



# Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023–2029

## Volume 10a Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Clare County Council (CCC) is currently preparing a new County Development Plan 2023-2029 (hereafter referred to as the CCDP 2023-2029) under Sections 11 and 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the draft CCDP 2023-2029 was undertaken by CCC in November 2020 which determined that a Natura Impact Report (NIR) was required.

Following this it was proposed to include a Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) within the CDP and a further Screening for AA was undertaken by RPS in 2021 which comprised of the draft CCDP 2023-2029 and the draft Renewable Energy Strategy. It was concluded that

... It cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information that the draft Clare CDP (including the RES) individually or in combination with other plans and projects will have a significant effect on European site(s). Therefore the AA process should proceed to preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR).

This NIR has been prepared in support of the AA process having regard for the legislative requirements of EU and national law. A NIR, as described in under 177T of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) as follows:

*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 will assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and applying the precautionary principle, whether the Plan (including the RES), either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, may adversely affect the integrity of any European site(s) alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

## 1.2 Legislative Context

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).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*

Article 6(4) states:

*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [European] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take*

*all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.*

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 CDP, 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 which sets out the general duties of public authorities in relation to the nature directives and nature conservation

### 1.3 Statement of Authority

Discipline	Competency Details
NIR Preparation	<p><b>Dr Letizia Cocchiglia, BSc (Hons), PhD</b></p> <p>This report has been prepared by Dr Letizia Cocchiglia. She holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science and a PhD in Freshwater Biology. Dr Cocchiglia is the owner and principal ecologist for Mayfly Ecology which she set up following six years as Principal Ecologist in RPS which included working with the EPA Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Unit supporting the implementation of WFD monitoring programme. Letizia has prepared documentation to inform AA Screening /NIS and reporting to inform assessments of plans and projects in accordance Articles 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and presented evidence at oral hearing. Letizia was supported in preparation of the NIR by a number of qualified ecologists.</p>

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## 2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Guidance Documents on AA

The AA requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive follow the approach as outlined in the following legislation, guidance documents and Departmental Circulars, namely:

#### European and National Legislation

- ... Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, codified version, (also known as the 'Birds Directive');
- ... Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (also known as the 'Habitats Directive');
- ... European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended); and
- ... Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

#### European and National Guidance

- ... Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC<sup>1</sup>, European Commission (2018);
- ... Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28, European Commission (EC, 2013);
- ... EC study on evaluating and improving permitting procedures related to Natura 2000 requirements under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission (2013);
- ... Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community Interest under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC', European Commission (EC, 2007);
- ... 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 Commission, European Commission (2007);
- ... Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission (2001);
- ... Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle, European Commission (2000b); and
- ... Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. DEHLG (2009, revised 10/02/10).

#### Irish Government Department / NPWS Circulars

- ... Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10. (DEHLG, 2010);
- ... Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans. Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08;
- ... Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Directive. Circular Letter NPWS 2/07; and
- ... Compliance Conditions in respect of Developments requiring (1) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); or (2) having potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Circular Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07.

<sup>1</sup> The Commission has notified its intent to revise this guidance and a draft revised document was published in April 2015. It would appear that this has not been finalised to date, and no revised guidance document is available on the Commissions official website to date.

## 2.2 Guiding Principles and Case Law

Over time legal interpretation has been sought on the practical application of the legislation concerning AA as some terminology has been found to be unclear. European and national case law has clarified a number of issues and some aspects of the published guidance documents have been superseded by case law. Case law has been considered in the preparation of the NIR of the CDP.

## 2.3 Sources of Information Consulted

- ... Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) online interactive mapping tools (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps>) and (<https://www.catchments.ie/maps/>) for water quality data including surface and ground water quality status, and river catchment boundaries;
- ... Information on ranges of mobile QI populations in Volume 1 of NPWS' Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2019a), and associated digital shapefiles obtained from the NPWS Research Branch;
- ... Information on ranges of mobile SCIs bird populations from Bird Atlas 2007–11 (Balmer *et al.*, 2013), excluding birds of prey whose ranges were determined with reference to Hardey *et al.* (2013);
- ... Birdwatch Ireland (<https://birdwatchireland.ie/>)
- ... Mapping of European site boundaries and Conservation Objectives for relevant sites available online from the NPWS (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>);
- ... Distribution records for QI and SCI species of European sites held online by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC). Including records of 'Third Schedule' invasive species [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie);
- ... Details of QIs/SCIs of European sites within the County Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2023 (CCC, 2017);
- ... Geohive online Environmental Sensitivity Mapping tool (<https://aiomaps.geohive.ie/ESM/>);
- ... National and regional surveys of semi-natural habitats, including grasslands (O'Neill *et al.*, 2013), saltmarsh (McCorry and Ryle, 2009; Devaney and Perrin, 2015), and woodland (Perrin *et al.*, 2008);
- ... Boundaries for catchments with confirmed or potential freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM) *Margaritifera* populations in GIS format available online from the NPWS;
- ... Inland Fisheries Ireland mapping of WFD fish survey results <http://wfdfish.ie/>;
- ... Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) (<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/Pages/default.aspx>); and
- ... Any local surveys of flora, fauna and habitat available using the Heritage Councils mapping website (<https://heritagemaps.ie/WebApps/HeritageMaps/index.html>)

## 2.4 Appropriate Assessment Purpose and Process and Overlap with the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft CDP

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the CCDP 2023-2029 was carried out concurrently with the AA. Both the AA and SEA process have been managed by the RPS on behalf of Clare County Council. The SEA process has been taken into account in the AA process - Interaction has been ongoing between RPS and Clare County Council since the early stages of the plan development.

The screening of the strategic objectives and thereafter the assessment of objectives in the context of mitigation measures and potential impacts upon European sites is an iterative process throughout each stage of the plan development. This has enabled the importance of protection of the European sites within Clare and beyond (collectively known as the zone of influence) to be reinforced in the draft Clare County Development Plan and to identify solutions to specific policies/objectives to avoid adverse effects upon these sites.

There were several areas of overlap between the SEA and AA processes. In accordance with good practice sharing of data and information occurred in terms of the following stages:

- Sharing of baseline data,
- Sharing data on European sites and potential sensitivities and threats.



- Settlement zoning maps were scrutinized by the AA team for potential adverse effects on integrity of the European sites in terms of their Conservation Objectives but also any other ecological impacts outside of the European sites were highlighted to the SEA team for them to address in the SEA process

The SEA team was able to highlight potential interactions between other environmental issues such as water quality and infrastructure and the sensitivities of European sites to the AA team.

Figure 2-1 shows the key steps required to complete the statutory AA and SEA process in accordance with the relevant national legislation.

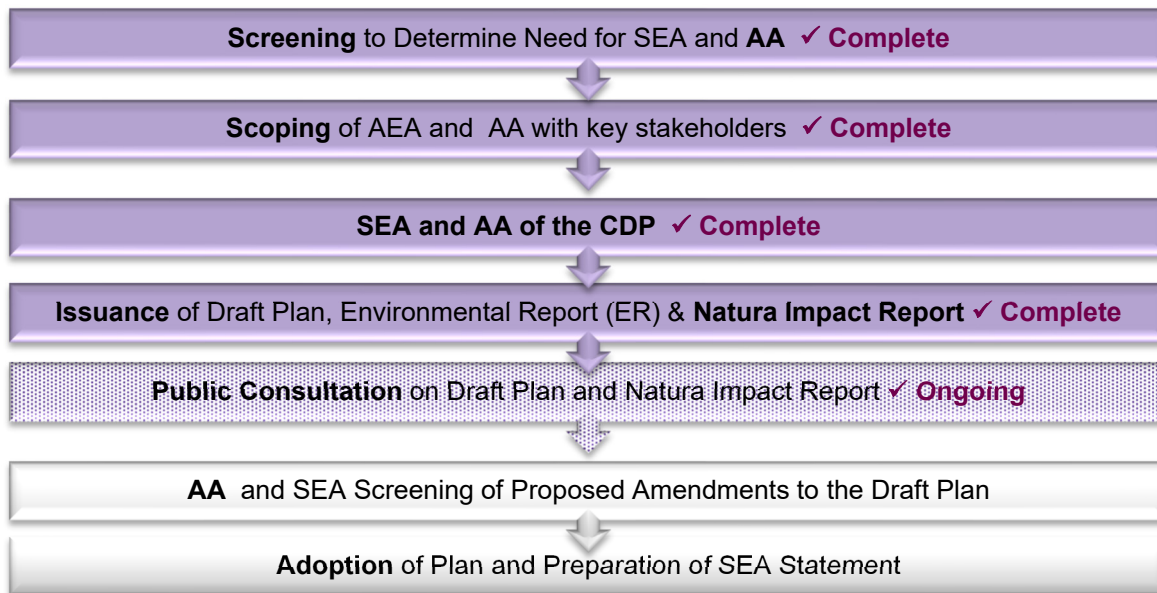


Figure 2-1: Overview of AA and SEA Process and integration with CDP

## 2.5 Consultation

As part of the SEA process, and by association, consultation took place with a range of bodies including EPA, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and neighbouring local authorities. Responses received during the SEA scoping and subsequent consultation of the draft Clare County Development Plan have informed the content and scope of the NIR.

A Scoping workshop with the NPWS took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. This was early-stage consultation to discuss the general approach to the environmental assessment of the draft CDP for the NIR.

## 2.6 Criteria used for Assessment of Impacts

The methodology for the assessment of impacts is derived from the *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites* (EC, 2002)<sup>22</sup>. When describing changes/activities and impacts on ecosystem structure and function, the types of impacts that are commonly presented include:

- ... direct and indirect effects;
- ... short- and long-term effects;
- ... construction, operational and decommissioning effects; and
- ... isolated, interactive and cumulative effects.

Impacts that could potentially occur through the implementation of the project can be categorised under a number of impact categories as outlined in the EC (2002) document as follows:

### 1. Direct Loss/Reduction of European Site Habitat Area;

Will there be a risk of direct habitat loss to European sites?

**2. Habitat/Species Disturbance or Fragmentation;**

Will there be a risk of direct or indirect disturbance to European Site species? Disturbance can be caused by factors such as noise/lighting/vibration or human presence during both construction and operation.

County Clare is a particular stronghold for Irelands only Annex II bat species, the lesser horseshoe bat. Seventeen of the 41 SACs which designate this species as a QI are located within County Clare and two are adjacent to the county boundary. Developments can potentially impact upon foraging areas, roosts or commuting corridors used by this species. Given the importance County Clare holds for lesser horseshoe, this criterion also considers the proximity of development to SACs with lesser horseshoe designated as a QI.

Research carried out on this species has suggested that the key zone for foraging exist up to 3km from roosts during the year (Billington and Rawlinson 2006). This distance can reduce down to under 1km during the birthing season (Biggane 2003). At a greater distance of 3-7km this zone is likely to be important for some larger colonies of a few hundred bats (Billington and Rawlinson 2006). Occasional foraging has been recorded 4.2km from the roost (Bontadina et al 2002) whilst larger scale movements of up to 10km has been recorded for foraging bats and may form connections between summer and winter roost sites (Billington and Rawlinson 2006).

Within the previous NIR for the CDP a precautionary 6km buffer was identified around European sites with lesser horseshoe as a QI. Since then, additional research has been conducted and habitat mapping undertaken by NPWS for European sites.

In 2016, the Bat Conservation Trust carried out a review of literature and identified Core Sustenance Zone (CSZ) for lesser horseshoe bats (BCT 2016). The CSZ refers to the area surrounding a communal bat roost within which habitat availability and quality will have a significant influence on the resilience and conservation status of the colony using the roost. A 2.5km buffer zone was identified based on Schofield 2008 and forms the basis of the Conservation Objective Supporting document for lesser horseshoe bat for Irish European sites (NPWS 2018). For each roost a 2.5km zone is set within the site-specific conservation objective. The target stipulates there should be; no significant decline in potential foraging habitat; no significant loss of linear features and no significant increase in artificial light adjacent to or along commuting routes within 2.5km of qualifying roosts.

In order to assess any potential adverse effects a ZOI was identified and a precautionary value of 3km was applied. In addition, available mapped foraging habitat was also assessed.

In addition, it is also assessed whether there will there be a risk of the loss of ecological networks supporting European sites. For example, habitat fragmentation can isolate QI/SCI populations reducing fitness or preventing access to critical resources.

**3. Reduction in Species Density;**

Will there be a risk of a reduction in species density? This may be as a result of direct disturbance to species, fragmentation of supporting habitat or degradation in the quality of habitat such as water pollution.

**4a. Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value – Water Quality and Air Quality**

Is there a hydrological or hydrogeological link to European sites Are there any potential impacts to surface, ground or coastal water quality? Is there a risk to High Status or High-Status Objective sites?

Is there an industrial air emission which may be linked with European sites?

**4b. Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value – Invasive Species**

Is there a risk of invasive species spread to European sites which have invasive species listed as negative indicator within Conservation Objectives? Waterways and roadways in particular offer linear pathways facilitating the spread of invasive species to connected European sites. Appendix A identifies which Qualifying Interests, attributes and targets are covered by these assessment criteria.

**2.7 How Appropriate Assessment was Undertaken for the CDP**

**Table 2-1** below list each volume within the CDP and the approach taken in this NIR for the assessment of each volume

**Table 2-1 List of Volumes within the CDP and approach to the NIR assessment for each**

Volume	Assessed in the NIR
Volume 1 Written Statement	<p>In total there are 20 chapters within Volume 1 including an introductory chapter. Where strategic objectives are stipulated within Volume 1, they were reviewed by the AA team for any adverse effects on integrity of European sites identified and highlighted to the CDP authors. The AA team briefed the CDP authors on the need to avoid certain objectives that could give rise to adverse effects. In cases where site specific impacts could not be accurately predicted and it would depend on where and how the objective was applied the text was revised to reinforce the need to carry out AA at lower, site-specific levels in the planning hierarchy.</p>
Volume 2 Maps	<p>Maps were reviewed to analyses any map-based proposals that had geographic specificity that could be assessed as posing adverse effects on integrity of European sites. The maps were utilised to inform the assessment of other volumes but not subjected to AA process themselves.</p>
Volume 3 District Statements	<p>Each of the settlements were taken in turn and the proposed zonings of land parcels were analysed using GIS data to obtain baseline data on the locations. Data included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Aerial Photography</li> <li>... Invasive species records</li> <li>... Habitats types</li> <li>... Species data sets</li> <li>... Lesser Horseshoe bat roosts</li> <li>... European site boundary data</li> <li>... Water quality data including catchment boundaries</li> <li>... Karst features</li> <li>... Freshwater Pearl Mussel sensitive areas</li> </ul> <p>Each zoning was then assessed to determine if it would pose an adverse effect on site integrity in terms of the site's Conservation Objectives using criteria noted in <b>Section 2.6</b> above. Where adverse effects were identified then appropriate and proportional mitigation measures were applied.</p> <p>In some cases, it was felt that adverse effects would be likely and mitigation measures could not be proposed with sufficient confidence of their success at this stage. In all such cases the zoning parcel was removed or significantly amended to provide buffer zones which could attenuate any off-site impacts.</p>
Volume 4 Protected Structures	<p>As this volume is a list of protected structures with no objectives/ statement of intentions it is considered that there is no potential for adverse effects to occur and no mitigation is required. This volume is therefore not discussed further. Any objectives relating to Protected Structures are assessed in Appendix B.</p>
Volume 5 Renewable Energy Strategy	<p>This volume was subject to assessment and the mitigation recommended for inclusion in the RES are set out in <b>Section 9</b> of this report.</p>
Volume 6 Wind Energy Strategy	<p>The WES is incorporated within the CDP based upon the previous WES without any material changes to the proposals within it. It has undergone its own Appropriate Assessment as part of its incorporation into the adopted CCDP 2017-2023. It is expected that the WES will be revised when guidance on wind energy development is published by central Government but as an interim measure the current WES is included within the CDP</p>

Volume	Assessed in the NIR
	and the mitigation measures that have been proposed as part of the AA of the WES have been checked against the other elements of the CDP to check for consistency. Therefore, this NIR addresses the impacts of the WES in combination with the rest of the CDP and references the requirements of the WES and the inherent mitigation measures where relevant to the current assessment. Any revisions to the WES in the future will be subject to a separate assessment.
Volume 7 Retail Strategy	This strategy has been revised due to change in time period in the new plan 2023- 2029. It has not undergone a specific AA of its own but has been analysed as part of the NIR of the draft CDP. Any updates to the objectives have been assessed in the NIR.
Volume 8 Housing Strategy	This strategy has been revised due to change in time period in the new plan 2023- 2029. It has not undergone a specific AA of its own but has been analysed as part of the NIR of the draft CDP. Any updates to the objectives have been assessed in the NIR.
Volume 9 Strategic Integrated Planning Framework	The SIFP has undergone its own AA during its preparation (NIR published in November 2013) and also during integration of the SIFP into the adopted CCDP 2011 – 2017 as adopted Variation No. 2 (NIR published in November 2014). The current NIR does not re-assess the SIFP but does analyse the proposals and mitigation measures for any conflicts in combination with the rest of the CDP. The AA of the SIFP is therefore referred to in the current assessment where relevant.
Volume 10 Environmental Assessments	This volume will contain the various environmental reports completed during the assessment of the CDP e.g., AA Screening, NIR, SEA scoping. It is therefore not subjected to assessment in this NIR.

### 3 OVERVIEW OF THE CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2023-2029)

#### 3.1 Background to the Clare County Development Plan

The Government recently published Project Ireland 2040 which is comprised of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan 2018-2027. Clare now forms part of the Southern Regional Assembly with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) coming into effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. This included the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area which encompasses Shannon as a key town and will accommodate significant job and population increases within the lifetime of the new CCDP 2023-2029.

Figure 3.1 illustrates the position of the Development Plan in the Irish Planning Hierarchy. The NPF and the RSES contain higher level policy and objectives which will in turn steer the development of County Clare at a lower level and it will be necessary to show evidence of adherence to these plans as part of the CDP.



Figure 3-1: Irish Planning System Hierarchy

In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) a planning authority is legally obliged to prepare a Development Plan (County Development Plan) for its functional area every six years. However, section 11(AB) of the same Act states that ‘the council shall, not later than 4 years (or such longer period, not exceeding 5 years, as the Minister may specify by order) after making of a development plan give notice of its intention to review its existing development plan and to prepare a new development plan for its area’. Section 11 (1) (b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended sets out additional legislative provisions for the initiation of the review of County Development Plans to enable the incorporation of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy into a development plan:

- i. where notice of a development plan review to be given is prior to the making of the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy, then notice of the review shall be deferred until not later than 13 weeks after the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy has been made,
- ii. where a development plan review has commenced and a draft plan has not been submitted to the members of the planning authority concerned in accordance with subsection (5) (a) prior to the making of the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy, then the review process shall be suspended until not later than 13 weeks after the making of the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy,

- iii. where notice of a development plan review to be given would be more than the period of 26 weeks after the making of the relevant regional spatial and economic strategy, then each planning authority concerned shall, within that period, either —
  - a. give notice of a development plan variation in accordance with section 13, or
  - b. give notice of a development plan review.

Section 11 (1) (b) (iii) (II) is of relevance to Clare County Council as the current Development Plan was adopted in December 2016 and a review had not commenced before the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Therefore, the review process for the draft CCDP 2023-2029 commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 with the publication of the Strategic Issues Paper.

Section 11 (1) (b) (iii) (II) is of relevance to Clare County Council as the current Development Plan was adopted in December 2016 and a review had not commenced before the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES) on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Therefore, the review process for the draft CCDP 2023-2029 commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 with the publication of the Strategic Issues Paper.

### 3.2 Background to the Renewable Energy Strategy

Article 4 of the 2009 RES Directive required Ireland to adopt a **National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP)**. Ireland's plan was submitted to the Commission in 2010 and established that the 16% RES target in 2020 would be delivered by achieving three modal targets as follows:

- ... 40% renewable share of electricity use (RES-E);
- ... 12% share of renewable heat (RES-H); and
- ... 10% renewable share of transport energy (RES-T).

The Draft Renewable Energy Strategy will comprise an update of the existing RES which was prepared in 2015 and adopted by CCC in 2017. The strategy will outline the renewable energy resource that is deliverable in County Clare. Its vision, consistent with that of the CCDP 2023-2029, is:

*'A County Clare that is the national leader in renewable energy generation which supports energy efficiency and conservation with an accessible modern telecommunications infrastructure which achieves balanced social and economic development throughout the County and assists Ireland's Green Energy target.'*

The Draft RES will set out the renewable energy resource targets for County Clare. It outlines the potential for a range of renewable resources, including Bioenergy (Biomass) and Anaerobic Digestion, Micro Renewables, Geothermal & Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar, Onshore Wind, Marine Renewables (Wave and Tidal Energy) and Micro Hydroelectric including storage. It acknowledges the significant contribution such renewables can make to County Clare, becoming more energy secure and less reliant on traditional fossil fuels, thus enabling future energy export and meeting assigned targets.

The Draft RES also recognises the importance of the infrastructure in County Clare including road, electricity, gas and broadband networks, airport, ports and the Shannon Estuary, both in supporting the development of renewables and enabling a competitive supply chain economy.

The strategic aims of the RES are:

- (a) To support the attainment of and to exceed in County Clare, where possible, the National targets and commitments to renewable energy.
- (b) To identify/highlight the opportunities for various renewable energy technologies and resources and identify broad areas suitable for their development in full compliance with the requirements of all environmental legislation including the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive.
- (c) To provide an evidence-based strategy founded on understanding the local feasibility and potential for renewable and low carbon technology, predicated upon optimising the County's natural and socio economic, advantages and key assets, core skills, and nearby research institutes.

- (d) To maximise the opportunities for renewable energy development whilst safeguarding the environment and existing residential amenities.
- (e) To safeguard, where appropriate, areas with potential for renewable energy projects and to guide renewable energy development to preferred locations.
- (f) To set out policies and objectives for the main renewable sectors subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) requirements.
- (g) To provide guidance on energy efficiency and conservation.
- (h) To provide a clear development management framework.

## 4 OVERVIEW OF THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

### 4.1 Overview of Study Area

County Clare is situated on the west coast of Ireland, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Shannon Estuary to the south, Lough Derg to the east and Galway Bay to the north. The County has a diverse topography varying from limestone pavement, to the extensive upland forested areas, estuarial mudflats, high Atlantic cliffs, inland lakes and waterways and fertile plains. Much of the County is underlain with limestone which is highly permeable. Habitats and species of particular note within the County include: limestone pavements, associated orchid and calcareous species rich grassland, estuarine habitats, turloughs, Lesser Horseshoe bats, Barnacle Geese and the Bottlenose Dolphin. The Draft Plan covers an area of 344,871 ha, with a coastline of 500km in length. The County has a population of 118,817 (CSO, 2016). Ennis is the County town and largest settlement with a population of approximately 25,276 (in 2016). It is designated as a “Key Town” in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region, and as the County Town for Clare is an important residential, service and commercial centre providing significant levels of employment.

Shannon Town was developed from the 1960’s onwards in response to the growth and development of Shannon Airport and the Shannon Free Zone Industrial Estate and in 2016 had a population of 9,729 people. It is a world leader in aviation, manufacturing and distribution, occupies a strategic position to the west of Ireland, is a centre of international business, has strong synergies with Limerick City, Ennis and the wider Region and is central to delivering the ambition for the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area’s economic, social diversity and tourism development

There are three service towns within Clare, Kilrush, Ennistymon/ Lahinch and Scariff/ Tuamgraney, which have been designated for their role as an important service centre and driver of growth. To the lower end of the settlement hierarchy are small towns, large villages, small villages, clusters and then the countryside. It has a well-developed road and rail infrastructure, an International Airport and a network of villages and large towns. It has a strong industrial base and is in close proximity to the cities of Limerick and Galway.

Clare County forms an area of some 324,000 hectares. A large proportion of the county boundary is comprised of Atlantic coastline, with the Shannon Estuary, which is located on the southern boundary forming the largest estuarine complex in Ireland. Clare has a varied morphology, ranging from steep coastal cliffs to estuaries and limestone pavement, the latter of which is home to the Burren - an important scenic landscape and tourist attraction. The study area for the CDP comprises the entire county of Clare, including its coastline and adjacent waters. A map of County Clare is shown below in **Figure 4-1**

The baseline Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Water and Soils and Geology are described in detail in Chapter 5 of the SEA of the CDP.



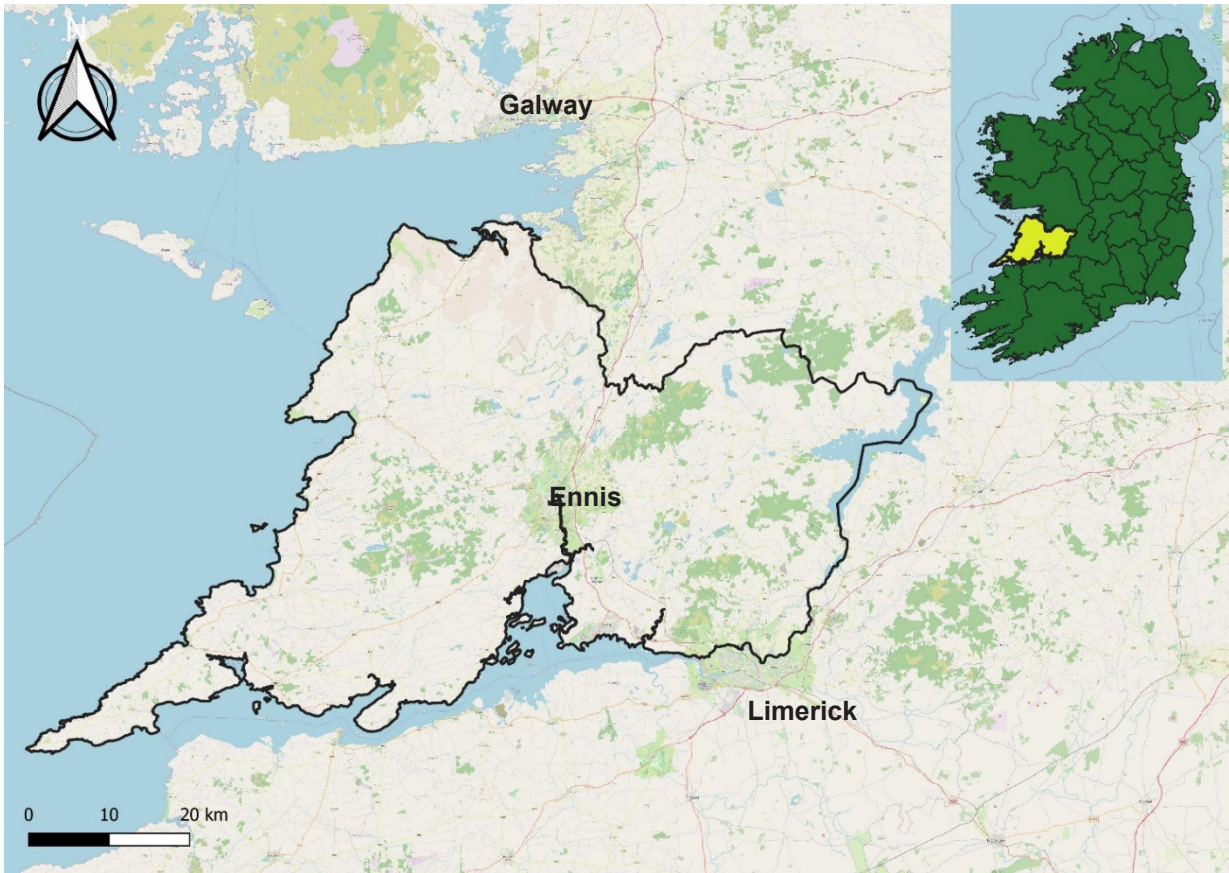


Figure 4-1: Map of County Clare

## 4.2 Zone of Influence of the Plan

In the Republic of Ireland, sites within the Natura 2000 Network are referred to as European sites and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). SACs are concerned with the protection of specific Qualifying Interests (QI) and SPA are concerned with the protection of specific Special Conservation Interests (SCI).

An initial distance of 15km<sup>2</sup> from the Draft CDP administrative boundary was selected for consideration of European sites for the purposes of the NIR. Other criteria that were also used for the selection of sites included analysis of drainage catchments and connectivity between sites. The Zol encompasses European sites within County Clare boundary, island/marine European sites as well as transboundary or adjacent sites within the Zol. This Zol was deemed to be sufficient to cover all potential adverse effects which may arise from the implementation of the CDP on European sites. Spatial boundary data for the European site network used was the most up to date available (as per June 2021). The total number of European sites which were deemed to be within the Zone of Influence of the potential implications of the CDP are listed in **Table 4-1** below, and presented in **Figure 4-2** and **Figure 4-3**. An inventory of all these European sites is listed in **Appendix A**.

These European sites cover a wide range of habitats from terrestrial upland mountain areas, woodlands and karst landscapes to aquatic lakes, rivers and transitional waters and finally coastal habitats consisting of sea cliffs, off shore islands and reefs.

**Table 4-1: Number of European sites within the Zol of the Draft CDP**

European sites within the Zol
78 SACs
20 SPAs



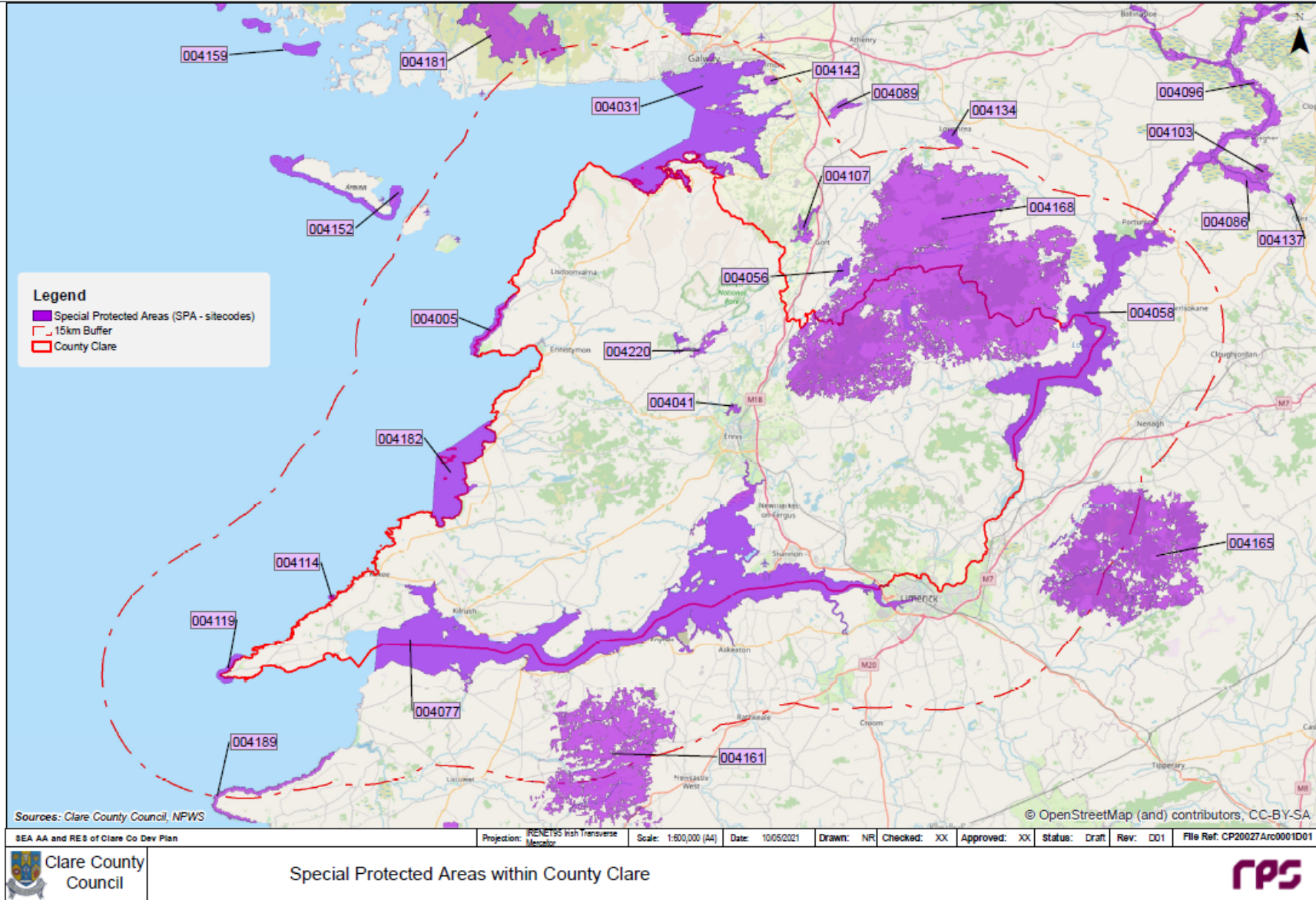


Figure 4-3: Special Protection Areas within the Zol

### 4.3 European sites Importance and Threats

In order to identify whether European sites could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European sites in the context of:

- ... Why it has been designated - Qualifying Interests (QIs) for SACs and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) for SPAs;
- ... Generic threats and pressures to QIs and SCIs; and
- ... The environmental and ecological conditions that achieve and/or maintain the condition of the QIs and SCIs.

The QIs and SCIs were downloaded from the NPWS website on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)). Threats and pressures for QIs were extracted from the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2019 Volumes 1-3), and for SCIs, from Irelands Article 12 submission to the EU Commission on the Status and trends of bird species (2008-2012)<sup>2</sup>. Information on the parameters contributing to achieving and/or maintaining favourable conservation condition were largely compiled from a range Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) downloaded from the NPWS website, but is also based on professional judgement.

The results of this desktop exercise are presented in **Appendix C**. This table lists each QI or SCI for European sites within the zone of influence of the Draft CDP and RES, generic threats and pressures for each QI/SCI, and the environmental conditions supporting each QI/SCI.

The following threats have been identified:

#### **Rural/Agricultural activities**

- ... Water pollution (ground/surface/transitional/coastal);
- ... Agricultural intensification;
- ... Fertilisation;
- ... Grazing, (under-grazing /over-grazing);
- ... Restructuring agricultural land holdings leading to land reclamation;
- ... Burning of land;
- ... Removal of vegetation (hedges/copses/scrub);
- ... Forestry (afforestation/deforestation);
- ... Stock feeding;
- ... Fences/fencing (upland & lowland);
- ... Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, wetlands;
- ... Drainage/flooding;
- ... Offshore/onshore aquaculture;
- ... Bottom/suspension culture;
- ... Intensive fish farming;
- ... Pair trawling;
- ... Pesticides; and
- ... Peat Extraction.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep\\_birds/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/rep_birds/index_en.html)

### **Economic, Enterprise, Retail and Infrastructural Development**

- ... Water pollution (ground/surface/transitional/coastal);
- ... Water abstraction;
- ... Golf courses;
- ... Roads, motorways;
- ... Coastal and river protection works (Hard Engineering);
- ... Sewage outflows;
- ... Housing developments;
- ... Communications networks and installations;
- ... Quarries;
- ... Landfill/land reclamation;
- ... Disposal of household waste;
- ... River channel maintenance.
- ... Invasive alien species
- ... Renewable energy projects – windfarms, solar Farms, tidal energy etc
- ... Landslides, collapse due to infrastructural projects;
- ... Dredging;
- ... Sewage outflows;
- ... Housing developments (including demolition/renovation and/or construction);
- ... Light and air pollution;
- ... Geotechnical surveys; and
- ... Creation of barriers to migration.

### **Tourism, Recreation and Leisure**

- ... Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles;
- ... Offshore motorised vehicles;
- ... Bait digging;
- ... New paths and tracks;
- ... Increased tourism numbers leading to trampling and disturbance;
- ... Inappropriate infrastructure associated with tourism e.g., car parks, viewing points, signage, welfare facilities;
- ... Green and Blue Infrastructure – disturbance, loss of habitats and species, in-direct effects: and
- ... Human induced noise in the marine environments.

### **Towns and Villages/Rural Development**

- ... Lack of infrastructure (waste water in particular) putting fresh water and in particular high-status waterbodies and waterbodies requiring priority action at risk; and
- ... Flooding.

The key output of this stage was the identification of the types of threats to the integrity of the European sites. These can then be related to the consequences of implementing the CCDP 2023-2029 to see if there is a risk of any likely significant effects

## 5 VOLUME 1 ASSESSMENT – WRITTEN STATEMENT

### 5.1 Structure of Volume 1

Volume 1 of the draft CDP contains 20 chapters covering various aspect of future development within Co. Clare. These chapters are listed in **Table 5-1**.

Each chapter consists of objectives and supporting text that adds background to the objectives.

This draft NIR has assessed all objectives under each chapter for potential adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites and assumes any development will comply with the relevant objective(s), see **Appendix B**.

**Table 5-1: Chapters within Volume 1 of the Draft CDP**

Chapters in Chronological Order	
1	Introduction & Vision
2	Climate Action
3	Core Strategy
4	Urban & Rural Settlement Strategy
5	Housing
6	Economic Development
7	Retail
8	Rural Development & Natural Resources
9	Tourism
10	Sustainable Communities (Community Development & Social Infrastructure)
11	Transport, Service Infrastructure & Energy (Physical Infrastructure, Environment & Energy)
12	Shannon Estuary
13	Marine & Coastal Zone Management
14	Landscape
15	Biodiversity, Natural Heritage & Green Infrastructure
16	Architectural, Archaeological & Cultural Heritage
17	Towns & Villages
18	Design & Placemaking a (design and built environment)
19	Land Use & Zoning
20	Implementation & Monitoring

### 5.2 Mitigation Measures

**Appendix B, Table B-1** contains all the objectives and summaries the results of the assessment. In general, objectives were drafted as part of an iterative process where each objective was reviewed and where necessary revised to ensure the protection of European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network. This integrated approach to objective development was seen as a positive approach to addressing potential adverse effects arising from the draft Clare CDP through avoidance of impacts in the first instance.

The following discusses how mitigation measures either within the objective or identified within the assessment have addressed the potential for adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites.

#### 1. Broad and high-level objective with no geographic area stipulated.

In these instances, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites was not possible due to lack of specific information at this strategic level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed and AA process applied at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed

by site specific data. All development applications shall follow statutory requirements including Appropriate Assessment to ensure the protection of the Natura 2000 network.

### **2. Zoned area for development relating to a high-level objective**

In some cases, the objective may be high level however specific areas have been zoned to support this objective. In these cases, the development has been assessed within Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified within the corresponding Settlement Statements. Any mitigation identified in the assessment of the Settlement Statements shall apply to the relevant Volume 1 objective. For example, CDP11.11 is a supporting objective for a number of road schemes within the county. The overarching objective CDP3.1 ensures the protection of European sites and that the statutory AA process is followed. In addition, where zoning for these road schemes has been mapped the zoning has been assessed for potential impacts and specific mitigation stipulated where considered necessary (Please see **Appendix C** for the results of the assessment).

### **3. Reinforcement of statutory obligations**

Objective CDP3.1 is an overarching objective regarding the protection of the Natura 2000 network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In general, the legal requirement to apply the Appropriate Assessment process to plans/projects are not stated within each objective as it is a matter of law. However, in some cases compliance is reiterated and CDP3.1 integrated into an objective to reinforce statutory obligations (e.g., CDP6.9 and CDP8.3).

### **4. Mitigation incorporated within the objective**

In some instances, development shall only be permitted following the consideration of specific aspects. This is usually that a development will be subject to appropriate site selection and environmental assessment process (e.g., CDP4.2 CDP9.) or the objective requires the protection of specific Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species (e.g., CDP13.13)

### **5. Supporting Objectives**

It is noted that in many cases, objectives are supporting which have no specific potential for impacts. In these cases, the integration of the extensive protection objectives including the overarching objective CDP3.1 of this report, are considered important as they frame these supporting objectives in the context of the requirement in protecting the Natura 2000 network.

With the application of the environmental safeguards specified in the CDP (in the form of CDP policies and objectives) and mitigation measures specified in the NIR, it can be ascertained that Volume 1 will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

## 6 VOLUME 2 ASSESSMENT – MAPS

Volume 2 of the CCDP 2023-2029 consists of the mapping associated with the plan. These were reviewed to analyse any map-based proposals that had geographic specificity that could be assessed as posing adverse effects on integrity of European sites. These maps were utilised to inform the assessment of other volumes and the results of which are detailed within **Appendix B** and **Appendix C** of this NIR.



## 7 VOLUME 3 ASSESSMENT – MUNICIPAL DISTRICT SETTLEMENT PLANS

### 7.1 Structure of Volume 3

The assessment focused on the text of the general and specific objectives for each of the Settlement Plans covered by the four Municipal Districts (Ennis, Killaloe, West Clare and Shannon). Then the zoning maps for each settlement were analysed using GIS data for a variety of ecological attributes as described in **Section 2.3, 2.6 and 2.7**.

All Settlement Plans in each of the four Municipal Districts were assessed and the full results for the assessment are contained within **Tables C1 -C4 in Appendix C**.

### 7.2 Mitigation Measures

Where potential for adverse effects were identified during the assessment of the Settlement Plans **Table C1 – C4** contain a column where mitigation is stipulated to ensure no potential adverse effects on the integrity of European sites would occur.

The following **Table 7-1** is a summary of the mitigation measures proposed under each impact assessment criteria (1-4a & 4b as per **Section 2.6**).

The outcome of this stage was that all of the zonings could be capable of being implemented without having adverse effects on the integrity of European sites providing all the requirements are met at the planning application level. Mitigation measures will ensure that any planning application that does not provide the required information or prove beyond reasonable doubt that the mitigation provided at the site-specific level will meet the requirements of this NIR and CDP documentation, will not be permitted.

**Table 7-1: Summary of Mitigation Measures Stipulated where Potential for Adverse Effects were Identified during the Assessment of Volume 3- Settlements**

Impact assessment Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigation
1. Direct Loss/Reduction of European site habitat area	1. Zoned parcel within or adjoining boundary of European site(s)	<p>1. a) Removal of section from the zoning parcel; or</p> <p>b) Any development proposal shall undergo the AA process (AA screening or NIS as deemed necessary) including habitat assessments. The proposal shall clearly identify the spatial extent of any development and shall address the potential for increased disturbance (both in isolation and in combination with other plans/projects) upon the European site. Proposals that cannot avoid adverse effects upon European sites shall not be permitted; or</p> <p>c) Please see mitigation stipulated under the following criteria 2 –Habitat/Species Disturbance or Fragmentation, 3- Reduction in Species Density and 4 - Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value</p>
2.Habitat/Species Disturbance or Fragmentation	<p>1. Potential otter habitat (feeding, resting, commuting and/or breeding habitat) present supporting the species ex-situ of an SAC or within the SAC. Construction and/or operational activities may result in disturbance to otter and/or permanent loss of habitat.</p> <p>2. a) Removal of hedgerows/treelines could potentially impact on the foraging/commuting/roosting habitat of Lesser horseshoe bats and/ or further development could result in an increase in ambient light levels beyond the site boundary which could impact on foraging / commuting /roosting habitat of Lesser horseshoe bats</p>	<p>1. a) Any new development shall not restrict otter commuting routes along a water body and a minimum 10m buffer zone shall be located along each bank (where there is not already development).</p> <p>b) Any application shall be accompanied by an EclA, AA screening and/or NIS as deemed relevant. These reports shall be informed by the relevant ecological surveys. Reporting shall include an assessment of potential disturbance during construction and operation (e.g., increased human presence, recreational activities, noise, lighting) upon otter at all life stage and supporting habitat.</p> <p>2. a) Any development application shall be accompanied by a full bat survey by a suitable qualified ecologist, particularly in relation to Lesser horseshoe bats usage of the site, and a full light spill modelling study to demonstrate that the chosen lighting design shall not</p>

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Impact assessment Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigation
	<p>and/ or</p> <p>Removal or renovation of existing old buildings located within the development site may potentially contain Lesser horseshoe bat roosts.</p> <p>3. Potential impact upon SCI birds (feeding, nesting, roosting, resting habitats) through increased disturbance (visual, physical) or fragmentation of supporting habitat.</p>	<p>create any increase in ambient light levels beyond the perimeter of the development footprint.</p> <p>b) Development applications shall not propose removal of woody vegetation around the perimeter of the site and shall address how linkages across the landscape can be maintained.</p> <p>3. a) Any development applications shall include an assessment by a suitably qualified Ecologist as to the potential for the site to support SPA SCI bird species. If the site is deemed suitable, detailed bird surveys should be undertaken on the site to accompany the development application. These assessments and/or surveys should inform an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and/or Natura Impact Statement, dependent on the outcome of the site survey.</p> <p>If the site is deemed suitable, a full lightspill modelling study should accompany all development applications and demonstrate that the chosen lighting design would not create any increase in ambient light levels beyond the perimeter of the development applications and demonstrate that the chosen lighting design would not create any increase in ambient light levels beyond the perimeter of the development footprint in relation to SCI birds.</p> <p>b) Removal of any hedgerows or trees (including trimming of trees) shall be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season 1st March to 31st August inclusive. If these works are required within this season, then an assessment of vegetation to be removed shall be conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist. Additional monitoring and licencing from NPWS may be required following the ecological assessment. Any vegetation removal within the nesting season shall be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist if deemed necessary.</p>

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Impact assessment Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigation
	<p>4. Potential direct impact upon fisheries habitat (e.g., salmon, lamprey and/or white clawed crayfish habitat).</p> <p>5. Potential habitat fragmentation for fisheries should barriers to instream migration be put in place. Potential fragmentation of fisheries supporting habitat or ex-situ Annex habitat.</p> <p>6. Any further development/expansion in tourism in the area has the potential to result in direct/indirect disturbance to QI/SCI species within European sites (e.g., increased noise, visual disturbance) or result in fragmentation of Annex I habitats or supporting habitats to species (e.g., physical trampling) [At the strategic level of assessment it is not possible to clearly identify the scale or nature of tourism proposals for TOU lands]</p>	<p>4. a) The design and construction of any watercourse crossing (bridge/culverts) shall adhere to the guidance stipulated within "Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters" (IFI 2016) and "Guidelines for the crossing of watercourses during the construction of national road schemes" (TII 2008) or any subsequent updates. The crossing shall be subject to detailed design and options appraisal. IFI and NPWS shall be consulted at an early stage in relation to the proposed options and any guidance/advice shall be followed.</p> <p>5. Please see criterion 3 – Reduction in Species Density for further fisheries mitigation.</p> <p>6. Any development proposal shall undergo the AA process (AA screening or NIS as deemed necessary) The proposal shall clearly identify the spatial extent of any tourism activities and shall address the potential for impacts (both in isolation and in combination with other plans/projects) upon European sites. Proposals that cannot avoid adverse effects upon European sites shall not be permitted.</p>
<p><b>3. Reduction in species density</b></p>	<p>1. Potential disturbance and/or habitat fragmentation identified under criterion 2 which may result in decrease in QI /SCI species density</p> <p>2. Potential impacts to water quality were identified under criterion 4a. Should this be of a severe enough magnitude then there is potential for a reduction in species density e.g., increased sedimentation can smother salmon/lamprey spawning gravels or pollutants can degrade water quality below requirements for QIs.</p>	<p>1. a) Please see mitigation stipulated under criterion 2- Disturbance and or Habitat/Species Fragmentation.</p> <p>2. Please see water quality mitigation stipulated in 4a.</p> <p>a) In addition, development applications shall be accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and/or Natura Impact Statement, whichever is deemed relevant these should include an assessment of potential impacts upon water dependant QIs at all life stages (migration /spawning /juvenile /adult).</p>

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Impact assessment Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigation
	<p>3. Potential water quality impacts were identified under criterion 4a. Potential impact to freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM) populations via water quality changes.</p>	<p>b) Development shall allow a riparian buffer as per Planning guidance within IFI document 'Planning Watercourses in the Urban Environment' This includes ≥10m width along the stream side and ≥15m in the middle zone and ≥8m width in the outer zone as is appropriate for the river. Development within these zones shall be cognisant of the types of development suggested for each zone and ensure natural floodplain of the river is protected.</p> <p>c) Riparian buffer along the riverbanks shall be maintained to ensure ecological corridors are not fragmented and the ecological services these riparian corridors perform for the watercourse are maintained (e.g., flood attenuation, temperature regulation, woody debris source, hydromorphology).</p> <p>3. Please see water quality mitigation stipulated under criterion 4a</p> <p>In addition, any proposed development shall need to take into consideration the potential negative effects on FWPM and its habitat. Any proposed development shall submit the appropriate environmental assessments including (but not limited to) an assessment of FWPM and ensure that the habitat requirements including water quality and host salmonid fish are not impacted.</p>
<p><b>4a. Changes in Key Indicators of</b></p>	<p>1. Potential for impacts upon water quality during construction and operational phase due to unattenuated runoff resulting in adverse effects upon European sites.<sup>3</sup></p>	<p>1 a) Appropriate surface water management shall be installed during construction phase to ensure no direct discharges of unattenuated water enters any surface</p>

<sup>3</sup> A high-level assessment was conducted to assess potential hydrological connectivity to European Sites. Surface water connectivity from a zoning parcel to a European Site may be obvious via mapped waterbodies or drainage features visible from aerial imagery. Connectivity may also be present via road drainage bordering the zoning parcel or small drainage ditches not visible on aerial imagery. These may discharge to the nearest surface water body and form a pathway to a European Site. Confirming the presence of these drainage features is not within the scope of a high-level assessment. Therefore, where new development is proposed within a village and there is a surface water body nearby it is assumed there may be connectivity via road drainage/small ditches and thus a potential pathway for construction related pollutants to a European Site. Following a precautionary principal measure may be stipulated to mitigate water quality deterioration and adverse effects upon European Sites.

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Impact assessment Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigation
Conservation Value - Water / Air Quality		<p>water body and European site. A Surface Water Management Plan shall be submitted as part of any planning application detailing how surface water run-off (including silt/hydrocarbons and other pollutants) shall be managed and controlled during construction.</p> <p>b) During operation appropriate SUDs shall be installed to treat surface water runoff prior to discharge to any surface water body (e.g., green roof, silt traps, petrol interceptors, permeable paving.</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Potential for impacts upon water quality during operational phase as a result of inadequate wastewater treatment and discharge resulting in adverse effects upon European sites</li> <li>3. Potential for impacts to water quality as a result of unattenuated run-off of organic waste and/or nutrients resulting in adverse effects upon European sites</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Appropriate wastewater treatment facilities shall be provided that can fully demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects upon water quality and European sites and compliance with mitigation for CDP11.32.</li> <li>3. Any development proposal for animal housing shall ensure there is adequate capacity to store animal waste and application shall demonstrate proper disposal of waste without impacting upon ground or surface water quality</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Potential for impacts on the hydrology of groundwater-dependent Qualifying Interests of European sites (e.g., turloughs, petrifying springs).</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Any development application shall be accompanied by a hydrogeological assessment and concludes that the development will not interfere with groundwater movement to the groundwater dependent Qualifying Interest of the European site.</li> </ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Potential impacts upon air quality as a result of industrial emissions.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. a) Where relevant it shall be ensured that any application which to maintain/amendment or seeks a new discharge to a water body is subject to the requirements of the EPA and discharge licencing. The potential impact upon water quality shall be fully assessed to inform an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and/or Natura Impact Statement.</li> </ol>

**NATURA IMPACT REPORT**

Impact assessment Criteria	Potential Impact	Mitigation
<p><b>4b. Changes in key indicators of conservation value - Invasive Species</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is potential for disturbance and spread within European site or to hydrologically connect downstream European sites. These sites have invasive species listed as negative indicator within Conservation Objectives for QI(s)</li> <li>2. Potential for introduction or spread of aquatic/terrestrial invasive species to European sites via watercraft / other equipment and vectors that may be brought into the area due to a recreation or tourism zoning.</li> </ol>	<p>b) Where relevant, ensure any application for further development shall be accompanied by an Air Quality Impact Assessment with reference to potential impacts to European sites within the zone of influence (to be determined by an air quality specialist) of any air emissions. This shall inform an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and/or Natura Impact Statement.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any development application shall include an assessment of the site by a suitable qualified ecologist for the presence of invasive species. Should invasive be present the extent of infestation shall be mapped. The impact upon Conservation Objective of European sites shall be assessed and a management plan drawn up outlining how invasive species will be management on site to prevent spread during construction and operation. An appropriately qualified invasive species specialist shall be appointed should they be required to implement an eradication programme and any “vector” material transported off site is disposed of within a licenced waste facility, no works shall be permitted until the area is deemed suitable for works by an appropriate qualified ecologist/invasive species specialist.</li> <li>2. Any development application should address the potential for introduction and spread of invasive species via watercraft / equipment movement into the area. Appropriate signage shall be erected notifying water users of invasive species and facilities provided for users to clean equipment. Any new or expansion to existing blueway facilities shall clearly demonstrate how biosecurity measures shall be implemented on site within the planning application.</li> </ol>

## 8 VOLUME 4 ASSESSMENT: RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES

### 8.1 Structure of Volume 4

Section 10(2)(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states that the Development Plan shall include objectives for: “*The protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.*”

Section 51(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) indicates the rationale for providing a Record of Protected Structures, stating that: “For the purpose of protecting structures, or parts of structures, which form part of the architectural, heritage and which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, every development plan shall include a record of protected structures, and shall include in that record every structure which is, in the opinion of the planning authority, of such interest within its functional area.”

These structures play an integral part in the life of County Clare and the daily lives of its citizens. These structures are often inhabited or used as places of work, commerce, worship, education, recreation, and contribute positively to the character our towns, villages and countryside.

Volume 4 records a list of all the protected structures within County Clare including proposed additions, deletions and proposed modifications (to text) to the existing RPS and therefore it is not possible to assess for potential adverse effects as no works are stipulated.

The CDP does list objective in relation to Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage (CDP16.1 to 16.18). These objectives have been assessed within **Appendix B** of this NIR.

### 8.2 Mitigation Measures

While Volume 4 is a simply a list of all the protected structures within County Clare it is acknowledged that any development/ maintenance /refurbishment/ increased usage of these structures may have to potential to lead to significant adverse effects on European sites. Pathways for potential impacts include; surface water, groundwater/soils and/or air or there is potential for direct impacts to European sites through loss of QI habitats, disturbance to QI species or loss of supporting habitats.

Of particular note is the Annex II species, Lesser horseshoe bat which is also a QI of many SACs within County Clare. Some listed Protected Structures may support bat roosts and/or support colonies associated with an SAC designated for Lesser horseshoe bats. The following CDP objective related to the protection of European sites and biodiversity;

- ... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3rd cycle RBMP.
- ... Objective CDP4.17 & CDP4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered.
- ... CDP11.42 relates to light pollution and ensures external lighting should be designed taking the *Bat Conservation Ireland Guidance Notes for: planners, engineers, architects and developers on bats and lighting* into consideration
- ... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.
- ... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 & CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.



- ... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.
- ... Objective CDP16.6 is specifically related to protected structures and biodiversity. It ensures the consideration of protected sites and species when works to protected structures are proposed. It also ensures that any decision making on heritage related projects and developments is informed by an appropriate level of environmental assessment.
- ... Objective CDP17.10d also relates to derelict buildings, any works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive

Any zoned land parcel which may contain a protected structure has been identified within the corresponding Municipal District Settlement Statements has been assessed within Volume 3 and any mitigation (if required) has been stipulated (See **Appendix C** for results of this assessment).

In conclusion, with the application of the environmental safeguards specified in the CDP (in the form of CDP policies and objectives) and mitigation measures specified in the NIR for the Settlement Assessments within **Appendix C**, it can be ascertained that Volume 8 will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

## 9 VOLUME 5 ASSESSMENT – RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

The Draft RES will set out the renewable energy resource targets for County Clare. It outlines the potential for a range of renewable resources, including Bioenergy (Biomass) and Anaerobic Digestion, Micro Renewables, Geothermal & Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar, Onshore Wind, Marine Renewables (Wave and Tidal Energy) and Micro Hydroelectric including storage. It acknowledges the significant contribution such renewables can make to County Clare, becoming more energy secure and less reliant on traditional fossil fuels, thus enabling future energy export and meeting assigned targets.

The Draft RES also recognises the importance of the infrastructure in County Clare including road, electricity, gas and broadband networks, airport, ports and the Shannon Estuary, both in supporting the development of renewables and enabling a competitive supply chain economy.

### 9.1 Mitigation Measures

In tandem to the preparation of the new CCDP 2023-2029, a new Renewable Energy Strategy (hereafter referred to as the RES) is being prepared as Volume 5 of the CDP and it is subject to SEA and also the subject of this Appropriate Assessment (AA)/Natura Impact Report.

The RES sets out the objectives and recommendations to be pursued to improve how CCC will support energy efficiency and conservation to achieve balanced social and economic development throughout the County and assist with obtaining Ireland's Green Energy Target.

This Chapter of the NIR provides an overview of the key objectives within the RES to protect the European site Network and mitigation measures within the NIR.

In summary, the objectives within the RES are broad and high-level objectives. There is very limited geographic specificity, therefore an assessment of potential impacts upon specific European Sites is not possible at this stage in the process. Potential impacts will be appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data.

This NIR assessment acknowledges that any Renewable Energy development, operations or decommissioning as a result of the RES may have to potential to lead to significant adverse effects on European sites. Pathways for potential impacts include; surface water, groundwater/soils and/or air or there is potential for direct impacts to European sites through loss of QI habitats, disturbance to QI species or loss of supporting habitats. For example, Objective RES 5.1G(b) concerns the retrofitting of existing buildings to achieve high level of energy conservation. This has the potential to disturb Lesser horseshoe bat roosts which are an Annex II species and designated as a QI for many European sites within County Clare.

Objective RES 15.2 seeks development of Pumped Freshwater Hydroelectric Energy Storage in the county. This has the potential to impact aquatic QI habitats or species as a result of introduction of blockages to fish passage, changes in hydromorphology and changes in hydrology and water quality.

As another example, Objective RES 7.1 concerns the development of commercial scale solar energy projects. This may have the potential to impact aquatic QI habitats or species during construction via water quality degradation should hydrological pathways to European Sites exists or there is potential to impact terrestrial QI species and habitat through land use change arising from the development of the solar site and / or grid connections.

Within the Renewable Energy Strategy, the objective **RES1.1A -G** is an overarching objective within Chapter 1 regarding environmental protection, biodiversity enhancement and protection of the European Site network. It ensures that the appropriate environmental statutory assessment process is followed. The inclusion of this objective in the RES was an iterative process working in tandem with the SEA and NIR of the RES. The objective incorporates the mitigation that was recommended within and is summarised below.

#### **RES 1.1 Proposed Mitigation Measures (apply to all renewable energy development)**

- A. Any proposals for renewable energy infrastructure shall comply with Chapter 17 Environmental Considerations & Development Management Advice and the overarching policies and objectives of the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.*

- B. The EPA Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool and the Appropriate Assessment GeoTool should be applied to inform decision-making in terms of infrastructural/siting considerations as well as consideration of environmental sensitivities.*
- C. To ensure that renewable energy development proposals support and enhance the connectivity and integrity of habitats in the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) area by incorporating natural features into the design of development proposals; and to work with infrastructure providers to co-develop infrastructural management plans to enhance biodiversity.*
- D. To require any Renewable Energy project to be in compliance with the objectives and requirements of the Habitats Directive, specifically Article 6(3) and where necessary 6(4), Birds, Water Framework (including the implementation of the 3rd Cycle RBMP), and all other relevant EU Directives and all relevant transposing national legislation.*
- E. To require project planning for any renewable energy project to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project development and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including assessments of disturbance to species and habitats, as required. Any ecological assessment shall also be required to consider ecological connectivity and potential supporting habitats to European Sites.*
- F. To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications for renewable energy projects to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report of the County Clare County Development Plan 2023- 2029 and SEA of the Renewable Energy Strategy.*
- G. Renewable energy projects should not give rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects, (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects)(Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place).*

In addition, the following objectives within the CDP ensure the protection of European sites and supporting habitats.

- ... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3rd cycle RBMP.
- ... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.
- ... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 & CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.
- ... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.

Specific mitigation has been stipulated within the NIR of the CDP for two objectives relating to Renewable Energy projects, these are CDP2.21 which considers micro hydro power developments and CDP2.22 which relates to the Ardnacrusha facility.

Chapter and objective code	Mitigation
<b>Climate</b> CDP2.21	Any development of micro hydro power shall adhere to the overarching environmental objective within the Clare Development Plan and the Renewable Energy Strategy, CDP3.1 and RES1.1

Chapter and objective code	Mitigation
	Any micro hydro power development shall be subject to the appropriate hydrological, hydromorphological and environmental assessments as required. In addition, the cumulative effect of multiple hydro power developments shall be considered at earliest stage within planning and design process.
<b>Climate</b> CDP2.22	<p>Any development of the Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric Power Station shall adhere to the overarching environmental objective within the Clare Development Plan and the Renewable Energy Strategy, CDP3.1 and RES1.1</p> <p>Any increase in power input from Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric Power Station to the grid shall be subject to the appropriate hydrological, hydromorphological and environmental assessments as required. This shall include an assessment of impacts upon fish migration and, the cumulative effect of increasing power input in combination with any other development or hydro power development shall be considered at earliest stage within planning and design process.</p>

Land parcels which have been zoned as a Strategic Residential Reserve, Utilities, Commercial, Mixed Use or Industry may potentially contain a renewable energy project. These zoned parcels have been identified within the corresponding Municipal District Settlement Statements and have has been assessed within Volume 3 (See **Appendix C** for results of this assessment) and mitigation stipulated where required. **Table 7-1** provides a summary of all the mitigation measures stipulated within Appendix C and which applies to these land parcels assessed.

With the provision of the overarching environmental objective RES1.1, the core objective CDP3.1 and other environmental supporting objectives within the CCDP 2023-2029 and mitigation measures stipulated within **Appendix B** and **Appendix C**, it can be ascertained that Volume 5 will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

## 10 VOLUME 6 ASSESSMENT: CLARE COUNTY WIND ENERGY STRATEGY (WES)

The Clare County Wind Energy Strategy (WES) was adopted as Volume 5 of the CCDP 2011-2017. A Natura Impact Report was prepared and an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on the strategy at the time of adoption.

The Department of Housing Planning, Community and Local Government (formally the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government) Planning Circular Letter 'Circular PL 20-13', dated 20th December 2013 in relation to 'Review of Wind Energy and Renewable Energy Policies in Development Plans' advises that local authorities should defer amending existing renewable and/or wind energy strategies until the review of a number of policy initiatives are completed, specifically the Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the Renewable Energy Export Policy and Development Framework, or until otherwise advised by the Department.

No changes occurred to the WES and the succeeding CCDP 2017-2023 included the existing WES in line with advice from the Department of Housing Planning, Community and Local Government.

The current WES will be included in the CCDP 2023-2029. There have been no changes to the content of the WES and it will not undergo reassessment.

It is acknowledged that since the adaptation of the WES the boundaries of SACs and SPAs may have changed and that there may now be a gap in the assessments carried out on the Strategy. However, given the contents of the Department Planning Circular, as and when new Guidelines are published the Strategy will undergo a review process and be reassessed. In addition to this, internal procedures in Clare County Council at the development management level provide for an added level of protection where the Strategy may be lacking, and areas identified as 'acceptable in principle' undergo a thorough and detailed assessment process.

The Wind Energy Strategy within the CCDP 2023-2029 was adopted following Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessments. Within the Wind Energy Strategy four classifications were developed for Wind Farm development in County Clare, which are as follows:

**Strategic Areas** - key areas are considered to be eminently suitable for wind farm development.

**Acceptable in Principle** - these areas are considered suitable for wind farm development.

**Open to Consideration** – Wind energy applications in these areas will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis subject to certain criteria.

**Not normally permissible** - These areas are not in principle considered suitable for wind farm development. There are some pNHAs and NHAs that fall within the 'Strategic Areas', 'Acceptable in Principle' and 'Open for Consideration' categories but none of the European sites in the County fall within these areas so in theory the WES does not necessarily facilitate applications for this type of development in European sites.

However, in the knowledge that impacts of wind energy developments may be indirect and/or off-site, there are other provisions in the WES to address this potential impact. Objective CDP8.38 will ensure the proper implementation of the WES throughout the lifetime of the plan and that all proposals are considered and implemented having full regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. There are also a number of CDP Objectives that ensure an overarching protection to the Natura 2000 Network. The Core Strategy CDP Objective 3.1 ensures that any development in the County will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Protection for European sites is further bolstered by CDP15.3 and CDP15.4. Furthermore, sites which may provide supporting habitats and species to the European site Network are protected under Objectives CDP15.5 -CDP15.9.

## 11 VOLUME 7 ASSESSMENT: RETAIL STRATEGY

The Retail Strategy 2023 -2029 objectives and assessment are summarised in **Table 11-1** below.

In summary, all objectives are broad objectives. In general, no geographic area is stipulated and as such an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the project / design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development arising from the retail strategy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.

For all the objective under the Retail strategy the following objectives within the CDP ensure the protection of European sites.

- ... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3rd cycle RBMP.
- ... Objective CDP4.17 & CDP4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered.
- ... CDP11.42 relates to light pollution and ensures external lighting should be designed taking the *Bat Conservation Ireland Guidance Notes for: planners, engineers, architects and developers on bats and lighting* into consideration
- ... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.
- ... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 & CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.
- ... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.
- ... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity and references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.
- ... Objective CDP15.16, CDP15.18 - CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection various habitat types and which may support European sites (e.g., peatlands, grasslands, wetlands, hedgerows, woodlands, inland waters)
- ... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.
- ... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- ... Objective CDP17.10d also relates to derelict buildings, any works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive.

Any retail development and associated infrastructure where zoning for such development has been identified within the corresponding Municipal District Settlement Statements has been assessed within Volume 3 and mitigation stipulated as required. See **Appendix C** for results of this assessment.

In the context of the retail strategy, with the application of the environmental safeguards specified in the CDP (in the form of CDP policies and objectives) and mitigation measures specified in the NIR for CDP objectives and Municipal District Settlements within **Appendix B** and **Appendix C**, it can be ascertained that Volume 7 The Clare County Retail Strategy 2023 -2029 will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

**Table 11-1: Draft Objectives for the Retail Strategy 2023- 2029**

Objective Draft Objective Code	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
General Strategy	
CCC01 It is the Council's objective to ensure that all retail development permitted accords with the relevant requirements and criteria as established within the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012 and the Clare County Retail Strategy 2023-2029	No No pathways for impacts to European sites identified. This is general supporting objective of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012 and the Clare County Retail Strategy 2023-2029.
CCC02 When assessing retail planning applications, it will be the objective of the Council to have regard to the findings of the capacity assessment contained in the Clare Retail Strategy 2023-2029, including the ability to counteract expenditure leakage. The onus will be on any applicant to demonstrate in a Retail Impact Assessment that the proposed floorspace is appropriate having regard to the quantum of floorspace required within that specific urban centre or settlement, in addition to evidencing all other relevant variables, as specified within the Retail Planning Guidelines.	No No pathways for impacts to European sites identified. Broad and general objective regarding assessment of planning applications.
CCC03 It is an objective of the Council that retail development should support the achievement of national planning policies which seek to develop towns of sufficient scale and quality to compete internationally and to be drivers of national and regional growth, investment and prosperity. Furthermore, national policy seeks to regenerate and rejuvenate towns and villages of all types and scale as environmental assets, that can accommodate changing roles and functions, increased residential population and employment.	No Broad and general objective supporting national policy. No pathways for impacts to European sites identified. Plans and policies themselves e.g., NPF or Ennis 2040 Strategy have been subject to Appropriate assessment.
CCC04 The Council shall promote and protect the core retail areas of the main settlements within the county as the preferred locations for retail development. This objective aims to protect the existing vitality and service provision of the town centres by preventing the development of retail enterprises in inappropriate locations or at a scale which would have a negative impact on retail competition within the County.	No This is a broad objective promoting retail development within preferred locations. No specific development projects detailed, therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.  Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)  Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3, CDP15.25 & CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.
CCC05 In accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012), there shall be a presumption against retail developments on edge of centre sites or out of town	No

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
	<p>centre sites. Such proposals will only be considered when it has been clearly demonstrated that all viable, available and suitable sites in the core retail area have been fully investigated and considered in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines and in particular the sequential test.</p>	<p>Broad and general objective regarding permission of developments on edge of centres, therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3, CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC06	<p>It is the objective of the Council to permit retail development within the town centres of a size and scale which is appropriate to the level of the settlement</p>	<p>No</p> <p>This is a broad objective relating to appropriate level of retail development with towns. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development in town centres are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3, CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC07	<p>The Council will encourage the consolidation of other non-retail-based services within town centres, utilising existing vacant retail floorspace where necessary. This will aid in enhancing the vitality of town centres, encouraging them to maintain their role as employment locations in addition to reducing the proportion of vacant floorspace and recognising the value which non-retail uses can contribute to the local economy through the provision of employment and general economic benefit.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Broad and general objective regarding use of existing vacant retail spaces.</p> <p>Derelict and undisturbed sites may provide habitat (roosting/nesting) for the Lesser horseshoe bat or some SCI bird species.</p> <p>Objective CDP4.17 &amp; 4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered. In addition, objective (CDP17.10d) also relates to derelict buildings, any</p>



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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive. CDP15.12 references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP4.17, CDP4.18, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25, CDP15.29 &amp; CDP17.10d) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC08	<p>To encourage and facilitate the preservation and enhancement of the retail role of smaller villages and centres around the County.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to preservation and enhancement of retail in small villages.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development or enhancement is assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC09	<p>The council will promote retail floorspace at ground level on primary retail streets within the core retail area where this would enhance the vitality and viability of these streets. Exceptions can be made where the proposed development clearly enhances the vibrancy and attractiveness of the area.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to promotion of existing usage of floor space and stipulates conditions when new development is permitted.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p>

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
<p>CCC10</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure new retail development would not (either by themselves or cumulatively with other developments) negatively impact the vitality and viability of existing retail centres within the County and MASP</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to new development and impacts upon existing retail.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>	
<p>CCC11</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to introduce measures to improve the accessibility of town centres by developing a safe pedestrian and cyclist friendly environment, which encourages a modal shift away from the private car.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The support of reducing private car usage is generally positive in helping to reduce carbon emission and improve air quality. Any development of pedestrian or cycle routes has the potential to result in adverse effects upon the integrity European sites via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p>	

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
<p>CCC12</p> <p>The Council shall promote the utilisation of vacant commercial buildings in town and village centre locations as a preferred location for new retail investment. The Council shall promote an imaginative and practical approach to unit expansion and amalgamation to address modern retail requirements. Where no viable retail use can be sustained, alternative uses will be assessed on their own merits.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to supporting the utilisation of vacant commercial buildings.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Derelict and undisturbed sites may provide habitat (roosting/nesting) for the Lesser horseshoe bat or some SCI bird species.</p> <p>Objective CDP4.17 &amp; 4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered. In addition, objective (CDP17.10d) also relates to derelict buildings, any works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive. CDP15.12 references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>	
<p>CCC13</p> <p>The Council will encourage alternative, short or interim measures to improve the visual appearance of vacant or derelict properties to enhance the overall streetscape. Measures include the use of attractive window graphics; shutter covers and hoardings.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to interim measures to improve the appearance of vacant or derelict properties.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high</p>	

**REPORT**

Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Derelict and undisturbed sites may provide habitat (roosting/nesting) for the Lesser horseshoe bat or some SCI bird species.</p> <p>Objective CDP4.17 &amp; 4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered. In addition, objective (CDP17.10d) also relates to derelict buildings, any works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive. CDP15.12 references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC14	The Council shall require that applications for new supermarkets on Neighbourhood Centre sites shall be accompanied by a Retail Impact Assessment.	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to new supermarket applications. Any supermarket development has the potential to result in adverse effects upon the integrity European sites via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>This is a broad objective therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
CCC15	Proposals for new supermarket developments in Neighbourhood centre sites should support the sustainable upgrade of neighbourhood centres and facilities and demonstrate that they facilitate improved access to public transport and/or cycling and walking for their catchment in accordance with the Retail Policy Guidelines.	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to new supermarket applications and improved access. Any development supermarkets and associated pedestrian infrastructure has the potential to result in adverse effects upon the integrity European sites via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC16	Develop a 'Shopfront Improvement Scheme' to improve the design, quality and coherence of shop signage for all town centres, though the provision of guidance and grant funding enable owners to make improvements to their buildings/shopfronts.	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to shop signage. Inappropriate lighting on signage could potentially result in impacts to foraging bats including the Annex II Lesser horseshoe bat.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Objectives within the CDP ensure the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats. CDP11.42 relates to light pollution and ensures external lighting should be designed taking the <i>Bat Conservation Ireland Guidance Notes for: planners, engineers, architects and developers on bats and lighting</i> into consideration.</p> <p>CDP15.12 references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically.</p>

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
CCC17	<p>Support retailers in developing online service offer, consumer delivery strategies, collection/distribution hubs and click and collect capacity.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective supports online retail services. This in itself does not provide any pathways for potential impacts upon the integrity of European sites. However, any upgrade or development of broadband infrastructure to support growing online retail sector has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required. The National Broadband Plan is subject to the SEA and AA process and any mitigation stipulated within these assessments must be adhered to.</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required) including the National Broadband Plan and environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29)</p>
CCC18	<p>The Council will encourage 'living over the shop' whereby the upper storeys of buildings have a residential function with the ground floor used for commercial or retail purpose</p>	<p>No</p> <p>No pathways for potential impacts to European sites was identified. Objective relates solely to the usage of the upper storeys of building not development.</p>
CCC19	<p>The Council will support and promote the tourism potential of Shannon and Bunratty by facilitating and enhancing the expansion of the existing tourism offer and identifying opportunities that will promote visitor experiences.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Objective relates to promotion of tourism. Any increase in tourism has the potential to result in adverse effects upon the integrity European sites via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>This is a broad objective. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate tourism development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required),</p>

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
<b>Ennis Strategy</b>		environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 & CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.
EN01	Support and enhance Ennis as the primary retail centre in County Clare in accordance with the objectives of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.	No Broad and general objective supporting national policy. No pathways for impacts to European sites identified. NPF and RSES have been subject to Appropriate Assessment.
EN02	To protect and enhance the amenities of the town centre and ensuring that retail floorspace is developed in a sustainable manner that complements the improvement of the town overall.	No Broad and general objectives. A number of European sites surround Ennis town with Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon & River Fergus Estuaries SPA
EN03	To focus on regenerating the town centre and main street areas with a view to creating more attractive, desirable places that people want to live and spend time in, for work, shopping or recreational purposes.	flowing through the town. Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within Ennis has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.
EN04	Ensure that retail proposals will enhance the vitality and viability of Ennis. The sequential approach to retail development set out in the “Retail Planning – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2012” will be strictly enforced, with a priority to town centre.	No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.
EN05	To continue to support the retail core area as a compact and attractive town centre with a strong retail sector with a particularly strong reputation for comparison goods.	
EN06	To promote Ennis as a compact, attractive and walkable urban core having regard to '10 min town' objectives contained within the plan.	AA and SEA for the Ennis 2040 plan has been undertaken. Following the mitigation stipulated there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites.
EN07	To encourage the reuse of vacant buildings or under-utilised sites throughout the town and promote the development of brownfield sites.	
EN08	Encourage and support investment and improvement in the public realm (new attractive planting, resurfacing, street furniture and traffic calming) via funding granted under the URDF.	Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development within Ennis has been assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).
EN09	To support the diversity of non-retail uses at street level where such uses attract customers, that complement the vitality, vibrancy and activity and bring linked trips to the town centre.	
EN10	Promote Ennis' extensive bulky goods offering by allowing for an edge of centre retail development which will support bulky comparison retailing within the town and address leakages to other nearby settlements.	Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 & CDP15.29), Environmental Objectives within the Ennis 2040 Strategy and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR and mitigation stipulated in environmental assessment for Ennis 2040 Strategy.
EN11	Continue to support the established festivals and events that take place within Ennis and consider opportunities for further events.	
EN12	Support a 'Shopfront Improvement Scheme' to improve the design and quality of shop signage throughout the town centre, through the provision of guidance and grant funding that enable owners to make improvements to their buildings/shopfronts.	
EN13	Support the delivery of Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy and work with Ennis 2040 Designated Activity Company to deliver on the strategic objectives and guiding principle of the strategy.	

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
EN14	Consider removing the car parking at Lysaght car park and introducing a civic apace in its place off Lower Market Street. This may increase the appeal for occupation of some of the vacant buildings in the vicinity of the car park site, including Chapel Lane.	
EN15	Support the Ennis Niche Destination Plan.	
EN16	Seek to implement the Strategic Objectives and Guiding Principles set out in Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Plan	
EN17	Support the work of the Ennis 2040 Designated Activity Company, tasked with the delivery of projects arising from the Ennis 2040 strategy.	
Shannon MASP Area Strategy		
MASP01	<p>Support the continuing improvement of retail facilities in Shannon Town Centre through the delivery of the adopted Shannon Town Centre Masterplan; To improve on and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre and increase its competitiveness with other retail destinations.</p> <p>To support opportunities for brownfield redevelopment to support mixed-use sustainable urban development</p> <p>In areas adjacent/contiguous to the core retail area to support the diversity of non-retail uses at street level where such uses attract customers, that complement the vitality, vibrancy and activity and bring linked trips to the town centre.</p> <p>Maintain the vitality and viability of the Shannon Town Centre by consolidating investment in the shopping centre</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate the reuse of vacant units/sites throughout the town and shopping centre</p> <p>Support the delivery of the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan to create a strengthened viable and vibrant town centre supporting a quality, varied retail offer with improved physical appearance, connectivity and the development of a 'streetscape'.</p> <p>Support the planned N19 upgrade which will improve connectivity to Shannon International Airport.</p> <p>Support the delivery of the objectives for Shannon set out in the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Support the work of the Shannon Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>To work with key stakeholders within the Shannon area including Shannon Commercial Properties and Shannon International Airport to deliver on the ambitions for Shannon as set out in the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029</p> <p>Promote the tourism potential of both Shannon and Bunratty by enhancing the expansion of the existing tourism offer and identifying opportunities that will promote visitor experiences and facilitate the delivery of sustainable tourism-related retail developments and initiatives, of appropriate scales, located within close proximity to tourist attractions.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Broad and general objectives. A number of European Sites fall into this area including Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon &amp; River Fergus Estuaries SPA Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within Shannon MASP01 has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>The SIFP has been subject to AA and SEA. Following mitigation, it was determined that adverse effects upon European sites were excluded. The SIFP along with the mitigation measures is integrated into the CCDP 2023-2029 and Volume 9 of this NIR assessment.</p> <p>General environmental objectives within the SIFP ensure any development is subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, and follow the relevant legislation and guidance to protect European sites and supporting habitats (SIFP ENV 1.5 -1.7)</p> <p>Objectives SIFP MTL1.2 and SIFP AVI1.5 ensure any Airport development is subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, and follow the relevant legislation and guidance to protect European sites.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development, tourism or associated infrastructure within MASP01 has been assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp;</p>



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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
<p>MASP02 District Centres</p> <p>The role and scale of the District Centres as primarily convenience shopping centres capable of supporting a main food shopping trip will be maintained; Reinvestment and regeneration of existing district centres will be supported but only provided where it does not change their role and scale; District Centres should remain primarily convenience goods and service centres, and should not develop into primarily comparison goods retail destinations; District centres should not be allowed to expand significantly above the 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> (net) size threshold set out in the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities. To support opportunities for brownfield redevelopment to support mixed-use sustainable urban development for day and evening use, which include retail, residential, commercial, civic and other uses. This will ensure that a mix of uses is facilitated by a district level centre that would complement the uses of the City Centre, having regard to the principles of compact growth, consolidation and densification. Any such development considerations should account for high levels of accessibility, including pedestrian, cyclists and public transport (where feasible).</p>	<p>CDP15.29), Environmental Objectives within the SIFP and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR and mitigation stipulated in environmental assessments for the SIFP.</p> <p>No Broad and general objectives. A number of European Sites fall into this area including Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon &amp; River Fergus Estuaries SPA. Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within District Centres MASP02 has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>The SIFP has been subject to AA and SEA. Following mitigation, it was determined that adverse effects upon European sites were excluded. The SIFP along with the mitigation measures is integrated into the CCDP 2023-2029 and Volume 9 of this NIR assessment. General environmental objectives within the SIFP ensure any development is subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, and follow the relevant legislation and guidance to protect European sites and supporting habitats (SIFP ENV 1.5 -1.7).</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate retail development, tourism or associated infrastructure within MASP02 has been assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29), Environmental Objectives within the SIFP and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR and mitigation stipulated in environmental assessments for the SIFP.</p>	
<p>Kilrush</p>		
<p>KL01</p> <p>Support the improvement of retail facilities in Kilrush Town Centre through the provision of brownfield redevelopment to support mixed-use sustainable urban development</p>	<p>No Broad and general objectives. Kilrush is hydrologically connect the Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon &amp; River Fergus Estuaries SPA. Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within Kilrush has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p>	
<p>KL02</p> <p>Promote rejuvenation throughout within the core retail areas by the reuse of vacant floorspace to reduce vacancy levels. Where no viable retail use can be sustained, alternative uses will be assessed on their own merits.</p>	<p>No Broad and general objectives. Kilrush is hydrologically connect the Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon &amp; River Fergus Estuaries SPA. Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within Kilrush has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p>	

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
KL03	To improve on and enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre and increase its competitiveness with other retail destinations.	
KL04	The settlement of Kilrush shall apply a sequential approach to all new retail in the town with a priority to town centre.	No specific development project detailed with the exception of the Maritime Training Centre. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.
KL05	Enhance the diversity of non-retail uses at street level where such uses attract customers, that complement the vitality, vibrancy and activity and bring linked trips to the town centre.	
KL06	Support the Kilrush Town Team across their various interest groups	
KL07	Support the delivery of the Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush Town, which will contribute to the retail demand within the town.	
KL08	Support the DigiClare Hub within the town and the expansion of this resource into the future.	Development has been assessed within Volume 3 where zoning for retail development including the Maritime Training Centre has been identified within the Kilrush settlement statements (see Appendix C).
Ennistymon		Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 & CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR.
EY01	To improve on and enhance the vitality and viability of Ennistymon town centre and increase its competitiveness with other retail destinations.	No
EY02	To encourage the reuse of vacant buildings or under-utilised sites throughout the town	Broad and general objectives. The Inagh River Estuary SAC flows through Ennistymon. Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within Ennistymon has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.
EY03	Develop a 'Shopfront Improvement Scheme' to improve the design and quality of shop signage throughout Ennistymon	
EY04	To regenerate the traditional town centre with a vision to produce more attractive, desirable places that people want to live and spend time in, for work, shopping or recreational purposes.	
EY05	Review and reduce wirescape within the town centre where possible, which currently serves to detract from the attractiveness of the core retail area.	No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.
EY06	The settlement of Ennistymon shall apply a sequential approach to all new retail in the town with a priority to town centre.	Development has been assessed within Volume 3 where zoning for retail development including has been identified within the Ennistymon settlement statements (see Appendix C).
Ennistymon		Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 & CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR.
EY07	Support the delivery of the planned West Clare Railway Greenway which will pass through Ennistymon and onto Lahinch	No
		This is a broad objective supporting the greenway through Ennistymon to Lahinch. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>The West Clare Railway Greenway is in close proximity to the Inagh River Estuary SAC which flows through Ennistymon. Any development greenway development and increased tourism has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>CDP11.13d ensures any greenway proposals undergo screening for appropriate assessment and an ecological impact assessment where appropriate to ensure that the design and operation of the proposal is in full compliance with the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CDP10.11h also ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted as well as assessment any impacts that may arise from increased visitor pressures. Any zoned parcels which may facilitate the West Clare Greenway are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP10.11h, CDP11.13d, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR.</p>
EY08	Support the Ennistymon Town Team	<p>No</p> <p>Broad and general supporting objective. No pathway for impacts to European sites identified.</p>
EY09	Support the delivery of the Ennistymon Town Master plan which will identify public realm opportunities within the town that can be utilised to enhance the towns offering.	<p>No</p> <p>Broad and general supporting objective. No pathway for impacts to European sites identified.</p>
EY10	Support the delivery of the planned new River Crossing which will help to address traffic congestion within the town especially at peak travel times and during the peak tourist season.	<p>No</p> <p>This is a broad objective supporting a river crossing. No specific location is identified within the objective. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>The Inagh River Estuary SAC flows through Ennistymon. Any river crossing has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality / hydromorphology changes or spread of invasive species.</p> <p>CDP11.15 specifically relates to bridge crossings and environmental constraints that must be considered for any proposal, including otter, salmon, lamprey and compliance with IFI guidance and Habitats Directive.</p>

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Objective Code	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects in the absence and mitigation
		<p>Any zoned parcels which may facilitate River Crossing within Ennistymon are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP11.15, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR.</p>
Scariff		
SF01	To protect and enhance the retail services and facilities within Scariff and ensuring that retail floorspace is developed in a sustainable manner that complements the improvement of the town overall.	No Scariff is located with a Margaritifera sensitive catchment and hydrologically connected to Lough Derg SAC and SPA. Any development of retail and associate infrastructure within Scariff has the potential to result in impacts via habitat loss / fragmentation, disturbance, water quality changes or spread of invasive species.
SF02	To maximise the potential of retail investment to improve urban infrastructure and amenities and enhance liveability and the quality of the built environment.	
SF03	Scariff shall apply a sequential approach to all new retail developments in the town with a priority to town centre.	
SF04	To promote a 'Shopfront Improvement Scheme' to enable owners to make improvements to their buildings/shopfronts within the retail core through grant funding, so as to continually improve design and quality of the street frontage	<p>Broad and general objectives. No specific development project detailed therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts will be more appropriately assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Development has been assessed within Volume 3 where zoning for retail development has been identified within the Kilrush settlement statements (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR.</p>
SF05	Support Scariff Town Team and Tidy Town Team.	<p>No</p> <p>Broad and general supporting objective. No pathway for impacts to European sites identified.</p>

## 12 VOLUME 8 ASSESSMENT: HOUSING STRATEGY

The Clare County Housing Strategy 2023 -2029 objectives are summarised in **Table 12-1** below. There was no potential for adverse effects on the integrity of the European sites as a result of the Strategy.

In summary, all objectives (PO1 -PO11) are broad and high-level supporting objectives. No geographic area is stipulated. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development arising from the housing strategy shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.

For all the Housing Strategy objectives, the CDP objectives ensure the protection of European sites.

- ... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3rd cycle RBMP.
- ... Objective CDP4.17 & CDP4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered.
- ... CDP11.42 relates to light pollution and ensures external lighting should be designed taking the *Bat Conservation Ireland Guidance Notes for: planners, engineers, architects and developers on bats and lighting* into consideration
- ... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.
- ... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 & CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.
- ... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.
- ... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity and references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.
- ... Objective CDP15.16, CDP15.18 - CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection various habitat types and which may support European sites (e.g., peatlands, grasslands, wetlands, hedgerows, woodlands, inland waters)
- ... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.
- ... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- ... Objective CDP17.10d also relates to derelict buildings, any works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive.

Any housing development and associated infrastructure where zoning for such development has been identified within the corresponding Municipal District Settlement Statements has been assessed within Volume 3 and mitigation stipulated as required. See **Appendix C** for results of this assessment.

In conclusion, with the application of the environmental safeguards specified in the CDP (in the form of CDP policies and objectives) and mitigation measures specified in the NIR for CDP objectives and Municipal District Settlements within **Appendix B** and **Appendix C**, it can be ascertained that Volume 8 Clare County Housing Strategy 2023 -2029 will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

**Table 12-1: Draft objectives for the Clare County Housing Strategy 2023-2029**

Objective	Draft Objective	Potential for adverse effects and mitigation.
PO1	To provide new homes to meet expected future housing requirements in the County as identified in the HNDA and Housing Supply Target. A Housing Supply Target of 4,500 homes will be pursued over the plan period to meet requirements as a result of forecast housing demand. New homes shall be provided in a planned and coordinated manner in accordance with the aims and policies of the Core Strategy, the RSES, and the National Planning Framework.	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>Objective relates to support of the NPF and RSES in meeting expected future housing requirements. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Both the NPF and RSES have been subject to AA and SEA.</p> <p>Any zoned parcels which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO2	To aim for housing to be available to meet the needs of people of all needs and incomes in County Clare, with an appropriate mix of housing sizes, types, and tenures in suitable locations.	<p>This is a broad objective regarding housing needs. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO3	To provide for existing unmet housing need as identified by the Clare County Council social housing needs assessment through the provision of social housing using a range of delivery mechanisms including direct delivery by the	<p>This is a broad objective regarding social housing development. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated</p>

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### Potential for adverse effects and mitigation.

Council, delivery through Approved Housing Bodies, and through short- and long-term leasing arrangements organised by the Council with private landlords.

when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.

Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)

Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 & CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.

PO4 To provide social housing to meet forecasted new future housing need over the plan period as identified in the HNDA. The Council will endeavour to meet its targets under Housing for all of 833 new social homes over the period 2022-2026 and to meet forecasted need for 870 social housing units over the plan period 2023-2029 as resources allow.

This is a broad objective regarding social housing development. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.

New social housing units shall be delivered having regard to the wider aims and policies of the Clare County Development Plan and in line with regional policy and government objectives and targets, including the need to deliver sustainable and compact growth and a diverse mix of housing types and tenures. Social housing shall be delivered through a range of mechanisms including provision by the Council, by Approved Housing Bodies, and through short- and long-term tenancies arranged by the Council with private landlords.

Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)

Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 & CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.

PO5 To require that 20% of lands in respect of which permission for the development of houses is granted, be reserved for social and affordable housing in accordance with the Affordable Housing Act 2021 and Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This requirement shall comprise 10% for social housing; up to 5% for affordable housing, subject to national guidance and regulation and subject to Clare County Council's determination of the appropriateness of affordable housing delivery on individual sites; and the remaining percentage (5% or greater) planning gain will be applied as appropriate to achieve the overall 20% net monetary value. The Council reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of 'Part V' Cost Rental and/or affordable purchase delivery on individual sites on a case-by-case basis. Any subsequent amendments to this legal requirement to deliver social and affordable housing during the lifetime of this strategy will be complied with. Delivery of 'Part V' housing shall be in accordance with relevant legislation and national, regional, and local policy.

This is a broad objective regarding quantity of affordable and social housing to be developed. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.

Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)

Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required),

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### Objective Draft Objective Code

### Potential for adverse effects and mitigation.

PO6	To support high-quality design in new housing and promote housing that is attractive, safe, and adapted to needs of existing and future households including future household sizes.	<p>environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p> <p>This is a broad objective regarding character new housing must achieve. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO7	To provide housing appropriate to the needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities, lone parents, Travellers, and the homeless. The Council shall support and promote the use of Universal Design principles and Lifetime Homes in new housing developments to meet the needs of diverse groups and an aging population	<p>This is a broad objective regarding provision of housing for elderly or those with disabilities. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO8	To support attractive and vibrant settlements through the renovation and re-use of obsolete, vacant, and derelict homes. This shall be pursued through such methods as are available to the Council including the application of the vacant site levy in accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (or any measures that shall replace it) and the conversion of vacant properties into new social through appropriate schemes including the Repair and Leasing Scheme, the Buy and Renew Scheme, and long-term leasing. The Council will	<p>This is a broad objective regarding character of settlements No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p>



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Objective Draft Objective Code	Potential for adverse effects and mitigation.
also continue to endeavour to bring about the timely re-use of vacant Council-owned housing stock.	<p>Derelict or vacant sites may provide habitat (roosting/nesting) for the Lesser horseshoe bat or some SCI bird species.</p> <p>Objective CDP4.17 &amp; 4.18 relate specifically to derelict buildings and include reference to bats and protected species within these structures and they must be considered. In addition, objective (CDP17.10d) also relates to derelict buildings, any works shall be in compliance with the Habitats Directive. CDP15.12 references the protection of Lesser horseshoe bats specifically.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C).</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP4.17, CDP4.18, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25, CDP15.29 &amp; CDP17.10d) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO9 To plan for the provision of sustainable rural housing and the sustainable provision of single housing in the countryside through the Core Strategy, having regard for potential need for single housing in the countryside as set out in the HNDA as well as existing and forthcoming national and regional policy and guidance and the viability of smaller towns and rural settlements.	<p>This is a broad objective regarding provision of housing for elderly or those with disabilities. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO10 To support the provision of housing suited to the needs of the Travelling community and to implement the Clare County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and subsequent updates.	<p>This is a broad objective regarding provision of housing for the Travelling community. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p>

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Potential for adverse effects and mitigation.

		<p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO11	To work with Central Government, relevant State Agencies, AHBs, and other bodies to support the provision of appropriate housing for asylum seekers and refugees in County Clare in accordance with identified requirements, and to support the phasing out and replacement of the Direct Provision system in accordance with national policy and requirements.	<p>This is a broad objective regarding provision of housing for elderly or those with disabilities. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>
PO12	To support the on-going monitoring and review of the HNDA as appropriate in accordance with guidance on HNDA methodology issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	<p>This is a broad objective regarding provision of housing for elderly or those with disabilities. No specific development project detailed. Therefore, an assessment of potential impacts upon European sites is not possible at this high level. Potential impacts are better assessed at the design stage to ensure they can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site specific data. Any development shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment and planning process as required.</p> <p>Any zoned parcel which may facilitate housing development are assessed with Volume 3 where zoning for such development has been identified and mitigation stipulated where required (see Appendix C)</p> <p>Potential for adverse effects is removed provided compliance with mitigation set out in the Appropriate Assessment for any such development (as required), environmental objectives within the CDP (mainly CDP3.1, CDP15.3 - CDP15.25 &amp; CDP15.29) and mitigation measures stipulated within this NIR assessment.</p>

## 13 VOLUME 9 ASSESSMENT: SHANNON INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK PLAN (SIFP)

The Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary was adopted as Variation No. 2, Volume 9 of the CCDP 2011-2017. A Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared for the SIFP at the time of preparation and an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken. A separate NIR was prepared and an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken on the variation to the CDP to adopt the SIFP. There are no changes to the contents of the strategy and therefore it will not undergo reassessment.

The NIR for the SIFP identified a range of potential impacts on European sites that required mitigation. Overarching mitigation measures are included in the SIFP Environmental Report and are in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Objectives but also overlap with mitigation measures provided in the SIFP NIR.

The NIR for the variation to the CDP to adopt the SIFP includes another tier of mitigation measures and details the types of surveys required at each site at project level AA. The NIR for Variation No. 2 concluded that the mitigation measures proposed would ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of European sites as a result of the implementation of the proposed variation. The relevant mitigation measures from the SIFP ER and NIR that are de facto integrated into the Draft CDP are summarised in the section below.

### 13.1 Mitigation Measures

The following details the mitigation measures outlined within the NIR and ER for the SIFP and which are incorporated in the Draft Clare CDP

#### SIFP Environmental Report

- ... BFF MM 1 As per objective SIFP ENV 1.6 the HAD [AA] and mitigation will ensure that proposed developments will not have an impact and take full account of the habitats and species, water quality, ecology, risk of disturbance and flood risk areas as per the Shannon CFRAMS. Provide for sufficient riparian buffer zones along the Natura 2000 site to maintain the integrity of the site.

#### SIFP Natura Impact Report

- ... BFF MM32 At a project level it is not sufficient to defer the production of construction method statements these should be completed at the project design stage and subject to Habitats Directive Assessment.
- ... BFF MM33 Requirements for consents and the design of project level mitigation for Strategic Development Locations should be covered in the overall assessment of the site.
- ... BFF MM34 While Strategic Development Locations have been put forward should issues arise under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive at a project level, they may require assessment. Should this assessment produce a finding of significant effects an alternative solution will be required.
- ... BFF MM 35 In selecting the alternative solution it will be necessary to comply fully with Article 6(3) (and, if warranted, Article 6(4), including compensatory measures) of the Habitats Directive.
- ... BFF MM36 Pre-construction surveys should be conducted by suitable qualified ecologists in areas of future development which require the loss of structures, trees or suitable feeding areas for nesting bird and bat species. Should any important species be found during the surveys the sequential approach of avoid, reduce or mitigate should be adopted to prevent significant effects.
- ... BFF MM37 A “No net loss” principle for those habitats and species of conservation interest as identified through the conservation objectives should be adopted for the Lower Shannon Estuary ecosystem.
- ... BFF MM38 The Steering Group structure established as part of the SIFP should continue to meet in order to facilitate dialogue between industrial operators and nature conservation bodies such as the NPWS and IFI.
- ... BFF MM39 In relation to objective AV 1.5 any such development should ensure the protection of the structure and function of the Shannon Airport Coastal Lagoon as detailed and required by the conservation objectives for the Lower Shannon SAC qualifying interest feature [1150].

- ... BFF MM40 At project level any proposed development within a Strategic Development Location or Area of Opportunity will need to consider impacts to the Qualifying Interest features of surrounding Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate buffer zone and undertake as a minimum a Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Statement. This should include those Natura 2000 sites which were screened out of the SIFP where appropriate;
  - ... Barrigone SAC
  - ... Kerry Head Shoal SAC
  - ... Askeaton Fen Complex SAC
  - ... Loop Head SPA
  - ... Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA
  - ... Kerry Head SPA
- ... W MM 28 To ensure the impacts from development/change in land use practices (including flood plain development) minimises interference with aquatic habitats, it is essential that those areas adjacent to the waterways (riparian buffer zones) are managed in a manner which will reduce impacts on these habitats. These should be drawn up in consultation with NPWS and IFI.
- ... W MM 28 Consideration of issues that may result in increased nutrient loading into the water; increased human activity, traffic, disruption of hydrological regimes and disturbance in the immediate vicinity of an important bird feeding and roosting area will be necessary. Development that may result in significant negative impacts and disturbance for the internationally important number of Annex 1 bird species that use the site will not be allowed.
- ... W MM 29 Ongoing monitoring to assess the real environmental impact of any development on the water quality and fishery element of the estuarine ecosystem will be required for Strategic Development Locations.
- ... W MM 30 Development proposed in this plan will only take place where appropriate and sustainable waste water infrastructure is in place or can be up-graded to accommodate the scale of development which will secure the objectives of the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and the protection of Natura 2000 sites with water dependent habitats or species. This must be provided and be operational in advance of the commencement of any discharges from development.
- ... Waste water infrastructure must be capable of treating discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving river (The main River Shannon and/or its tributaries) does not fall below legally required levels. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be required for all developments discharging within or upstream from Natura 2000 sites with water dependent habitats or species.

A detailed assessment of the site-specific elements of Variation No. 2 to incorporate the SIFP into the 2011-2017 CDP was undertaken and mitigation measures recommended. This mitigation is summarised in **Table 13-1** below. Also included in this table are the details of how the mitigation is incorporated into the CCDP 2023-2029. In many instances, the mitigation is already partially or fully provided for by other objectives and policies with the Clare County Development Plan. Where this is the case, these objectives are listed in the table. In other instances, the recommended mitigation is provided for by the amendments, additions and deletions to the objectives of the County Development Plan that were recommended in the SEA Environmental Report.

There are also a number of CDP Objectives that ensure an overarching protection to the Natura 2000 network. For example, CDP3.1 is the core overarching objective concerned with the protection of European sites. In conclusion, with the application of the environmental safeguards specified in the CDP (in the form of CDP policies and objectives) and measures specified in the NIR for the SIFP and also the NIR for the adoption of the SIFP into the CDP, it is considered that there is no potential for cumulative impacts to arise in association with the SIFP.

**Table 13-1: Site Specific Mitigation and their Incorporation into the County Development Plan 2023 - 2029**

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
<b>Inishmurry/Cahiracon SDL</b>		
Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, HDA and EIA. These assessments should include all relevant ecological survey work. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. The design and construction of development should maintain current habitat where possible and should also consider the creation of habitat suitable to the location and prevailing species. In particular, buffer zones should be established in relation to wet pedunculate oak-ash wood present at several locations within the site. Suitable protection measures should also be incorporated in relation to Bottlenose Dolphins, birds, otter, badger and bat species. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 &amp; CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters including riparian zones.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.19 &amp; CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.</li> </ul>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.</p> <p>... Finally, Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.</p> <p>... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP – Volume 9 of this Plan - for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.</p> <p>... CDP12.5 relates specifically to the Strategic Development Location – Inishmurry/Cahiracon which also states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives.</p> <p>... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental Asset and also ensures to ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.</p>
		<p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Population & Human Health	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, EIA. Clare County Council must ensure that adequate waste water treatment, drinking water treatment, energy supplies and waste services are in place before development takes place to ensure that development does not impact on human health.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>of the protection of water quality and European sites.</p> <p>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. CDP12.5 specifically relates to Inishmurry/Cahiracon</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Water	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, HDA and EIA. These assessments should include all relevant survey and modelling work to demonstrate that the development's design, construction and operation will not impact on WFD, MSFD and protected area water quality objectives. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD and the WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) should be considered when assessing proposals for development. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD and MSFD water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP</p> <p>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</p> <p>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. CDP12.5 specifically relates to Inishmurry/Cahiracon</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</i> discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</p> <p>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</p> <p>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water quality and includes riparian zones;</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Soils & Geology	<p>To mitigate these potential impacts, any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, EIA. These assessments should include all relevant survey and modelling work to demonstrate that the development's design, construction and operation will not impact on soils or geology. Construction and operational activities associated with development should apply best practice to minimise the risk of soil wash off, erosion and contamination.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	<p>To mitigate these potential impacts, any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, EIA. These assessments should include all relevant survey and modelling work to demonstrate that the development's design, construction and operation will not impact on air quality and would not be an impediment to the achievement of greenhouse gas emission targets. Development is subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the international regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission's EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p> <p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed developments with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and Harbours Archive, Topographical Files in the National Museum,</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural heritage structures in the Record of protected structures;</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of</p>



## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted.</p>	<p>Protected Structures. This includes a review of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</li> <li>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</li> <li>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</li> <li>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</li> </ul>
Landscape	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. This should include all relevant survey and assessment work including Landscape Character Assessment. Any development should be designed to minimise visual impacts.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP14.1 encourages the utilisation of the Landscape Character Assessment of County Clare and forthcoming Regional Landscape Strategy.</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.4 relates to the Shannon Estuary Working Landscape and ensure the selection of appropriate sites within the landscape. This includes scenic routes along shorelines/ridges. All such developments shall be required to conform to relevant management and conservation objectives for designated and protected habitats and species within the estuary</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.5 refers to Heritage Landscapes and requires that all proposed developments in Heritage Landscapes demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impact;</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.6 refers to Seascape character areas and international requires that all proposed developments in Heritage Landscapes demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impact</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.7 refers to scenic routes and provides for protection of sensitive areas from inappropriate development.</li> </ul>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
RES	Clare County Council shall consider the Clare County Renewable Energy Strategy (Volume 8 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied) when considering energy needs, strategic development and planning applications at this site.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... The Clare County Renewable Energy Strategy is incorporated into the development plan (Volume 5 of the 2023 – 2029 CDP). The RES has been included as part of the AA process and is also subject to SEA.</p> <p>... Mitigation for the RES has been identified in the assessment of the RES in this NIR which includes mitigation identified in the SEA (<b>Section 9.1</b>).</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required.</p>
SIFP	Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>... None required.</p>
Material Assets	Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>... None required.</p>
Flooding	Clare County Council shall consider the OPW's Flood Risk Management Guidance for Planning Authorities, and the flood risk and hazard mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans (when available) from the Shannon CFRAM Studies, when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site. Any development should incorporate best practice for flood risk management and drainage into the design.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective 12.1 relates to the Shannon Estuary and ensures all proposed developments shall be in accordance a number of directives including Water Framework Directive Floods Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p> <p>... Objective 12.4 again iterates all proposed developments shall be, prepared in accordance with the Water Framework</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>Directive and the Flood Risk Management Plans prepared in accordance with the Floods Directive.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to Marine and Coastal Zone Management. The objective is to engage with OPW to develop appropriate strategies for the management of coastal flooding. This shall have regard to the Clare County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans, the OPW Coast Protection Strategy Study. Any future adopted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the coastal and estuarine areas of the County shall be undertaken in accordance with the Habitats and SEA Directive.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>... None required.</p>

### Moneypoint SDL

Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, HDA and EIA. These assessments should include all relevant ecological survey work. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. The design and construction of development should maintain current habitat where possible and should also consider the creation of habitat suitable to the location and prevailing species. In particular, buffer zones should be established in relation to wet pedunculate oak-ash wood present at several locations within the site. Suitable protection measures should also be incorporated in relation to Bottlenose Dolphins, birds, otter, badger and bat species. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 &amp; CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.</p>
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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters including riparian zones.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.19 &amp; CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.</p> <p>... Finally, Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.</p> <p>... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP (Volume 9 of the development plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.</p> <p>... CDP12.6 relates specifically to the Strategic Development Location – Moneypoint which also states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats</p>

**REPORT**

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives.</p> <p>... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental Asset and also ensures to ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Population & Human Health	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, EIA. Clare County Council must ensure that adequate waste water treatment, drinking water treatment, energy supplies and waste services are in place before development takes place to ensure that development does not impact on human health.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</p> <p>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. CDP12.6 specifically relates to Moneypoint.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Water	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, HDA and EIA. These assessments should include all relevant survey and modelling work to demonstrate that the development's design, construction and operation will not impact on WFD, MSFD and protected area water quality objectives. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD and the WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) should be considered when assessing proposals for development. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD and MSFD water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</p> <p>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</p>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. This includes compliance with WFD objectives. CDP12.6 specifically relates to Moneypoint.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework</i> (NMPF) discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</p> <p>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</p> <p>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water quality and includes riparian zone.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Soils & Geology	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, EIA. These assessments should include all relevant survey and modelling work to demonstrate that the development's design, construction and operation will not impact on soils or geology. Construction and operational activities associated with development should apply best practice to minimise the risk of soil wash-off, erosion and contamination.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, EIA. These assessments should include all relevant survey and modelling work to demonstrate that the development's design, construction and operation will not impact on air quality and would not be an impediment to the achievement of greenhouse gas emission targets. Development is subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the international regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission's EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to.</p>	<p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed developments with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and Harbours Archive, Topographical Files in the National Museum, cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural heritage structures in the Record of protected structures;</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of Protected Structures. This includes a review of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</p> <p>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</p> <p>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Landscape	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. This should include all relevant survey and assessment</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	work including Landscape Character Assessment. Any development should be designed to minimise visual impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP14.1 encourages the utilisation of the Landscape Character Assessment of County Clare and forthcoming Regional Landscape Strategy.</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.4 relates to the Shannon Estuary Working Landscape and ensure the selection of appropriate sites within the landscape. This includes scenic routes along shorelines/ridges. All such developments shall be required to conform to relevant management and conservation objectives for designated and protected habitats and species within the estuary.</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.5 refers to Heritage Landscapes and requires that all proposed developments in Heritage Landscapes demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impact.</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.6 refers to Seascape character areas and international requires that all proposed developments in Heritage Landscapes demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impact</li> <li>... Objective CDP14.7 refers to scenic routes and provides for protection of sensitive areas from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required, the EIA process will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</li> </ul>
RES	Clare County Council shall consider the Clare County Renewable Energy Strategy (Volume 8 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)) when considering energy needs, strategic development and planning applications at this site.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... The Clare County Renewable Energy Strategy is incorporated into the development plan (Volume 5 of the CCDP 2023-2029). The RES has been included as part of the AA process and is also subject to SEA.</li> <li>... Mitigation for the RES has been identified in the assessment of the RES in this NIR which includes mitigation identified in the SEA (<b>Section 9.1</b>).</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required.</li> </ul>
SIFP	Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</li> </ul>



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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	development needs and planning applications at this site.	Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.  ... None required.
Material Assets	Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site	The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:  ... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).  Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.  ... None required.
Flooding	Clare County Council shall consider the OPW's Flood Risk Management Guidance for Planning Authorities, and the flood risk and hazard mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans (when available) from the Shannon CFRAM Studies, when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site. Any development should incorporate best practice for flood risk management and drainage into the design.	The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:  ... Objective 12.1 relates to the Shannon Estuary and ensures all proposed developments shall be in accordance a number of directives including Water Framework Directive Floods Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.  ... Objective 12.4 again iterates all proposed developments shall be, prepared in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and the Flood Risk Management Plans prepared in accordance with the Floods Directive.  ... Objective CDP13.1 relates to Marine and Coastal Zone Management. The objective is to engage with OPW to develop appropriate strategies for the management of coastal flooding. This shall have regard to the Clare County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans, the OPW Coast Protection Strategy Study. Any future adopted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the coastal and estuarine areas of the County shall be undertaken in accordance with the Habitats and SEA Directive.  Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.  ... None required.
<b>Poulnasherry Bay Area of Opportunity</b>		
Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	To mitigate these potential impacts, any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts including, for example, HDA and EIA. These assessments should include all relevant ecological survey work. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. A programme for the Appropriate Assessment of all aquaculture licences and inshore fishing activities in and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites in Ireland has	The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:  ... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>been undertaken. Baseline data to inform these assessments and assist with the development of conservation objectives for the sites has been collected under the supervision of the Marine Institute. Bord Iascaigh Mhara carried out aquaculture profiling and developed Fisheries Natura Plans in this regard. Any future development of the aquaculture industry at this location will need to take into consideration the findings of this work for this site. The Marine Institute carried out an investigation into the effects of inter-tidal Oyster culture on the spatial distribution of waterbirds which included Poulnasherry Bay. Oyster husbandry activity was observed during all three of the four counts at Poulnasherry Bay. Minor impacts, involving birds being disturbed by husbandry activity, but not being displaced, was observed on two counts at Poulnasherry Bay, this disturbance effect would need to be investigated further at a project level should future applications be required for aquaculture within this site and would need to consider the in combination and cumulative effect with current licences within the area. This location contains a shore fishing spot and bait location point as per the Shannon River Basin District guide to shore angling. Any proposed developments should take cognisance of these existing activities. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 &amp; CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters. This includes riparian zones and the protection of the fisheries resource supporting development in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands:</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.19 &amp; CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.</li> <li>... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP (Volume 9 of the development plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Poulnasherry Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental Asset and also ensures to ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.</li> </ul>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Population & Human Health	<p>Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture is subject to the relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements for water body status outlined in the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and the West Shannon Poulnasherry Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing and aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial development etc.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Poulnasherry Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required.</p>
Water	<p>To mitigate these potential impacts, any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture activity is subject to relevant licensing regimes and site-specific assessments. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD, The WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) and the Shellfish</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the</li> </ul>

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>Directive (West Shannon Poulnasherry Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme) should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing or aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, onsite waste water treatment plants, industrial activity etc. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD, MSFD and shellfish water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status.</p>	<p>European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</p> <p>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</p> <p>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. This includes compliance with WFD objectives.</p> <p>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Poulnasherry Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD all other relevant EC Directives.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</i> discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</p> <p>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</p> <p>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</p> <p>... Objective 13.8 relates to the Shellfish Waters Directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
Soils & Geology	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts and to relevant licensing regimes. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. The number and proximity of the licenced sites will need to be considered together in terms of in-combination effects.	<p>quality and includes riparian zone and fisheries resources.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p> <p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	To mitigate potential impacts, any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. Emissions to air are subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the international regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission's EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p> <p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed developments/activities with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and Harbours Archive, The following objectives in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural heritage structures in the Record of protected structures.</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of Protected Structures. This includes a review</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation: Objective 15.2: Protected Structures requires the protection of structures in the Record of protected structures; Objective CDP 15.8: Sites, Features and Objects of Archaeological Interest requires the protection of such features; Objective 15.9: Newly Discovered Archaeological Sites requires the protection and preservation of archaeological sites discovered since the publication of the RMP; CCDP 2017-2023 Natura Impact Report   49 Measure Type Recommended mitigation Incorporation of mitigation into the Clare County Development Plan Topographical Files in the National Museum, cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted. Any activity is also subject to relevant licensing regimes.</p>	<p>of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</li> <li>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</li> <li>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</li> <li>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required, the EIA process as well as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</li> </ul>
Landscape	None required	n/a
RES	None required	n/a
SIFP	<p>Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required.</li> </ul>
Material Assets	None required	n/a
Flooding	None required	n/a
<b>Carrigaholt Area of Opportunity</b>		
Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts, including relevant survey information such as dedicated bird counts throughout the summer and winter months to establish bird use. These should include all relevant ecological survey work. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. A programme for the Appropriate Assessment of all aquaculture licences and inshore fishing activities in and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites in Ireland has been undertaken. Baseline data to inform these assessments and assist with the development of</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply</li> </ul>

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>conservation objectives for the sites has been collected under the supervision of the Marine Institute. Bord Iascaigh Mhara carried out aquaculture profiling and developed Fisheries Natura Plans in this regard, any future development of the aquaculture industry at this location will need to take into consideration the findings of this work for this site. This area also contains a shore mark and bait location point as per the Shannon River Basin District guide to shore angling. Any proposed developments should take cognisance of these existing activities. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</p> <p>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 &amp; CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters. This includes riparian zones and the protection of the fisheries resource supporting development in a sustainable manner.</p>



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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.19 &amp; CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.</p> <p>... Finally, Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.</p> <p>... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP (Volume 9 of the development plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.</p> <p>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Carrigaholt Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD all other relevant EC Directives.</p> <p>... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental Asset and also ensures to ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the</p>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.
		Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan
		... None required
Population & Human Health	Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture is subject to the relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements for water body status outlined in the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and the West Shannon Carrigaholt Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing and aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial development etc.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Carrigaholt Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</li> </ul>
		Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan
		... None required.

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
Water	<p>Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture activity is subject to relevant licensing regimes and site-specific assessments. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD, The WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) and the Shellfish Directive (West Shannon Carrigaholt Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme) should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing or aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial activity etc. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD, MSFD and shellfish water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</li> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. This includes compliance with WFD objectives.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Carrigaholt Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</i> discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</li> <li>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</li> <li>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the Shellfish Waters Directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful</li> </ul>

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Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
Soils & Geology	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts and to relevant licensing regimes. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. Impacts to the geological heritage site should be through avoidance through appropriate siting and operation of activities. The number and proximity of the licenced sites will need to be considered together with the in-combination effects	<p>implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water quality and includes riparian zone and fisheries resources.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p> <p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. Emissions to air are subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the international regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission's EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p> <p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed developments/activities with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural</p>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and Harbours Archive, Topographical Files in the National Museum, cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted. Any activity is also subject to relevant licensing regimes</p>	<p>heritage structures in the Record of protected structures.</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of Protected Structures. This includes a review of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</p> <p>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</p> <p>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process as well as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Landscape	None required	n/a
RES	None required	n/a
SIFP	<p>Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>... None required.</p>
Material Assets	None required	n/a
Flooding	None required	n/a
<b>Rinevella Bay Area of opportunity</b>		
Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts, including relevant survey information such as dedicated bird counts throughout the summer and winter months to establish bird use; and assessment to impacts, if any, to Atlantic Salt Marsh (a priority habitat) in the vicinity. The main areas containing this habitat</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that</p>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	<p>are located to the east surrounding Cloonconeen point which is outside of the current licenced areas. These should include all relevant ecological survey work. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. A programme for the Appropriate Assessment of all aquaculture licences and inshore fishing activities in and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites in Ireland has been undertaken. Baseline data to inform these assessments and assist with the development of conservation objectives for the sites has been collected under the supervision of the Marine Institute. Bord Iascaigh Mhara carried out aquaculture profiling and developed Fisheries Natura Plans in this regard, any future development of the aquaculture industry at this location will need to take into consideration the findings of this work for this site. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 &amp; CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.</li> </ul>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters. This includes riparian zones and the protection of the fisheries resource supporting development in a sustainable manner.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands:</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.19 &amp; CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands (which includes saltmarshes).</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.</li> <li>... Finally, Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.</li> <li>... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP (Volume 9 of the development plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Rinevella Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental</li> </ul>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>Asset and also ensures to ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Population & Human Health	<p>Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture is subject to the relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements for water body status outlined in the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and the West Shannon Rinevella Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing and aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial development etc.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Rinevella Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</li> </ul>



## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required.</p>
Water	<p>To mitigate these potential impacts, any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture activity is subject to relevant licensing regimes and site-specific assessments. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD, The WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) and the Shellfish Directive (West Shannon Rinevella Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme) should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing or aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial activity etc. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD, MSFD and shellfish water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</li> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. This includes compliance with WFD objectives.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Rinevella Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</i> discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</li> <li>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</li> <li>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</li> </ul>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
		<p>... Objective 13.8 relates to the Shellfish Waters Directive. It aims to work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water quality and includes riparian zone and fisheries resources.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Soils & Geology	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts and to relevant licensing regimes. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. The number and proximity of the licenced sites will need to be considered together in terms of in-combination effects.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. Emissions to air are subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the international regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission's EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p> <p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p>

## REPORT

Measure Type	Recommended SIFP mitigation from previous CDP 2017- 2023 to be brought forward to the current CCDP 2023- 2029	Additional protective objectives within the current CCDP 2023 -2029 which are of relevance to the SIFP and which will support protection of European sites
	developments/activities with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and Harbours Archive, Topographical Files in the National Museum, cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted. Any activity is also subject to relevant licensing regimes.	<p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural heritage structures in the Record of protected structures.</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of Protected Structures. This includes a review of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</p> <p>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</p> <p>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, the EIA process as well as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Landscape	None required	n/a
RES	None required	n/a
SIFP	Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site.	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>... None required.</p>
Material Assets	None required	n/a
Flooding	None required	n/a

**Killimer Area of opportunity**

<p>Biodiversity Flora &amp; Fauna</p>	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts, including relevant survey information such as dedicated bird counts throughout the summer and winter months to establish bird use. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. A programme for the Appropriate Assessment of all aquaculture licences and inshore fishing activities in and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites in Ireland has been undertaken. Baseline data to inform these assessments and assist with the development of conservation objectives for the sites has been collected under the supervision of the Marine Institute. Bord Iascaigh Mhara carried out aquaculture profiling and developed Fisheries Natura Plans in this regard, any future development of the aquaculture industry at this location will need to take into consideration the findings of this work for this site. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 &amp; CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological</li> </ul>
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**Killimer Area of opportunity**

- corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.
- ... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters. This includes riparian zones and the protection of the fisheries resource supporting development in a sustainable manner.
- ... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.
- ... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands:
- ... Objective CDP15.19 & CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.
- ... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.
- ... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands (which includes saltmarshes).
- ... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.
- ... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.
- ... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- ... Finally, Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.
- ... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP (Volume 9 of the development plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.
- ... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Killimer Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.
- ... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental Asset and also ensures to ensure that all

**Killimer Area of opportunity**

proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.

Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan

... None required

Population & Human Health Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture is subject to the relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements for water body status outlined in the Shannon River Basin Management Plan should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing and aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial development etc.

The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:

- ... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.
- ... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP.
- ... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Killimer Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.
- ... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.
- ... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.
- ... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.

Killimer Area of opportunity

		<p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required.</p>
<p>Water</p>	<p>Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture activity is subject to relevant licensing regimes and site-specific assessments. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD, The WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) and the Shellfish Directive should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing or aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial activity etc. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD, MSFD and shellfish water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</li> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. This includes compliance with WFD objectives.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Killimer Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework</i> (NMPF) discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</li> <li>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</li> <li>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the Shellfish Waters Directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the</li> </ul>

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		<p>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water quality and includes riparian zone and fisheries resources.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Soils & Geology	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts and to relevant licensing regimes. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. The number and proximity of the licenced sites will need to be considered together in terms of in-combination effects.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. Emissions to air are subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the international regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation’s (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission’s EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p> <p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed developments/activities with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural heritage structures in the Record of protected structures.</p>



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	<p>Harbours Archive, Topographical Files in the National Museum, cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted. Any activity is also subject to relevant licensing regimes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of Protected Structures. This includes a review of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</li> <li>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</li> <li>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</li> <li>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</li> <li>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required, the EIA process as well as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</li> </ul>
Landscape	None required	n/a
RES	None required	n/a
SIFP	<p>Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied)), and the objectives of chapter 14 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as varied), when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 10 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required.</li> </ul>
Material Assets	None required	n/a
Flooding	None required	n/a

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**Biodiversity  
Flora &  
Fauna** Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts, including relevant survey information such as dedicated bird counts throughout the summer and winter months to establish bird use. These should include all relevant ecological survey work. Any development is also subject to relevant licensing regimes. A programme for the Appropriate Assessment of all aquaculture licences and inshore fishing activities in and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites in Ireland has been undertaken. Baseline data to inform these assessments and assist with the development of conservation objectives for the sites has been collected under the supervision of the Marine Institute. Bord Iascaigh Mhara carried out aquaculture profiling and developed Fisheries Natura Plans in this regard, any future development of the aquaculture industry at this location will need to take into consideration the findings of this work for this site. This area also contains a shore fishing spot as per the Shannon River Basin District guide to shore angling. Any proposed developments within the strategic location should take cognisance of this. Operational and maintenance activities should be designed so as to minimise impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna

The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:

- ... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.
- ... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry. It seeks to support Fishing Local Area Group Development Strategies.
- ... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.
- ... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.
- ... Objective CDP15.3 makes provision for the protection of European sites while Objective CDP15.4 stipulates requirement for plans and projects to undergo Appropriate Assessment. CDP15.10 makes provision for the requirement to comply with the EIA, SEA and Habitats Directives.
- ... Objective CDP15.5 makes provision for the protection of NHAs and pNHAs and Objectives CDP15.6, CDP15.7, CDP15.8 & CDP15.9 makes provision for the protection of other environmental and ecological sites. These sites may represent important supporting habitats for the European sites and act as ecological stepping stones.
- ... Objective CDP15.11 makes provision for consideration of environmental impacts during brownfield and contaminated land regeneration.
- ... Objective CDP15.12 makes provision for the promotion and protection of biodiversity. CDP15.13 specifically references the importance of urban ecology protection and CDP15.15 references biodiversity within local

- authority lands. CDP15.14 makes provision for enhancement of ecological corridors and prevention of habitat fragmentation.
- ... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters. This includes riparian zones and the protection of the fisheries resource supporting development in a sustainable manner.
  - ... Objective CDP15.17 makes provision for the protection of freshwater pearl mussels.
  - ... Objective CDP15.18 makes provision for the protection of peatlands:
  - ... Objective CDP15.19 & CDP15.20 makes provision for the protection of trees/hedgerows and woodlands.
  - ... Objective CDP15.21 makes provision for the protection of grasslands.
  - ... Objective CDP15.22 makes provision for the protection of wetlands (which includes saltmarshes).
  - ... Objective CDP15.23-CDP15.25 makes provision for the protection of the Burren and associated ecosystems.
  - ... Objective CDP15.26 and 15.27 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites and dark sky reserves. These areas may also support European sites.
  - ... Objective CDP15.29 makes provision to take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of invasive species.
  - ... Finally, Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with aforementioned objectives.
  - ... CDP12.1 is an overarching development plan objective for SIFP -Shannon Estuary which states that all proposed developments shall be in accordance with the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. All proposed developments shall incorporate the Mitigation Measures as contained in the SIFP (Volume 9 of the development plan) for ensuring the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.
  - ... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Clonderalaw Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.

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... CDP12.14 relates to Building on the Shannon Estuary as an Environmental Asset and also ensures to ensure that all proposed developments shall be in accordance the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EC Directives and do not compromise the achievement WFD objectives. It also seeks to facilitate the preparation of an Integrated Environmental Management Plan for the Shannon Estuary.

Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan

... None required

Population & Human Health Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture is subject to the relevant licensing regimes. The objectives and requirements for water body status outlined in the Shannon River Basin Management Plan should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing and aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial development etc.

The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:

- ... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.
- ... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP.
- ... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Clonderalaw Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.
- ... Objective CDP13.6 relates to the fishing industry and seafood sector. It supports the conservation of marine and freshwater resources and establishing a sustainable aquaculture and fishing industry.
- ... Objective CDP13.7 relates to aquaculture specifically. It aims to support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector where it can be demonstrated no significant adverse effect on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.
- ... Objective 13.8 relates to the shellfish waters directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.

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		<p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required.</p>
<p>Water</p>	<p>Any proposal for commercial fishing and aquaculture activity is subject to relevant licensing regimes and site-specific assessments. The objectives and requirements of the MSFD and the WFD (Shannon River Basin Management Plan) should be considered when assessing proposals for commercial fishing or aquaculture licences in these areas. Clare County Council shall consider the potential effects on this area when assessing proposals for potentially polluting point and diffuse sources such as waste water treatment plants, on-site waste water treatment plants, industrial activity etc. The design and construction of development should aim to protect water quality and provide no impediment to the achievement of WFD, MSFD and shellfish water quality objectives. Operational activities should be designed and carried out so as to not impact on water body status.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP3.1 is the overarching core objective regarding the protection of the European site network and ensures that the statutory assessment process is followed. All plans/projects shall be subject to the AA process to assess potential impacts upon European sites in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive. In addition, all plans/projects must comply with WFD objectives and support the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP.</li> <li>... Objectives CDP4.1- 4.6 includes a range of objectives aimed at ensuring adequate water and waste water services with aim of the protection of water quality and European sites.</li> <li>... Objectives 12.1, 12.3 - 12.10, 12.12 - 12.14 aim to ensure that developments do not lead to environmental impacts and impacts to European sites specifically relating to the SIFP. This includes compliance with WFD objectives.</li> <li>... Objective 12.13 relates to commercial fishing and aquaculture and supports facilitation and promotion of environmentally-sustainable commercial fishing and aquaculture, within the Areas of Opportunity for commercial fishing/aquaculture identified in the SIFP, which includes Clonderalaw Bay. Developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, WFD and all other relevant EC Directives.</li> <li>... Objective CDP13.1 relates to marine and coastal developments and ensure compliance with WFD objectives <i>The National Marine Planning Framework</i> (NMPF) discusses environmental policies related to estuaries and references the Shannon Estuary. The NMPF has undergone SEA and AA. This objective acknowledges that development must consider the NMPF. Under CDP13.1 any marine development shall be in accordance with various directives including the Habitats and EIA.</li> <li>... CDP13.2 supports the <i>Marine Planning and Development Management (MPDM) Bill</i> and Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).</li> <li>... CDP13.3 again ensure all new activities/developments are consistent with the policies of the National Marine Planning Framework.</li> <li>... Objective 13.8 relates to the Shellfish Waters Directive. It aims to work will local communities, relevant stakeholders and the</li> </ul>

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		<p>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive on the County Clare coastline.</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.16 makes provision for the protection of inland waters their water quality and includes riparian zone and fisheries resources.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required</p>
Soils & Geology	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts and to relevant licensing regimes. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. The number and proximity of the licenced sites will need to be considered together in terms of in-combination effects</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.6 requires that the importance of Geological Heritage Sites is recognised and the character and integrity of these sites is protected.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Air & Climate	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment of potential impacts. This should include all relevant survey work and assessment work. Emissions to air are subject to licensing regimes which should reflect the requirements and targets of the Air Quality Framework Directive and the National Climate Change Strategy. The requirements of the International Regulations introduced to reduce emissions (including air emissions) should be considered. These include the International Maritime Organisation’s (IMO) International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and the European Commission’s EU Shipping Strategy. The Annex VI regulations and the amendments contained in the Sea Pollution Miscellaneous Pollution Act, 2006, should also be adhered to</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP2.1 supports implementation of the National Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan for climate change.</p> <p>... Objective CDP12.2 support the implementation of the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</p> <p>... Objective CDP15.30 makes provision for green infrastructure and climate change which a number of points overlapping with other objectives within Chapter 15- Biodiversity.</p> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <p>... None required, as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p>Any development is subject to site-specific assessment including, for example, EIA. Any assessment shall include detailed impact statements that look at proposed developments/activities with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. Available data pertaining to the cultural heritage should be consulted and reviewed, including the Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland, Ports and</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <p>... Objective CDP16.1 is the overarching objective within Chapter 16 – Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. It ensures the protection of architectural heritage structures in the Record of protected structures.</p>

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	<p>Harbours Archive, Topographical Files in the National Museum, cartographic sources, historical sources, results of previous surveys carried out in the area (geophysical/EIS/marine, etc.) and results of archaeological research and excavations. The Register of Monuments and Places (RMP), Topographical Files of the National Museum and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (including the Annex) should be consulted. DAHG guidelines on assessing the potential for impact to underwater archaeology should be consulted. Any activity is also subject to relevant licensing regimes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... Objective CDP16.2 requires the protection of all structures as set out in the Record of Protected Structures. This includes a review of the records and additional of maritime structures which may be of special interest:</li> <li>... Objective CDP16.6 ensure the appropriate environmental assessments are conducted to assess impact of any heritage related projects.</li> <li>... Objective CDP15.26 makes provision for the protection of UNESCO sites. These areas may also support European sites.</li> <li>... Objective 16.8 ensures the safeguard of sites, features and archaeological interests. Regard is given to government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999.</li> <li>... Objective CDP16.9 refers to underwater archaeological sites and ensures their protection and preservation. It supports the further exploration of underwater archaeology</li> <li>... Objective 15.9 ensures the protection of industrial heritage including harbours.</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... None required, the EIA process as well as current licencing and assessment regimes will kick-in as proposals for development arise and will ensure that any impacts are identified and mitigated for.</li> </ul>
Landscape	None required	n/a
RES	None required	n/a
SIFP	<p>Clare County Council shall consider the objectives of the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary (which will be adopted as Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029 and the objectives of chapter 15 of the said CDP when considering strategic development needs and planning applications at this site.</p>	<p>The following objectives in the CCDP 2023-2029 already provide for aspects of the recommended mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>... The SIFP for the Shannon Estuary will be incorporated into the development plan (Volume 9 of the CCDP 2023-2029).</li> </ul> <p>Additional action taken to incorporate the recommended mitigation into the County Development Plan.</p> <p>None required.</p>
Material Assets	None required	n/a
Flooding	None required	n/a

## 14 IN-COMBINATION ASSESSMENT - INTERACTION WITH OTHER PLANS AND PROJECTS

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 policies within which the CDP is being developed and to identify at this early stage any possible in-combination effects of the draft CDP with other plans and projects; see **Table 14-1** below. 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 line with EC guidance, a stepwise approach has been taken to consideration of in-combination effects as follows:

- ... Identify plans / projects that might act in combination;
- ... Identify the types of impact that might occur;
- ... Define boundaries of the assessment;
- ... Identify pathways for impact; and
- ... Impact prediction and assessment.



REPORT

**Table 14-1: Assessment of In-combination Effects**

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
<p><b>National Development Plan 2018-2027</b></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 1 million people.</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species</p>	<p>The NDP is a high level budgetary and finance document which identifies priorities for capital investment. Given the nature of the capital investment the majority of the projects referenced and funded under the NDP have been or will be subject to EIA/AA. The NDP does not confer planning, it identifies strategic need. No in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan)</b></p> <p>The National Planning Framework is a long-term strategy for the next 20 years and it will focus on ensuring compatibility between future growth of cities/ towns within Ireland alongside environmental sustainability. It is intended that the National Planning Framework will both provide the focus to guide and inform future planning and set the framework for integrated investment decisions. It is intended that the national policy will be detailed through the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies in order to set out long term national, regional and local development frameworks from within which sectors will work together to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic are being subject to the AA process.</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;</p> <p>Alteration to air quality;</p> <p>Disturbance.</p>	<p>It is a policy<sup>4</sup> 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. The plan has been subject to AA and includes clear policy on avoidance of impacts to European sites.</p>
<p><b>Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies</b></p> <p>The three regional strategies seek to interpret and implement the NPF at a regional level.</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>The three regional strategies include clear policy and supporting actions to avoid and minimise impacts on European sites. They include similar commitments to only implement the policy base within the carrying capacity of the receiving environment as greater detail is known through the planning hierarchy. No in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy – Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020-2025</b></p> <p>This is Ireland’s new national waste policy which, building on the previous policy, <i>A Resource Opportunity – waste management policy in Ireland</i>. The new action plan puts the focus on waste management further up the waste hierarchy, shifting away from disposal and treatment of waste towards circular product design, including reducing hazardous materials. The plan has over 200 measures across various sectors including the circular economy transition, protection of consumers, green procurement, plastics and packaging, municipal waste etc. It will also examine the feasibility of introducing an</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;</p> <p>Alterations to air quality; and</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>As an initiative that primarily aims at developing the circular economy, there is no risk of likely significant in-combination effects from the policy. It seeks to provide tools and information to businesses, individuals and the public sector to influence behavioural change, support sustainable choices and inform policy. Therefore, it is not expected to conflict with the Draft CDP but to positively influence it going forward.</p>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/towards\\_a\\_national\\_planning\\_framework\\_december\\_2015.pdf](http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/towards_a_national_planning_framework_december_2015.pdf)

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Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
<p><b>Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR) for paints, medicines and farm hazardous waste.</b></p>		
<p><b>The National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP)</b>            This programme is part of an overarching national strategy published in 2014 'Towards a Resource Efficient Ireland'. The NWPP supports national-level, strategic programmes to prevent waste and drive the circular economy in Ireland. It aims to embed sustainability and climate action into different sectors by reducing water-use, waste and energy and produces annual reports.</p>	<p>Increased resilience in habitats and species;            Improved water quality; and            Alteration to air quality</p>	<p>As an initiative that primarily aims at developing the circular economy, there is no risk of likely significant in-combination effects from the programme. It seeks to provide tools and information to businesses, individuals and the public sector to influence behavioural change, support sustainable choices and inform policy. Therefore, it is not expected to conflict with the Draft CDP but to positively influence it going forward.</p>
<p><b>Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and Amending Directive (EU) 2018/851</b>            This Directive sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling, recovery. It explains when waste ceases to be waste lays down some basic waste management principles. The Directive introduces the "polluter pays principle" and the "extended producer responsibility" (EPR). The revised directive places responsibility on EU member states to improve their waste management systems, to improve the efficiency of resource use, and to ensure that waste is valued as a resource. Some of the key issues addressed in the amending directive, include: minimum operating requirements for EPR schemes; strengthened rules on waste prevention and further obligations on waste generation; highlights examples of incentives to apply the waste hierarchy, such as landfill and incineration charges and pay-as-you-throw schemes; sets new municipal-waste-recycling targets; and specifically for hazardous waste, the requirement for member states to establish separate collection of textiles and hazardous waste generated by households.</p>	<p>Improved habitats and species            Improved water quality; and            Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;            Alterations to air quality            Habitat loss or destruction;            Habitat fragmentation or degradation;            Disturbance to habitats/species;            Species mortality;            Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;            Alterations to air quality; and            Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>In terms of the Draft CDP, this Directive incorporates provisions on hazardous waste and waste oils and includes two new recycling and recovery targets to be achieved by 2020. As it establishes major principles on how to handle waste, it will not have a negative impact on DRAFT CDP, but positively influence it. The Revised Waste Directive strengthens rules on waste prevention, and sets a target for Member States to establish separate household textile and hazardous waste collection by 2025. As the directives establish major principles on how to handle waste, it will not have a negative impact on the Draft CDP, but positively influence it.</p>
<p><b>Regional Waste Management Plans</b>            The three regional waste management plans include the Southern Region, Easter-Midlands Region and Connacht-Ulster Region. All provide a framework for the prevention and management of wastes in a safe and sustainable manner.</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction;            Habitat fragmentation or degradation;            Disturbance to habitats/species;            Species mortality;            Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;            Alterations to air quality; and            Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>All waste management plans were subject to AA processes. The primary purpose of the plans at regional level are to prevent the negative impacts of waste and manage and control pollution. No in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan</b>            Sets out a nationwide standardised approach to ensure that treated wastewater sludge across the country is effectively managed, stored, transported and re-used or disposed of in a sustainable way.</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction;            Habitat fragmentation or degradation;            Disturbance to habitats/species;            Species mortality;            Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;</p>	<p>The national strategy of the plan is for a sustainable approach to wastewater sludge management to ensure efficiency and ongoing improvement. An important objective is to avoid endangering human health or harming the environment, as in-combination effects are deemed null. The Plan aligns with Draft CDP in a positive way</p>

## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
...	Alterations to air quality; and	
...	Introduction or spread of invasive species.	
<b>Sewage Sludge Directive Waste (86/278/ EEC)</b> Seeks to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man. The Directive also specifies rules for the sampling and analysis of sludges and soils.	... Habitat fragmentation or degradation; ... Disturbance to habitats/species; ... Species mortality; ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; ... Alterations to air quality; and ... Introduction or spread of invasive species.	This Directives goal is to ensure public health is protected. The regulation of sewage sludge outlined in the directive requires that specific rules be followed. This Directive aligns with Draft CDP in a positive way and in-combination effects are deemed unlikely.
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and revised Biodiversity Strategy to 2030</b> The new Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 aims to put Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet. In the context of the post-COVID-19 pandemic, it aims to build resilience to future threats, including climate change, security of food supplies, forest fires, outbreaks of disease and combating the illegal trade in wildlife. It aims to increase the Natura 2000 network, and will launch an EU restoration plan by the end of 2021. To enable implementation, it also aims to allow better tracking of progress, improving knowledge transfer and emphasising 'respect for nature' in public and business decision-making.	... Increased resilience in habitats and species; ... Improved water quality; and ... Improved air quality	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Strategy is to halt the loss of habitat and species and aligns with environmental objectives of the Draft CDP.
<b>Biodiversity Climate Adaptation Plan [arising from the National Climate Adaptation Framework]</b> The framework provides strategic focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. There is a requirement for each government department to prepare sectoral plans. The DCHG completed this in relation to Biodiversity. The Biodiversity CAP sets out the key challenges for biodiversity and the actions needed to increase resilience of our native flora and fauna to the effects of climate change.	... Increased resilience in habitats and species ... Introduction or spread of invasive species ... Improved Water quality	No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the plan is to protect biodiversity and improve the understanding of the link between climate change and environmental impacts. The actions and priorities arising from the plan are important for resilience in the longer term. Positive in combination effects as it supports resilience to climate change.
<b>National Mitigation Plan 2017</b> Plan outlining the measures and actions of four specific sectors to mitigate climate change in the areas of transport, energy, the built environment and agriculture.	... Habitat loss or destruction; ... Habitat fragmentation or degradation; ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; ... Disturbance ... In-combination impacts within the same scheme.	The framework supports climate change mitigation and marks an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. The Plan was subject to SEA and AA. Mitigation measures from AA were developed to ensure no adverse effects from the plan. No in-combination effects are identified.
<b>Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021</b> 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	... Improved habitat and species protection	As the BAP is aimed at environmental protection, there are no in-combination effects.

## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
through addressing issues ranging from improving the management of protected areas to increasing awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.		
<p><b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Second Cycle River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (Third Cycle in prep, 2021-2027)</b></p> <p>The primary purpose of this Directive and the various pieces of national legislation that have enacted through the implementation of River Basin Management Plans, is to achieve good status for all water bodies, with no deterioration in water body status. The RBMP sets out the PoM to achieve the objectives of the WFD.</p>	<p>Improved Water Quality; Improved habitats; and Increased resilience in habitats and species.</p>	<p>No risk of likely significant in-combination effects will result as the primary purpose of the Directive is to improve ecological status and includes achievement of objectives of the Habitats and Birds Directives. The second cycle River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 was published together with a NIS including mitigation to offset negative effects. The same process would be required for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle RBMP which is in preparation.</p>
<p><b>Water Services Strategic Plan</b></p> <p>Irish Water has prepared a Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP, 2015), under Section 33 of the Water Service No. 2 Act of 2013 to address the delivery of strategic objectives which will contribute towards improved water quality and WFD requirements. The WSSP forms the highest tier of asset management plans (Tier 1) which Irish Water prepare and it sets the overarching framework for subsequent detailed implementation plans (Tier 2) and water services projects (Tier 3). The WSSP sets out the challenges we face as a country in relation to the provision of water services and identifies strategic national priorities. It includes Irish Water's short-, medium- and long-term objectives and identifies strategies to achieve these objectives. As such, the plan provides the context for subsequent detailed implementation plans (Tier 2) which will document the approach to be used for key water service areas such as water resource management, wastewater compliance and sludge management. The WSSP also sets out the strategic objectives against which the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme is developed. The current version of the CIP outlines the proposals for capital expenditure in terms of upgrades and new builds within the Irish Water owned asset</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction; Habitat fragmentation or degradation; Disturbance to habitats/species; Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>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. no in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, under the Floods Directive</b></p> <p>The Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for the implementation of the Floods Directive 2007/60/EC which is being carried out through a Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme. As part of the directive Ireland is required to undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, to identify areas of existing or potentially significant future flood risk and to prepare flood hazard and risk maps for these areas. Following this, Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are developed for these areas setting objectives for managing the flood risk and setting out a prioritised set of measures to achieve the objectives. The CFRAM programme is currently being rolled out and Draft Flood Risk</p>	<p>Habitat loss or destruction; Habitat fragmentation or degradation; Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; Disturbance; In-combination impacts within the same scheme</p>	<p>CFRAM Studies and their product Flood Risk Management Plans, have undergone Appropriate Assessment. Any future flood plans will have to take into account the design and implementation of water management infrastructure as it has the potential to impact on hydromorphology and potentially on the ecological status and favourable conservation status of water bodies. The establishment where flooding is occurring is an important consideration for the Draft CDP and spatial planning in general, with regard to the siting of houses, services and infrastructure. The AA of the CFRAMs considered the potential for impacts from hard engineering solutions and how they might affect hydrological connectivity and hydromorphological supporting conditions for protected</p>

## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
Management Plans have been prepared. These plans have been subject AA.		habitats and species. no in-combination effects are identified.
<p><b>Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU)</b></p> <p>This is the main EU instrument regulating pollutant emissions from industrial installations. The IED aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment taken as a whole by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU. The IED is based on several pillars, in particular (1) an integrated approach, (2) use of best available techniques, (3) flexibility, (4) inspections and (5) public participation.</p> <p>The IED sets out the licensing procedures and criteria for certain industrial activities, aiming to reduce harmful emissions, in particular through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT) in terms of environmental performance. BATs are being continually revised with BAT conclusions then being adopted by the EC as Implementing Decisions. IED licences also make specific provision for the prevention of waste and for its proper management.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Alterations to air quality; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>The primary purpose of this Directive is to ensure the prevention and control of pollution by giving priority to intervention at source. no in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>EU Green Deal 2050</b></p> <p>In response to the challenges facing Europe, the European Green Deal was adopted for the EU in December 2019. Termed a new growth strategy based on clean products and technologies, the European Green Deal is committed to working towards a climate-neutral society by 2050. It has an action plan/ roadmap of actions, of which the key objectives are to: increase the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy; as well as to restore biodiversity and cut pollution. It also aims to support innovation of industry to increase circularity. It has a timetable of actions, including producing the EU Circular Economy Action Plan, Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, which were published in 2020.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Increased resilience in habitats and species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improved habitat and species protection; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improved air and water quality.</p>	<p>The key aim of the Action Plan is sustainability in order to deliver circularity. This plan will be complimentary to the Draft CDP and as such no in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>Restriction on the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive (2011/65/EU)</b></p> <p>This directive limits the concentrations of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), with some exemptions. It aims to protect the environment and human health, particularly workers in waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recycling facilities. The reduction in the use of the specified hazardous substances at source has positive impacts by allowing increased recycling of WEEE products.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Increased resilience in habitats and species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improved air and water quality</p>	<p>The primary purpose of this Directive is to protect human health and the environment, no in-combination effects are identified..</p>
<p><b>EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment</b></p> <p>Global chemical use is projected to double by 2030, and while essential for life, chemicals can also have hazardous properties and can be toxic to human health and the environment. As such, the EU has prepared this strategy which also ties into the Green Deal and the</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Increased resilience in habitats and species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improved air and water quality.</p>	<p>The primary purpose of this Strategy is to set out how hazardous waste is handled in terms of legislation no in-combination effects are identified..</p>

## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
<p>Circular Economy Action Plan. It aims for zero pollution, including reducing hazardous waste streams, and to protect human and environmental health. It aims to streamline the coherence between waste, chemicals and products legislation, aiming to close gaps in how hazardous substances may be handled differently under different legislation.</p>		
<p><b>The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) and Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012) (national)</b></p> <p>The overarching sustainable development policy document in the EU. During the 2009 review the EU noted a number of unsustainable trends that require urgent action including a decrease in high energy consumption in the transport sector in line with the 2020 Strategy. At national level, Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012) has followed the model used in the EU SDS.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>There is no potential for in-combination effects with the Draft CDP. The strategy aims to manage resources more responsibly and thus would complement aspects of the Draft CDP. The main thrust of the plan is positive and would not be expected to conflict with the Draft CDP but to positively influence it going forward.</p>
<p><b>Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe</b></p> <p>Outlines how we can transform Europe's economy into a sustainable one by 2050. It proposes ways to increase resource productivity and decouple economic growth from resource use and its environmental impact.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;</p> <p>Alterations to air quality; and</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>There is no potential for in-combination effects with the Draft CDP. The roadmap aims to tackle challenges and manage resources more responsibly complementing aspects of the Draft CDP. The main thrust of the plan is positive and would not be expected to conflict with the Draft CDP but to positively influence it going forward.</p>
<p><b>National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030</b></p> <p>The plan brings together energy and climate planning and describes how Ireland will achieve the EUs main climate targets. The plan must cover the key areas of (i) energy security; (ii) internal energy market; (iii) energy efficiency; (iv) decarbonisation; and (v) research, innovation and competitiveness.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/ or water movement;</p> <p>Disturbance;</p> <p>In-combination impacts within the same scheme</p>	<p>The plan supports decarbonisation and as such the main thrust of the plan is positive as it addresses climate change aspects. The Plan has been subject to SEA and AA screening.</p>
<p><b>Climate Action Plan 2021</b></p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2021 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>Alterations to air quality;</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species</p>	<p>The main thrust of the plan is positive and there is potential for positive in combination effects as it supports long term resilience to climate change.</p>
<p><b>National Mitigation Plan 2017</b></p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p>	<p>The framework supports climate change mitigation. Mitigation measures from AA were developed to ensure no</p>

## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
Plan outlining the measures and actions of four specific sectors to mitigate climate change in the areas of transport, energy, the built environment and agriculture.	... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; ... Disturbance ... In-combination impacts within the same scheme. ...	adverse effects from the plan. No in-combination effects are identified.
<b>The EU Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the period from 2020 to 2030</b> Sets targets for the period 2020 to 2030: Target of 27% renewable energy in the EU; Increase energy efficiency by 27% by 2020; and Reaching electricity interconnection target of 15% between EU countries by 2030.	... Habitat loss or destruction; ... Habitat fragmentation or degradation; ... Species mortality; ... Disturbance to habitats/species; ... Alterations to air quality; ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and ... Introduction or spread of invasive species	This policy framework underwent impact assessment before publishing. The overall drive is to increase the use of renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, no in-combination effects are identified.
<b>Energy Roadmap 2050</b> This roadmap does not set specific energy targets at this point but does aim to achieve an 80% to 95% reduction in greenhouse gases compared to 1990 levels by 2050.	... Habitat loss or destruction; ... Habitat fragmentation or degradation; ... Species mortality; ... Disturbance to habitats/species; ... Alterations to air quality; ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and ... Introduction or spread of invasive species.	The key aim of the roadmap is a guide to a low carbon Europe. This plan will be complimentary to the Draft CDP and as such no in-combination effects are identified.
<b>Eight Environmental Action Programme (2021-2030)</b> The 8 <sup>th</sup> EAP aims to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and regenerative economy. It recognises that human wellbeing and prosperity depend on the healthy ecosystems within which we operate and sets out six priority objectives (i) climate neutrality by 2050 (ii) reducing vulnerability to climate change (iii) circular economy (iv) zero-pollution ambition (v) enhancing natural capital and (vi) reducing environmental and climate pressures.	... Habitat loss or destruction; ... Habitat fragmentation or degradation; ... Alterations to air quality; ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and ... Disturbance to habitats/ species.	As the EAP is aimed at environmental action protection, no in-combination effects are identified..
<b>National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure in Transport 2017-2030</b> 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.	... Habitat loss or destruction; ... Habitat fragmentation or degradation; ... Species mortality; ... Alterations to air quality; ... Disturbance to habitats/species; ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and ... Introduction or spread of invasive species	This underwent SEA and AA. While there is potential for land use change associated with the policy, the AA and SEA both provided mitigation to avoid adverse effects. This plan would not be expected to conflict with any aspects of the Draft CDP but to positively contribute to it going forward.

## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
<p><b>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention)</b></p> <p>Air pollution from shipping is currently regulated by the MARPOL Convention, specifically Annex VI which limits the main air pollutants from ships, SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, PM, and prohibition of the deliberate release of ozone-depleting substances. Incineration on ships and emissions of VOCs are also regulated. The objectives are for progressive reductions in air pollution from shipping. In 2020, new limits on the sulphur content in ship fuels aims to further significantly reduce SO<sub>x</sub> emissions.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>Alterations to air quality.</p>	<p>The objectives of the convention are for progressive reductions in air pollution from shipping. In 2020, new limits on the sulphur content in ship fuels aims to further significantly reduce SO<sub>x</sub> emissions. No in-combination effects.</p>
<p><b>Rural Development Programme 2014-2020</b></p> <p>Provides a new suite of rural development measures designed to enhance the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, achieve more sustainable management of natural resources and ensure a more balanced development of rural areas. Includes provisions under GLAS; Bio-Energy; nutrient management planning; "Carbon Navigator" software tool</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Habitat loss or destruction;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation or degradation;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Disturbance to habitats/species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Species mortality;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Alterations to air quality; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>The Rural Development Plan (RDP) was subject to its own AA. Mitigation in the RDP requires that Appropriate Assessment is to be carried out for all individual building, tourism or agricultural reclamation projects, stakeholder engagement and site-based monitoring. With the required mitigation in the RDP, no in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plans 2009-2015</b></p> <p>These plans for Irish Freshwater Pearl Mussels were prepared as part of the 1st Cycle of River Basin management Plans for 2009-2015. The plan provides a programme of measures required to improve the habitat of the freshwater pearl mussel so that it can attain favourable conservation status. This includes the Cloon Sub -Plan 2010</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Improved habitat and species protection</p>	<p>The draft Sub-basin Management Plans identify issues relevant to mussel conservation and propose realistic solutions. This includes a plan for the Cloon Catchment within Co. Clare. The aim is the plan is to conserve, manage and protect FWPM and no in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan (DAFM, in preparation)</b></p> <p>The objective of the draft Plan is to eliminate, reduce or mitigate diffuse and point sources of sediment and nutrients, and the disruption of the natural hydrological regime, potentially arising from forest activities undertaken within the Plan's area, to ensure that these activities do not threaten the achievement of the conservation objectives for the Special Areas of Conservation involved.</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Improved habitat and species protection</p>	<p>The plans core principle is the protection of FWPM from forestry activities. The plan is undergoing SEA and AA process. No in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ("Transforming our World").</b></p> <p>The 2030 Agenda encourages countries to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into planning and policy, on both a national and international level. As a whole-of-government initiative overseen by DECC, all Ministers retain responsibility for implementing the individual SDGs relating to their departments.</p> <p>As part of our oversight role, DECC was assigned responsibility for developing the SDG National Implementation Plans. The Plans set out arrangements for interdepartmental coordination, stakeholder engagement and periodic progress reporting on all 169 targets. The</p>	<p>...</p> <p>Increased resilience in habitats and species;</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improved habitat and species protection; and</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improved air and water quality</p>	<p>No in-combination effects are identified. The agenda aligns with sustainable objectives within the Draft CDP.</p>



## REPORT

Draft CDP In Combination with...	Key Types of Impacts	Assessment of Effects
<p>first Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan was published in 2018. The second Plan, which will include a progress report on the first Plan, is due to be published in 2021.</p>		
<p><b>Food Wise 2025</b>            Food Wise is sets out the strategic plan for the development of the Irish agri-food sector over the next decade. Growth projections include increasing the value added in the agri-food, fisheries and wood products sector by 70% to in excess of €13 billion. Sustainable production at its core setting out a range of specific recommendations aimed at managing the projected growth in a sustainable way. There is a strong commitment to the measurement and monitoring of the sustainability credentials of the sector as the strategy rolls out.</p>	<p>... Habitat loss or destruction;            ... Habitat fragmentation or degradation;            ... Disturbance to habitats/species;            ... Species mortality;            ... Alterations to water quality and/or water movement;            ... Alterations to air quality; and            ... Introduction or spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>Subject to AA and SEA. The NIS concluded that “The Assessment identified that the majority of the actions promoted positive behaviour and that very few provided clear links to adverse impacts on European sites. The few potential impacts were addressed by reference to the safeguards that applied to those specific sectors and impact types, at a local level. Whilst this was a strategic and national-scale series of actions, there were many different mechanisms identified whereby potential adverse impacts are addressed at a local scale”. No in-combination effects are identified.</p>
<p><b>Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) (2008/56/EC)</b>            The aims of the MSFD are to protect the marine environment across Europe through achieving and maintaining good environmental status of marine waters by 2020, and acts as complimentary legislation to the WFD. To achieve this goal the directive has set out marine regions; Ireland falls within the North-east Atlantic Ocean Region and for the purposes of the MSFD Ireland is required to produce a Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP). Ireland’s draft “National Marine Planning Framework” (i.e., first MSP) was launched for public consultation in November 2019 and the final version is due soon.</p>	<p>... Increased resilience in habitats and species;            ... Improved habitat and species protection; and            ... Improved water quality</p>	<p>The MSP core principle is the protection of marine environment. No in-combination effects are identified.</p>

## 15 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This Natura Impact Report on the draft CCDP 2023-2029 records the assessment undertaken during the preparation of the draft County Development Plan. Assuming the successful implementation of the environmental protection objectives in the Written Statement, and with the strict application of mitigation measures specified in this NIR for CDP objectives and Municipal District Settlements (**Appendix B** and **Appendix C**), it can be ascertained that the CCDP 2023-2029 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The next step in the process is formal consultation on the draft CDP, the accompanying SEA Environmental Report and this NIR. Where changes are proposed to the draft CDP as a result of consultation, these will be assessed and this NIR will be updated to reflect the final draft CDP proposed for adoption.

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