance in maintaining Natura 2000 site integrity are outlined in the Habitats Directive Assessment prepared in support of the current Kerry County Development Plan, as follows: -

Water supply and hydrology

An adequate water supply is often required in order to maintain the biodiversity or ecological health of an ecosystem. Changes in local groundwater and surface water hydrology, which can result from drainage, water abstraction or damming of watercourses, can be a threat to site integrity. Peatlands, freshwater and riparian ecosystems are particularly susceptible to alterations in water supply and hydrology. Other important hydrology conditions include the protection of the banks, beds and flows of watercourses. The provision of artificial barriers which would significantly impair adult salmon and lamprey from reaching spawning grounds and smolts from reaching the sea is a threat in certain instances. Pressures on water resources may be exacerbated by climate change impacts as water supply, as this is primarily dependent on climatic conditions.

Water quality

Adequate water quality is often required in order to maintain the biodiversity or ecological health of an ecosystem. The quality of water can be affected in a number of ways, including alterations to sediment input, nutrient input

Natura Impact Report Appendix D: Generic threats and pressures to Natura 2000 sites

(eutrophication), temperature or chemical composition e.g. salinity. Hydrocarbons such as oils also affect water quality. In addition, certain water bodies, such as lagoons are known to be sensitive to the accumulation of organic material.

Eutrophication of freshwater and coastal sites may be exacerbated by nutrients discharged in wastewater treatment effluent or by diffuse pollution from agricultural land and individual wastewater treatment plants. In addition to pressures on wastewater infrastructure, there is also increasing risk associated with runoff from hard surfaces, particularly if this carries pollutants such as oils directly into drains and watercourses.

A wide range of activities can exacerbate sedimentation in water systems. These include development (particularly Greenfield), the planting and harvesting of forestry and certain agricultural activities such as soil poaching by livestock. Increased sedimentation can affect water clarity / average light attenuation and can alter the substrate structure of freshwater systems, which can affect site integrity.

Air quality

The main potential air quality issues identified relate to hydrocarbon pollution, ozone pollution, acid deposition and nitrogen deposition / eutrophication. Airborne pollutants may have direct or indirect impacts on habitats and species. Direct impacts include those which cause injury directly from exposure to a pollutant (e.g. from gaseous uptake by sensitive vegetation of tropospheric ozone). In addition, certain pollutants such as SO₂ and NO_x can indirectly affect habitats and species by contributing to acidification of sensitive soils. Similarly Nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions can cause long-term eutrophication of nutrient poor terrestrial ecosystems, such as ombrotrophic peatlands, which can affect site integrity. Motorised vehicles are sources of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and ground level (tropospheric) ozone.

Disturbance, trampling and erosion associated with recreation and tourism

Human disturbance can restrict access of wildlife to habitats and / or can alter wildlife behaviour. Bait digging is an example of an activity which can disturb wading birds. Nature-based tourism and water sports are other themes that represent disturbance risks to marine mammal and bird populations. In freshwater systems other populations benefit from the presence of suitably quiet stretches of waterways. Excessive levels of artificial lighting and noise can disturb bats species.

Increased levels of recreational use can also be associated with localised soil erosion and trampling of vegetation. This 'trail spread' is generally associated with high track usage on vulnerable soils, such as peats and this can be exacerbated by the use of motorised vehicles. Dune systems are also vulnerable to trampling and erosion associated with recreation and tourism activities, e.g. walking, motorised vehicles and camping.

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Disturbance habitat loss / fragmentation associated with development

Development can be harmful to biodiversity as it can involve a change or intensification of land use in an area. Development located in or in close proximity to protected sites can impact on their ecological integrity by way of increased disturbance associated with noise or light. Human disturbances such as these can restrict access of wildlife to habitats and / or can alter wildlife behaviour.

Development within protected sites can also result in direct loss or fragmentation of habitat to development, which can affect site integrity. Developments which seek to retain and incorporate natural features such as hedgerows and water features generally constitute less of a threat to biodiversity.

Physical barriers at coastal locations

The provision of physical barriers at coastal locations can interfere with mobile ecosystems ability to modify in response to dynamic coastal processes. Dune and intertidal ecosystems associated with mobile substrates are particularly susceptible in this regard.

Coastal squeeze is the term used where the intertidal habitats are trapped between rising sea levels (and extent of tidal ranges) and coastal flood defences. It is important to recognise that sea levels are predicted to rise over the coming years and that where there are fixed landward boundaries (e.g. a flood defence walls) intertidal habitats such as saltmarsh and mudflat will reduce in extent if they are unable to migrate landwards.

Site management

Management of protected sites has a major impact on their ecological integrity and the extent to which they meet their conservation objectives. In general terms, changes in land use which result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation constitute treats to site integrity.

A wide range of issues fall within this category and the significance of these can vary greatly between individual sites. Examples of human activities which can result in habitat loss or fragmentation include; land improvement / reclamation (including drainage, reseeded, burning, fertiliser / lime input), afforestation or deforestation, peat extraction, development (including aggregate extraction and track / roadway provision), dumping, loss of sensitive bat roosting sites, aquaculture and the killing / removal of significant biological material. In addition in certain instances it is important that levels of grazing are controlled so as to maintain biodiversity, natural regeneration and vegetation structure.

Invasive species

Ireland has a relatively low number of native species. Many non-native species have been introduced to the country through a variety of mechanisms, including accidentally transported biota (e.g. through ballast water) and intentional introductions for ornamental gardening or agricultural

Natura Impact Report Appendix D: Generic threats and pressures to Natura 2000 sites

/ commercial purposes. Some of these species have become invasive, with resultant ecological impacts.

Coastal and estuarine sites may be of particular risk due to increased shipping with associated increases in discharge of ballast water. Roadsides and brownfield / derelict lands are also of particular risk due to their accessibility and to the high concentrations of disturbed soil generally found at these locations.

Appendix E: Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation interests (SCIs) for SPAs considered within the NIR.

Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Caha Mountains SAC, 000093	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</p>
Akeragh, Banna And Barrow Harbour SAC, 000332	<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Humid dune slacks [2190] European dry heaths [4030]</p>
Ballinskelligs Bay And Inny Estuary SAC, 000335	<p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>
Castlemaine Harbour SAC, 000343	<p>Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix E: Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation interests (SCIs) for SPAs considered within the NIR

Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	<p>[1140] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] 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] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]</p>
Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC, 000353	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
Kilgarvan Ice House SAC, 000364	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks And Caragh River SAC, 000365	<p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix E: Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation interests (SCIs) for SPAs considered within the NIR

Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	<p>[6130] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833] Alosa fallax killarnensis (Killarney Shad) [5046]</p>
Lough Yganavan And Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC, 000370	<p>Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]</p>
Mount Brandon SAC, 000375	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix E: Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation interests (SCIs) for SPAs considered within the NIR

Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]
Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SAC, 000382	Active raised bogs [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC, 001342	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421] Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]
Mucksna Wood SAC, 001371	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]
Glanmore Bog SAC, 001879	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010] Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]
Maulagowna Bog SAC, 001881	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
Mullaghanish Bog SAC, 001890	Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]
Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC, 002041	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
Tralee Bay And	Estuaries [1130]

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Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
Magharees Peninsula, West To Cloghane, SAC 002070	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] Humid dune slacks [2190] Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] 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] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]
Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC, 002098	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
Ballyseedy Wood SAC, 002112	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]
Kenmare River SAC, 002158	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] European dry heaths [4030] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous

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Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]
Lower River Shannon SAC, 002165	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110] Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Coastal lagoons [1150] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410] 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] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC, 002170	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand

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Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	<p>[1310] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] 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] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</p>
Basket Islands SAC, 002172	<p>Reefs [1170] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] European dry heaths [4030] Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330] <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> (Grey Seal) [1364]</p>
Blackwater River (Kerry), SAC 002173	<p>European dry heaths [4030] <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</p>
Slieve Mish Mountains SAC, 002185	<p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</p>

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Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]
Drongawn Lough SAC, 002187	Coastal lagoons [1150]
Magharee Islands SAC, 002261	Reefs [1170]
Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC, 002262	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] Reefs [1170]
Kerry Head Shoal SAC, 002263	Reefs [1170]
Glanlough Woods SAC, 002315	Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]
Glengarriff Harbour And Woodland SAC (Cork), 000090	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024] Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Phoca vitulina (Harbour Seal) [1365]
Special Protected Areas (SPAs)	
Puffin Island SPA 004003	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Razorbill (Alca torda) [A200] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]
Skelligs SPA 004007	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]
Blasket Islands SPA 004008	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199]

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Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]
Tralee Bay Complex SPA (includes former Lough Gill SPA 004011 and Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA 004079), 004188	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Killarney National Park SPA 004038	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons</i>)

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Natura 2000 site Name and Code	Habitat / Species name and codes
	flavirostris) [A395]
Eirk Bog SPA 004108	Greenland White-fronted Goose (Anser albifrons flavirostris) [A395]
Dingle Peninsula SPA, 004153	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]
Iveragh Peninsula SPA 004154	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]
Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA 004175	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Manx Shearwater (Puffinus puffinus) [A013] Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183] Arctic Tern (Sterna paradisaea) [A194]
Mullaghanish To Musheramore Mountains SPA (Cork) 004162	Hen Harrier (Circus cyaneus) [A082]
The Beara Peninsula SPA 004155	Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis) [A009] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]
The Bull and Crow Ricks SPA 4066	Storm Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus) [A014] Gannet (Morus bassanus) [A016] Puffin (Fratercula arctica) [A204]
Sheep's Head to Toe Head 4156	Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]

Natura Impact Report Appendix E: Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation interests (SCIs) for SPAs considered within the NIR

Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
<p>EU Environmental Directives (Water Framework, Freshwater Fish, Groundwater, Floods, Nitrates, Urban Wastewater Treatment, Sewage Sludge, Integrated Pollution Control, Renewable energy, Marine Strategy Framework and Marine Spatial Planning).</p>	<p>The objectives of same seek to address environmental and sustainability concerns. It is noted that the latest update to the Nitrates Action Plan, which results from the Nitrates Directive is undergoing AA and SEA.</p>
<p>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 Climate Action Plan 2019 – to tackle climate breakdown. National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012 National Climate and Energy Plan 2021-2030</p>	<p>It is noted that the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was subject to SEA and AA Screening. The AA Screening report concluded that specific projects and plans arising may be subject to appropriate assessment, as appropriate, and this represents a sensible approach in the context of the spirit of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.</p>
<p>National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan) National Development Plan 2018-2027</p>	<p>The National Planning Framework (NPF) is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years and it focuses on ensuring compatibility between future growth of cities/ towns within Ireland alongside environmental sustainability. A NIR was prepared for the plan.</p> <p>The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF). This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1m people.</p> <p>Potential for in-combination effects as it sets the policy</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
	<p>framework on which MDLAP is based. However, it is a policy of the National Planning Framework to ensure the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets. Linkage to wider policies such as for European Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive is recognised and the need to set high level planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of our natural environment. These plans have been subject to AA. Where these have influenced MDLAP policy, potential for impact has been assessed.</p>
<p>National Transport Authority Strategy of Strategy 2018-2022</p>	<p>The Strategy outlines the Authority’s vision: “To provide high quality, accessible, sustainable public transport connecting people across Ireland.” According to the document, in order to deliver this vision, the NTA will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secure the provision of an efficient, accessible and integrated transport system in rural and urban Ireland; 2. Transform and elevate customers’ transport experience; 3. Regulate privately operated transport services for the benefit of consumers; 4. Contribute to the effective integration of transport and land use policies; and 5. Advance Ireland’s transition to a low emissions transport systems.
<p>Water Services Strategic Plan</p> <p>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP)</p>	<p>Irish Water has prepared a Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP, 2015), to address the delivery of strategic objectives which will contribute towards improved water quality and WFD requirements. This also sets out the strategic objectives against which the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme (CIP) is developed. The current version of the CIP outlines the proposals for capital expenditure in terms of upgrades and new builds. The WSSP has undergone SEA and AA, which highlighted the need for additional plan/project environmental assessments to be carried out at the tier 2 and tier 3 levels.</p> <p>The NWRP is Irish Water’s 25-year plan seeks to develop sustainable water supplies, on a catchment and water resource zone basis, meeting growth and demand requirements taking into consideration drought periods when assimilation capacity for diffuse runoff may be</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
	<p>reduced. This plan has been subject to AA.</p> <p>Where these have influenced MDLAP policy, potential for impact has been assessed.</p>
National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (2015)	<p>This plan outlines measures needed to improve the management of wastewater sludge. The plan was subject to both AA and SEA and includes a number of mitigation measures which were identified in relation to transport of materials and land spreading of sludge. No in-combination effects are expected with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures.</p>
Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan	<p>The plan proposes orthophosphate dosing of the water supply at various treatment sites. This plan was subject to Appropriate Assessment, which highlighted the vulnerability of certain habitats and species including oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes and the slender Naiad.</p>
Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, under the Floods Directive	<p>CFRAM Studies and their product Flood Risk Management Plans have undergone appropriate assessment and take into account European Site Designations. The Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) set out objectives for managing flood risk and a prioritised set of measures to achieve the objectives. These plans have been subject AA.</p>
Healthy Ireland – a Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2015-2025	<p>The main aims of Healthy Ireland are: to increase the numbers of people experiencing good health (mental and physical) at all life stages; reduce health inequalities with a focus on social factors; protect the public and increase preparedness for threats to public health; and to encourage every individual and society as a whole to collaboratively engage with its own health and wellbeing.</p>
National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure in Transport 2017-2030	<p>Supports the provision of refuelling infrastructure for alternative fuels, common technical standards and appropriate consumer information. The alternative fuel options could include electricity, hydrogen, biofuels and natural gas.</p>
Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021	<p>Ireland’s third iteration of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), for conserving and restoring Ireland’s biodiversity covering the period 2017 to 2021. The aims are to achieve Ireland’s Vision for Biodiversity through addressing issues ranging from improving the management of protected areas to increasing awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>
River Basin Management	<p>The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is currently</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
<p>Plans</p> <p>Proposed Areas for Action – 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027</p>	<p>underway (3rd cycle RMBD). A Appropriate Assessment NIS has been prepared in support of the plan.</p> <p>As part of this Areas for Restoration / Protection (Prioritised areas for action / protection, Blue Dot areas for Restoration / protection, Local Authority Areas for Restoration and Public Health Areas for Restoration / Protection) and Community Projects are proposed, including a number in the plan area.</p>
<p>National Peatlands Strategy (NPS) and Raised Bog SAC Management Plans</p>	<p>Establishes principles in relation to Irish peatlands in order to guide Government policy. Aims to provide a framework for which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution. Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs.</p>
<p>Food Wise 2025</p>	<p>Food Wise 2025 strategy identifies significant growth opportunities across all subsectors of the Irish agri-food industry. Growth Projection includes increasing the value added in the agri-food, fisheries and wood products sector by 70% to in excess of €13 billion. The strategy was informed by a Natura Impact Statement prepared for the same.</p>
<p>National Marine Planning Framework</p>	<p>It is a policy of the Framework to ensure the resilience of our natural resources and cultural assets. Linkage to wider policies such as for European Sites under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the Marine Framework Directive are recognised and the need to set high level planning policies in protecting and making responsible use of our natural environment.</p>
<p>Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA)</p>	<p>This sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers for delivery of Ireland's significant potential in this area. In this way, the plan provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy resources. An Appropriate Assessment was undertaken as part of the plan.</p>
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2010-2020</p>	<p>The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2010-2020, prepared by the EPA identifies priority actions to prevent hazardous waste, improve the collection rate of hazardous waste in certain categories, movement towards self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management for Ireland and the identification and regulation of legacy</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
	issues in relation to hazardous waste.
<p>Department of Housing (2021) interim best practice guidelines on the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas.</p>	<p>This document provides guidance on how to move towards a more systematic and sustainable approach to urban planning through water sensitive urban design. It identifies the need for a significant change in the way we plan, design, build and maintain our urban areas through the replacement of impermeable surfacing with nature-based planted areas designed to absorb, retain, store and treat urban runoff prior to discharge back to the environment.</p>
<p>Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES)</p>	<p>The RSES primarily aims to support the delivery of the programme for change as set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) in a regional development context to secure overall proper planning and development. The RSES is required under the Planning and Development Act 2000 to address employment, retail, housing, transport, water services, energy and communications, waste management, education, health, sports and community facilities, environment and heritage, landscape, sustainable development and climate change. It contains higher level policy and objectives which will in turn steer the development at a lower level.</p> <p>This local area plan as part of the hierarchy of land use plans (local, county, regional and national plans), is required to be consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES). The RSES also incorporates a Habitats Directive Assessment and outlines and integrates the importance of protecting and sustainably managing our biodiversity and natural environment into land use planning at a regional level.</p>
<p>People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025. Irish Government Tourism Policy Statement (2015)</p> <p>Tourism Development & innovation – A strategy for investment 2016-2022 (Failte Ireland)</p> <p>Tourism Action Plan 2019-</p>	<p>These Tourism plans recognise the value of Ireland's natural environment and its importance in supporting Irish Tourism. The importance of delivering Tourism growth and development in an environmentally sustainable manner is highlighted in the Government Tourism Policy Statement.</p> <p>In addition, it is noted that it is a strategic objective of the Wild Atlantic Way program to ensure that it is delivered in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism, ensuring that economic, social and</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
<p>2021 (DoTTS)</p> <p>Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-20 (Fáilte Ireland South West)</p>	<p>environmental benefits are delivered in a balanced way.</p>
<p>Southern Waste Regional Management Plan</p>	<p>This plan covering Kerry, Limerick, Clare for the 2015-2021 period details the amount of waste being generated in the Counties, the progress made since the previous plans were introduced and how it is proposed to minimize and treat the waste that is produced in the Region going forward. The concept of Reduction, Re-use and Recycling is fundamental to Regional Waste Management Plan. A NIR was prepared in support of the plan.</p>
<p>Kerry County Development Plan</p>	<p>The Kerry County Development Plan includes policies and objectives for the sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>As outlined in S1.4.1 of this Local Area Plan, the policies, objective and development management standards as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan Chapter 11.</p> <p>As outlined in SS2.2.2 of the MDLAP, it is noted that the population and housing allocation and targets for the Regional and District towns in the plan area have been determined by the Kerry CDP 2022-2028.</p> <p>The CDP also outlines the governing land use policies and objectives for rural development in the County, including energy and infrastructure development, rural housing and tourism.</p> <p>The Kerry CDP was subject to AA and incorporates policies and objectives for the sustainable development of the County including protective measures, policies and objectives for European Sites.</p> <p>S11.2.1 of the Kerry CDP specifically relates to European / National nature conservation designations. As part of this it is outlined that the Planning Authority will assess all plans and projects for compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in accordance with the DEHLG (2010)</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
	<p>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Furthermore, Development Objective KCDP 11-1 outlines that it is an objective of the Council to ensure that the requirements of relevant EU and national legislation, are complied with by the Council in undertaking its functions, including the requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>Other sections of relevance:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage system requirements: urban realm (Volume 1, S4.2.7), landscaping (Volume 6, S.1.5.4.5) and storm water management (Volume 1, S13.2.4). • Landscape level protection (Volume 6, S1.3.2) • Fine Sediment Control (Volume 6, S1.3.6).
Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028	<p>The Cork County Development Plan includes policies and objectives for the sustainable development of the County. Potential for significant in-combinations effects on the Caha Mountains SAC and the Kenmare River SAC, which are partly located within the functional areas of both Kerry and Cork.</p>
County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020	<p>The Tourism Strategy and Action Plan for Kerry sets out the priorities and investment plans for the county over the 2016 to 2022 period. The Tourism Strategy works to the principles of the National Tourism Policy as outlined in 'People, Place & Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025' and forms an integral part of the County Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan.</p>
ACRES and ACRES CP Agri-environmental schemes	<p>ACRES (Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme) is Ireland's new agri-environment climate scheme. ACRES general stream is available nationally (outside of the high priority geographical area defined for the ACRES Co-operation approach a.k.a ACRES PLUS) and offers a range of actions for individual farmers, both targeted and general.</p> <p>ACRES CP (Co-operation)</p> <p>This scheme is available to farmers in defined high priority geographical areas, and involves results-based payments as well as bespoke farm and landscape actions. Contracts have been awarded for the management of Co-operation Projects(CP), and farmers will be supported by new teams, who will develop local</p>

Natura Impact Report Appendix F: Other plans and Projects – in-combination considerations

Plan / Project	Overview and consideration of potential for In-combination effects
	<p>action plans for their zones.</p> <p>The majority of the plan area is located within the Kerry West Cork Acres CP, which is being administered by SKDP.</p>
<p>Forests, products and people Ireland's forest policy – a renewed vision (2014)</p>	<p>The Strategic Goal of this document is outlined to be 'to develop an internationally competitive and sustainable forest sector that provides a full range of economic, environmental and social benefits to society and which accords with the Forest Europe definition of sustainable forest management'. It includes a number of policies and actions including environmental commitments.</p> <p>This document incorporates nature conservation considerations. As part of this it is a stated policy statement to ensure that afforestation, management of existing forests and development of the forest sector are undertaken in a manner that ensures compliance with environmental requirements and objectives and enhances their contribution to the environment and their capacity for the provision of public goods and services.</p> <p>The document outlines that the Forest Service is currently engaged in specific initiatives regarding Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) and Hen Harrier, both of which are species of high conservation value and under significant threat. Further details are set out in the document entitled Environmental Report on the Forest Policy Review.</p>
<p>Proposed or permitted major development projects in the plan area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC permitted South Kerry Greenway Project ABP REF: 302450 • KCC permitted Bray Head Tower Refurbishment Project ABP REF: 307941 • Uisce Eireann permitted Kenmare Wastewater Treatment Plant and pumping station upgrade project KCC PLREF22.55, ABP REF: 313364 • OPW planned Kenmare Town Flood Relief Scheme <p>The sustainable development of the above projects is supported in the plan.</p>