

SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR THE

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-2030

for: Sligo County Council

County Hall
Riverside
County Sligo



SLIGO
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH

by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7



OCTOBER 2024

Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations	v
Glossary.....	vi
Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority	1
1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits.....	1
Section 2 The Plan	3
2.1 Introduction.....	3
2.2 Content of the Plan	3
2.3 Vision and Summary of Settlement Strategy	3
2.4 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development	4
2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes	5
Section 3 SEA Methodology	6
3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach	6
3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment.....	7
3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	7
3.4 Scoping	8
3.5 Alternatives	8
3.6 Environmental Report	8
3.7 SEA Statement.....	9
Section 4 Environmental Baseline	11
4.1 Introduction.....	11
4.2 National Reporting on the Environment	11
4.3 Sustainable Development Goals.....	11
4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan	12
4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services.....	14
4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	15
4.7 Population and Human Health	29
4.8 Soil	30
4.9 Water.....	37
4.10 Air and Climatic Factors	53
4.11 Material Assets.....	56
4.12 Cultural Heritage	67
4.13 Landscape	72
4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping	75
Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives	78
Section 6 Description of Alternatives	83
6.1 Introduction.....	83
6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives	83
6.3 Type 1: Alternatives for positioning in the Settlement Hierarchy	83
6.4 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations.....	84

6.5	Type 3: Alternatives for Rural Settlements.....	84
6.6	Type 4: Alternatives for Residential Densities.....	84
6.7	Type 5: Alternatives for Land-Use Zoning (residential and mixed uses, including residential) 84	
Section 7	Evaluation of Alternatives.....	85
7.1	Introduction.....	85
7.2	Methodology	85
7.3	Detailed Assessment of Alternatives	87
7.4	Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered.....	94
Section 8	Evaluation of Plan Provisions.....	95
8.1	Introduction.....	95
8.2	Cumulative Effects.....	96
8.3	Overall Evaluation	97
8.4	Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan.....	103
8.5	Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.....	104
8.6	Integration of Climate Action into the Plan.....	104
8.7	Interrelationship between Environmental Components.....	107
8.8	Detailed Evaluation.....	108
Section 9	Mitigation Measures.....	134
9.1	Introduction.....	134
9.2	Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development.....	134
9.3	Consideration of Alternatives.....	134
9.4	Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan	135
9.5	Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.....	135
Section 10	Monitoring Measures	154
10.1	Introduction.....	154
10.2	Indicators and Targets.....	154
10.3	Sources	154
10.4	Reporting	154
Appendix I	Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes.....	159
Appendix II	Further Environmental Baseline Detail.....	190
Appendix III	Non-Technical Summary.....	separately bound

List of Figures

Figure 3.1 Overview of the SEA/AA/SFRA Plan-preparation Processes	6
Figure 4.1 European sites within and within 15 km of the County	21
Figure 4.2 Other connected European sites beyond 15 km of the County and hydrologically linked...	22
Figure 4.3 Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Areas of Special Scientific Interest within and within 15 km of the County	23
Figure 4.4 CORINE Land Cover 2018	24
Figure 4.5 Areas likely to contain Annex I habitats, Ramsar sites and Nature Reserves.....	25
Figure 4.6 WFD Register of Protected Areas - Shellfish Areas	26
Figure 4.7 WFD RPA Salmonid Rivers and WFD RPA Bathing Water Areas	27
Figure 4.8 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas	28
Figure 4.9 Soil Types.....	33
Figure 4.10 County Geological Sites.....	34
Figure 4.11 Source Protection Areas	35
Figure 4.12 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events.....	36
Figure 4.13 WFD Surface Waterbodies Status (2016-2021) and Bathing Waters (2022).....	44
Figure 4.14 'Blue Dot' Waterbodies	45
Figure 4.15 WFD Groundwater Status (2016-2021)	46
Figure 4.16 Groundwater Vulnerability	47
Figure 4.17 Groundwater Productivity	48
Figure 4.18 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas.....	49
Figure 4.19 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water.....	50
Figure 4.20 Historical Flood Data	51
Figure 4.21 OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping.....	52
Figure 4.22 Minerals Localities.....	62
Figure 4.23 Archaeological Heritage.....	70
Figure 4.24 Architectural Heritage	71
Figure 4.25 Landscape Sensitivity and Designations	74
Figure 4.26 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Sligo.....	77

List of Tables

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report	10
Table 4.1 WFD River, Lake, Transitional and Coastal Waterbodies Status	40
Table 4.2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance (Annual Environmental Reports 2022 and 2021, EPA)	63
Table 4.3 Details on Water Supply Schemes	66
Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs), Indicators and Targets	79
Table 6.1 Settlement Hierarchy levels in County Sligo	83
Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives	85
Table 7.2 Effects common to Plans adopting each of the different alternatives	87
Table 7.3 Assessment of Type 1 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives	89
Table 7.4 Assessment of Type 2 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives	90
Table 7.5 Assessment of Type 3 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives	91
Table 7.6 Assessment of Type 4 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives	92
Table 7.7 Assessment of Type 5 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives	94
Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives	95
Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan	98
Table 8.3 Alterations Advised Against but Adopted	103
Table 8.4 Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Effects	106
Table 8.5 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components	107
Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan	136
Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action	155

List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACA	Architectural Conservation Area
CAFE	Cleaner Air for Europe
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CORINE	Co-ORDinated INformation on the Environment
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
EU	European Union
FPO	Flora Protection Order
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NTA	National Transport Authority
OPW	Office of Public Works
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
PAS	Priority Action Substance
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PWS	Public Water Supply
RAL	Remedial Action List
RBD	River Basin District
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPA	Register of Protected Areas
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
RWSS	Regional Water Supply Scheme
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
THMs	Trihalomethanes
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA) derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European Site in view of its conservation objectives.

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992).

Flora is all of the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.

Environmental Problems

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain Plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse.

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

Environmental Vectors

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported, coming into contact with human beings.

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

In the context of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, mitigation measures are clearly distinguished from compensatory measures. Compensatory measures are intended to offset the negative effects of the plan or project so that the overall ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network is maintained.

Natural Heritage

The Heritage Act (1995) defines natural heritage as including flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks.

Protected Structure

Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations (as amended) to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.

Recorded Monument

A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Scoping

Scoping is the process of determining what issues are to be addressed, and setting out a methodology in which to address them in a structured manner appropriate to the plan or programme. Scoping is carried out in consultation with appropriate environmental authorities.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it.

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at International, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives were evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, hereafter referred to as the "Plan". It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Sligo County Council. The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before such decisions are made. *Environmental Impact Assessment*, or EIA, is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment for individual projects, while *Strategic Environmental Assessment* or SEA is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, which help determine the nature and location of individual projects taking place. SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, in order to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest appropriate stages of decision-making in tandem with economic, social and other considerations.

The SEA has been undertaken in order to comply with European SEA Directive¹, which introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes that are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

SEA identifies the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan. The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report, an earlier version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display and has been updated following consultation, and identifies how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how alternatives for the Plan were considered.

The planning authority has taken into account the findings of this report and other related SEA output during the Plan preparation process.

Following adoption of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that summarises, *inter alia*, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

SEA is the planning authority's and the public's guide to what are generally the best areas for development in the County.

SEA enables the planning authority to direct development towards robust, well-serviced and connected areas in the County – thereby facilitating the general avoidance of incompatible areas in the most sensitive, least well-serviced and least well-connected areas.

SEA provides greater certainty to the public and to developers. Plans are more likely to be adopted without delays or challenges and planning applications are more likely to be granted permission. Environmental mitigation is more likely to cost less.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focuses on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprints of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable

development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain and improve services to existing and future communities.

Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Sligo County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Sligo over the six-year period 2024-2030. The Plan sets out the Council's proposed policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period.

2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Sligo over the period 2024-2030. The Plan has been structured in four volumes, with a number of appendices.

Volume 1 contains the sectoral strategies which, together, make up the Core Strategy of the Development Plan: Settlement, Housing, Economic, Retail and Transport Strategies. Climate Action is located at the forefront of the Plan, setting the framework for the Council's commitments and obligations under the Climate Action Plan.

Volume 2 provides the detailed compact growth designations, zoning and specific objectives for the 12 towns and villages where development will be promoted during the Plan period. Fewer objectives are included in relation to Sligo Town, for which a Local Area Plan must be prepared following the adoption of the Development Plan.

Volume 3 contains all the general policies and objectives designed to guide development in the County, thematically grouped in chapters such as Residential Development, Community and Social Infrastructure, Economic Development, Water infrastructure, Transport Infrastructure, Energy and Telecommunications etc. This volume also sets out the development management standards used by the Planning Authority in the assessment of planning applications.

Volume 4 includes specific objectives for the villages sustaining rural communities, where no significant population or housing growth is envisaged.

Among the documents that accompany the Development Plan, having informed its policies and objectives, the most significant are the Housing Strategy, the Sligo Local Transport Plan and the Wine Street Car Park Master Plan.

2.3 Vision and Summary of Settlement Strategy

The Plan identifies the Vision for Sligo in 2030 from the "Sligo 2030: One voice, One vision – Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2030";

"The Vision is for a smart, sustainable, and socially inclusive Sligo; one that cherishes its vibrant communities, protects and celebrates its unique environment and rich culture, and is a champion of innovative growth and development."

County Sligo's settlement structure and hierarchy have remained largely unaltered for many decades, due to the slow pace of economic and social changes, similar to the entire North-West Region, where development continues to lag behind the EU average.

The National Planning Framework/Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy designation of Sligo Town as a Regional Growth Centre recognises the Town's complex role in the North-West and places it at the top of the County's Settlement Hierarchy.

Consistent with the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the North West, the Core Strategy will continue to focus on developing Sligo Town, while ensuring that the County's lower-tier towns and villages retain their vitality.

The settlement hierarchy and the strategy for each category are summarised below:

- Sligo Town is the County's main urban centre, which provides employment,

education, healthcare and other services to people living in its large hinterland, within and beyond the County boundaries. It is the designated Regional Growth Centre of the North-West.

- In terms of size and social-economic role, the second level is occupied by three Support Towns. The market towns of Ballymote and Tobercurry and the tourism-focused Enniscrone are designated for consolidation, regeneration and a quantum of growth proportional to their current population and infrastructural capacity.
- Sligo Town's Satellite Villages - Ballysadare, Collooney, Coolaney, Grange and Strandhill – are home to large numbers of regular commuters who go to work or to school in the main urban centre. These larger villages have relatively good infrastructure and also offer a variety of local services.
- Easky, Mullaghmore and Rosses Point are villages with special coastal tourism functions (a role shared with Enniscrone and Strandhill). The Core Strategy supports the provision of adequate infrastructure for sustainable tourism development in these villages.
- At the lower end of the Settlement Hierarchy, 19 villages sustaining rural communities (small villages with adequate wastewater treatment plants) are supported through the Core Strategy to cater for limited local needs in terms of residential development.
- A substantial population continues to live in dispersed communities throughout the County's rural areas, including small villages without adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure.

2.4 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of the submission of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and adoption of the Plan, Sligo County Council undertook various research in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions, including those relating to:

- Climate Action;
- Core Strategy;
- Sligo Growth Centre;
- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Economic Strategy;
- Retail Strategy; and
- Transport Strategy.

The undertaking of this SEA process and the associated AA and SFRA processes contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 9 of this report.

2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is acknowledged that many of the major issues affecting the County's development are contingent on national policy and government funding. The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I² (see also, Section 4 "Environmental Baseline", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives" and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework³ sets out Ireland's planning policy direction for the years up to 2040. The National Planning Framework is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Northern and Western Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region. The County Development Plan will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic

actions, such as Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

In order to be realised, projects included in the County Development Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

² Appendix I is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

³ At the time of writing this report, a process to provide a First Revision to the National Planning Framework is underway.

Section 3 SEA Methodology

3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

Figure 3.1 provides an overview of the integrated Plan preparation, SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the Plan.

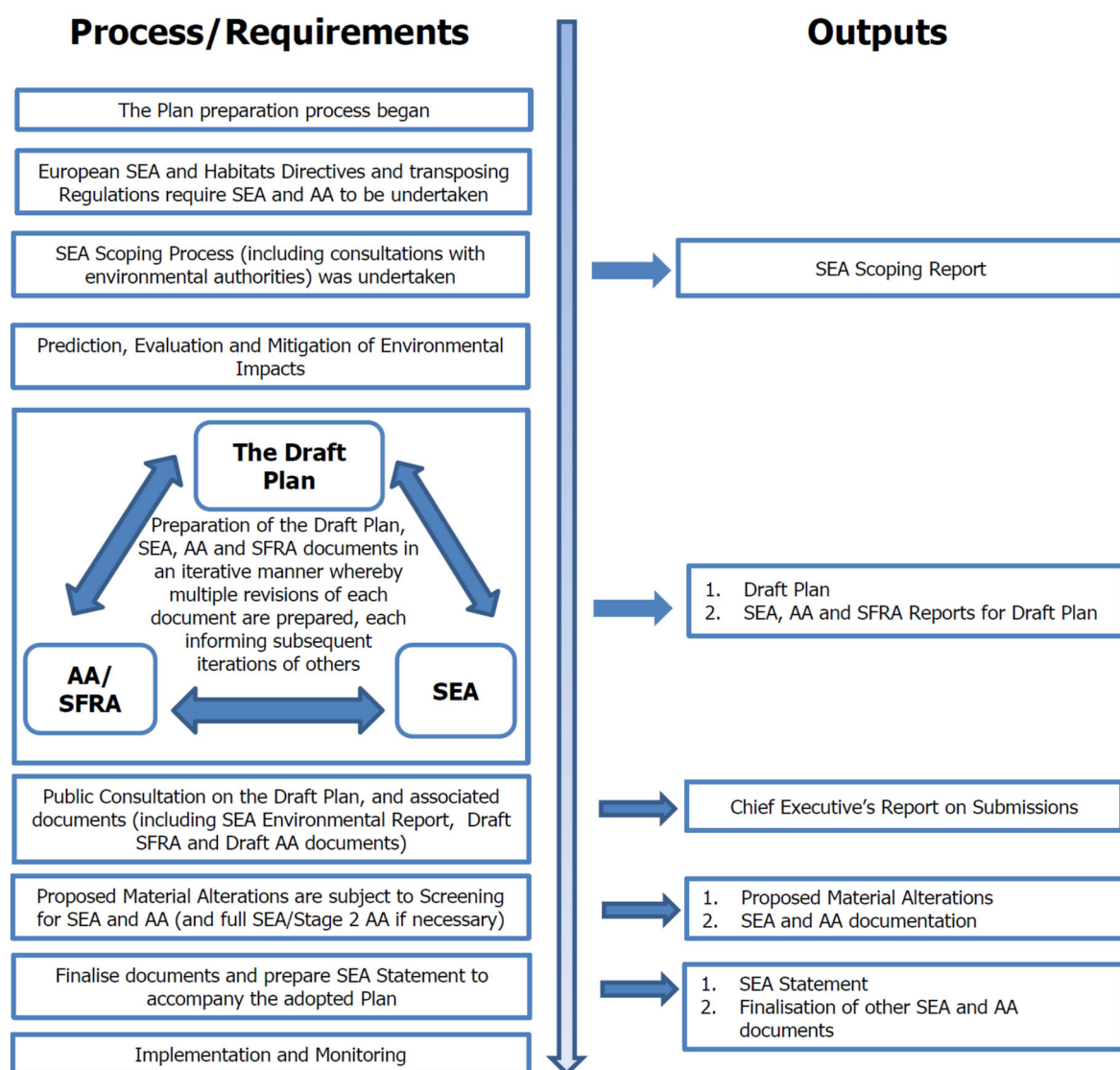


Figure 3.1 Overview of the SEA/AA/SFRA Plan-preparation Processes

3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.⁴

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA. All recommendations from the AA process have been integrated into the Plan.

3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

Many elements of Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment as detailed in the EPA's (2013) Practitioner's Manual have been aligned with in the undertaking of the SEA for the Plan. These include:

Scoping

- Biodiversity-relevant issues were identified for consideration at scoping stage and these are now detailed in Section 4.
- Reference to a zone of influence is provided at Section 4.

Baseline

- Biodiversity data sources relevant for this local level assessment have been identified and datasets collated/gathered.
- The biodiversity baseline addresses designated sites and other habitats and species of ecological value.

- AA information has been incorporated into the SEA baseline.

Alternatives

- Impacts upon biodiversity are considered under each of the alternatives and potential conflicts can be mitigated.

Impact assessment

- Effects on biodiversity are identified and assessed and the AA considers the interrelationship between biodiversity and potential effects on European Sites.

Mitigation and monitoring

- Considering all measures contained within the Plan, all the proposed mitigation measures deriving from the various processes were generally consistent and compatible.
- Indicators and associated targets have been included in SEA for monitoring European Sites.

Reporting

- This SEA ER addresses all biodiversity-related considerations relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER contains all biodiversity-relevant information, data, figures and maps relevant for this level of assessment.
- This SEA ER has been informed by the AA findings.

Communication and consultation

- Submissions received have been taken on board.
- The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014.

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

Various recommendations from the SFRA process have been integrated into the Plan.

3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive⁵.

All relevant environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council⁶.

Submissions received from the following environmental authorities influenced the scope of the assessment undertaken, the findings of which are included in this report:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (one from the Geological Survey Ireland and one from the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division);
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Fisheries Division); and
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

3.5 Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (considering the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and

evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. In accordance with this requirement, alternatives for the Plan are identified and assessed in Sections 6 and 7.

3.6 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely significant effects of the Plan and the alternatives.

The Environmental Report provides Sligo County Council, stakeholders and the public with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Plan.

Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Plan are identified in Section 9 – these have been integrated into the Plan.

An earlier version of this report was report was updated in order to take account of relevant recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of changes that were made to the original, Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended (see Table 3.1).

No significant difficulties have been encountered during the undertaking of the assessment to date.

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term “unassigned status” applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

⁵ These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

⁶ The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Leitrim County Council; Mayo County Council; and Roscommon County Council.

3.7 SEA Statement

On finalisation of the Plan, an SEA Statement is prepared that includes information on:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding Section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4 and Appendices II and III
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix III Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

Section 4 Environmental Baseline

4.1 Introduction

Reflecting the specifications in the SEA Directive, the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment for the following environmental components are described in this section: biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making⁷.

Given the potential for impacts beyond the County boundary, the spatial scope of the SEA considers the zone of influence (15km or greater where relevant) of the Plan.

4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

The EPA's *"Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024"* report provides an integrated assessment of the overall quality of Ireland's environment, the pressures being placed on it and the societal responses to current and emerging environmental issues. This report has informed various parts of the environmental baseline provided below. The five key environmental priorities identified by the report are:

- "Delivering a national policy position on the environment - we urgently need to have a national policy position on the environment to address the complex interactions, synergies and trade-offs across environmental policy

⁷ Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required taking into account, inter alia, the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

areas and to deal with its interactions with other policy domains.

- Driving policy implementation - we must rigorously implement existing environmental plans and programmes to achieve the benefits that they were developed to deliver.
- Transforming our systems - transformation of our energy, transport, food and industrial sectors is critical to achieving a sustainable future.
- Scaling up investment in infrastructure - investment in water, energy, transport and waste management infrastructure is essential to protect the environment now and into the future.
- Protecting the environment to protect our health - protecting the environment is key to protecting our health and we must act to reduce the modifiable risks to our health from environmental exposures."

4.3 Sustainable Development Goals

Implementation of the Plan will contribute towards efforts to achieve a number of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were adopted by world leaders in 2015 at a United Nations Summit and came into force in 2016. These Goals include:

- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan

In the absence of a new Plan, it is uncertain how permission for new development would be applied for and considered.

The 2017 County Development Plan, as varied, has contributed towards environmental protection within County Sligo. If the 2017 Plan was to expire and not be replaced by the 2024-2030 Plan, this would result in a deterioration of the County's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled.

As a result, there would be a decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive/neutral effects occurring, including:

- Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
- Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and

- associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.
- Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.
- Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.
- Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.
- Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.
- Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
- Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.

- Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
- Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.
- Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
- Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
- Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
- Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
- Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.
- Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
- Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.
- Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.
- In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:
 - Sustainable compact growth;
 - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
 - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
 - Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and
 - Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
- Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.

As a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on all environmental components occurring, including:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
 - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed

- habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
- Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
- Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.

- Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology⁸ and protected architecture⁹ arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

County Sligo's **natural capital** comprises its renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of ecosystem services that provide benefits to people. These benefits can include clean air and water, a stable climate, protection from floods, food, resources for fuel, building materials, clothes and medicines, recreation. Managing natural capital so that it can continue to deliver the ecosystem services that give us these benefits is important in order to ensure sustainable development. Unmanaged natural capital risks the continued degradation and depletion of these assets, and in turn, of their capacity to provide the economy and society with the ecosystem benefits that they depend on. These services also regulate climate, regulate

⁸ Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and underwater archaeology. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

⁹ Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Records of Protected Structures. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

water flows (e.g. through wetlands and forests), sequester and store carbon in peatlands and improve soil quality for crops.

Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. There are four main types; provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines. Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values¹⁰.

In preparing the Plan and developing policy objectives, the Council have followed these ecosystem services approach principles:

- a) Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function;
- b) Considering of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation, resources for food, fibre or fuel, or for recreation, culture and quality of life;
- c) Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Plan, considering submissions/observations made on the Draft Plan during public display.

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Plan:

- Air quality;
- Noise pollution;
- Light pollution;
- Water quality and river basin management including interactions with soil;
- Soil and vegetation carbon, which helps to regulate greenhouse gas emissions;
- Soil/geological storage of water, contributing towards flood control;
- Land supporting food production; and
- Natural resources supporting energy production and recreation.

4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

4.6.1 Introduction

Information on biodiversity and flora and fauna that is relevant to project planning and development and associated environmental assessment and administrative consent of projects includes that on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats.

4.6.2 Overview of Ecological Sensitivities and Designations

The most ecologically sensitive, heavily designated and protected areas within County Sligo include the coastal areas and marine waters, various rivers, streams and estuaries and associated aquatic ecology, peatlands and upland locations.

Ecological designations within and surrounding in County Sligo include:

- Special Protection Areas¹¹;
- Special Areas of Conservation¹²;
- Natural Heritage Areas¹³;
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas¹⁴;

¹⁰ <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

¹¹ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.1.

¹² For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.1.

¹³ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.2.

- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas¹⁵;
- Salmonid Waters¹⁶;
- Shellfish Waters¹⁷;
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments¹⁸;
- OSPAR Sites¹⁹;
- Flora Protection Order sites²⁰;
- Wildfowl Sanctuaries²¹;
- RAMSAR sites²²;
- Nature Reserves²³; and
- Tentative United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites²⁴.

The following information is relevant to ecological networks and connectivity and non-designated habitats:

- CORINE land cover mapping (including areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive)²⁵;

- Watercourses, wetlands²⁶ and peatlands;
- Other relevant County Development Plan designations;
- The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland²⁷; and
- Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance²⁸.

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna particularly for mammals, especially for bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, the non-designated surrounding countryside and urban areas.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained.

Man-made habitats within the Plan area can also include important biodiversity features. Gardens provide habitats for a range of wildlife including various bird species, invertebrates such as bees and butterflies and mammals

¹⁴ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.2.

¹⁵ For more detail refer to Sections 4.6.3.4 and 4.9.7.

¹⁶ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.5.

¹⁷ In order to protect existing shellfish waters and to ensure the future protection of these areas, the European Union introduced the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC). The purpose of this Directive is to put in place concrete measures to protect waters, including shellfish waters, against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea. The Directive applies to the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs only (includes oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams). It does not include crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and crayfish. **There are two areas of Shellfish Waters within, partially within or adjacent to the Plan area: Drumcliff and Sligo Bay.**

¹⁸ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.5.

¹⁹ Under the OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Ireland committed to establishing marine protected areas to protect biodiversity (OSPAR MPAs). There are currently 19 OSPAR MPAs in Ireland, which established a number of its SACs as OSPAR MPAs for marine habitats. **There is one OSPAR MPA within/adjacent to the County Sligo coastline: Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) MPA.**

²⁰ The Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). **There are 14 locations within County Sligo with a number of species protected by the Order. There are 14 locations within County Sligo with FPOs, including: Knocknarea Glen (*Southbya tophacea*); Bunduff (*Petalophyllum ralfsii*); Yellow Strand, Raghly (*Didymodon acutus*); Fiddandarry (*Meesia triquetra*); and Annacoona (*Myurella julacea*).** For more detail refer to: <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/>.

²¹ Wildfowl Sanctuaries are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 sanctuaries in the State. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. **Wildfowl Sanctuaries within/partially within the County, include: Lough Gara (WSF-48); and Drumcliff Bay (part) (WSF-49).**

²² For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.5.

²³ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.5.

²⁴ For more detail refer to Section 4.6.4.3.

²⁵ The CORINE land cover mapping classifies land cover under various headings. This dataset allows for the identification of lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity including those which are likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive e.g., natural grasslands, peat bogs, salt

marshes. CORINE Land Cover (CLC) is a map of the European environmental landscape based on interpretation of satellite images. Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface.

²⁶ **Sligo County Wetlands Survey 2011 have identified 493 wetland areas in the County. For more detail refer to Sligo County Council.**

²⁷ The EPA's Framework National Ecological Network provides a classification of the relative importance of areas by virtue of the biodiversity and flora that they contain and the connectivity they provide. Many of the areas identified are corridors.

²⁸ Including: **Important Bird Areas: Cummeen Strand (Sligo Harbour); Ardboline Island and Horse Island; Drumcliff Bay and Ballintemple; Killala Bay; and Sligo and Leitrim Uplands;** and the Tree Register of Ireland (TROI), which was set up in 1999 to compile a comprehensive database of remarkable trees in Ireland. **The TROI identified 16 trees in Sligo that are considered environmental value to the County and that such trees should be protected from development where necessary.**

such as hedgehogs, mice, rats and foxes. These species move around between gardens using hedgerows and vegetated areas. These urban green spaces are of importance as they form part of a network of green spaces across the Plan area including gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, old railway lines and patches of woodland and scrub within which animals and plants continue to thrive.

Ecological islands or areas of habitat that are not connected to surrounding ecologically valuable habitats can also be important.

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County area with respect to impacts upon ecology via surface waters – including designated ecology – can be estimated to be areas within 15 km of the County boundary and all downstream areas of catchments which drain the County.

4.6.3 Further Detail

4.6.3.1 European Sites

European sites in the County occur in the greatest concentrations along the coast, the main waterways and in upland areas. European sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation²⁹ (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas³⁰ (SPAs).

The SEA uses the same zone of influence cited in the AA; a 15 km buffer around the County. There are 51 European sites (36 SACs and 15 SPAs)³¹ designated within this zone (mapped

on Figure 4.1 and listed in Appendix II) out of which 31 European sites (20 SACs and 11 SPAs)³² are designated within or partially within County Sligo.

Other European sites shown on Figure 4.2 and listed in Appendix II include sites connected to the County via hydrological links but beyond the 15 km buffer.

All relevant European sites³³ and their sensitive features are listed in the Appendix II of this report. For more detail on European sites refer to the AA Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan and this SEA Environmental Report.

4.6.3.2 Natural Heritage Sites and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

There are 11 NHAs and 80 pNHAs designated within, partially within or adjacent to the County. These sites and sites within a 15 km buffer around the County are mapped³⁴ on Figure 4.3 and listed in Appendix II of this report.

4.6.3.3 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE³⁵ land cover mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.4. The most dominant

²⁹ SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

³⁰ SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

³¹ In addition and separate to these European sites, there is a Northern Ireland site Lough Melvin SAC (Site number: UK0030047) afforded protection in Northern Ireland under *The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019*. SACs and SPAs in the UK no longer form part of

the EU Natura 2000 ecological network. The 2019 Regulations have created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The national site network includes: existing UK SACs and SPAs; and new UK SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations.

³² Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded in August 2023).

³³ Including sites within 15 km buffer around the County and sites connected to the County via hydrological links.

³⁴ Sites in neighboring counties are also shown on Figure 4.3.

³⁵ The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type,

land cover types in the County are pastures, peat bogs and land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats (Figure 4.5) include:

- Mineral extraction sites;
- Pastures;
- Non-irrigated arable land;
- Complex cultivation patterns;
- Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation;
- Broad-leaved forest;
- Coniferous forest;
- Mixed forest;
- Natural grassland;
- Moors and heathlands;
- Transitional woodland-scrub;
- Beaches – dunes – sands;
- Sparsely vegetated areas;
- Burnt areas;
- Peat bogs;
- Inland marshes;
- Intertidal flats;
- Salt marshes;
- Estuaries;
- Water bodies; and
- Sea and ocean.

4.6.3.4 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the Plan area, designated by virtue of their value to biodiversity include a number of water-dependent habitats within the area that have been listed on RPAs relating to biodiversity – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3.4).

- WFD Shellfish Areas (as shown on Figure 4.6) – Sligo Bay and Drumcliff and associated WFD Surface and Groundwater in Shellfish Areas; and

- WFD Salmonid River Regs (S.I. 293 only) – the River Moy is designated as a Salmonid River under S.I. No. 293, and associated WFD Surface Water and Groundwater in Salmonid Regs (as shown on Figure 4.7).

4.6.3.5 Salmonid Waters

The Salmonid Regulations (S.I. 293/1988) designate the waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected. 34 (No.) rivers, tributaries and lakes are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. There are sections of rivers within County Sligo designated as a Salmonid Waters under these regulations (mapped on Figure 4.7): the River Moy; River Owengarve (Sligo); and River Mullaghanoe.

4.6.3.6 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas

Freshwater pearl mussel is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment. There are two species of freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive.

Within County Sligo, these are found within the Easky and Moy River Catchments (as shown on Figure 4.8).

Twenty-seven Management Plans for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel have been published, the objective of which is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation. The most significant pressures across these catchments were identified as: point sources in relation to quarries, sand/gravel pits and wastewater treatments plants; and diffuse sources associated with agriculture (including overgrazing), forestry and on-site wastewater treatment systems.

covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural.

4.6.4 Other designations

Other relevant designations within the area to which the Plan relates include Nature Reserves and Ramsar Sites (mapped on Figure 4.5) and UNESCO Tentative World Heritage Sites.

4.6.4.1 Nature Reserves

Nature Reserves are areas of importance to wildlife, protected under Ministerial order. There are currently 78 Statutory Nature Reserves in Ireland. Most are owned by the State but some are owned by organisations or private landowners. Nature Reserves in County Sligo (mapped on Figure 4.5) comprise: Easkey Bog Nature Reserve; Union Wood Nature Reserve; and Ballygilgan (Lissadell) Nature Reserve.

4.6.4.2 Ramsar Sites

Ramsar Sites are designated and protected under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, which was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares. The objective of a Ramsar site is the conservation of wetlands for wildfowl. While Ireland ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1984 there is no legal backing for Ramsar sites, unless they are also Nature Reserves or SPAs and as such are protected by the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000 or the Birds or Habitats Directives. Ramsar sites in County Sligo (mapped on Figure 4.5) comprise: Lough Gara; Easkey Bog; Cummeen Strand; and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary.

4.6.4.3 UNESCO Tentative World Heritage Sites

A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).³⁶ World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance.

A Tentative List is an inventory of natural and cultural heritage sites, which may have potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and therefore considered

suitable for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Irish heritage sites currently on Tentative List³⁷ and within the County Sligo comprise (as mapped on Figure 4.23) "The Passage Tomb Landscape (Carrowmore and Carrowkeel in County Sligo)".

4.6.5 Existing Problems

Ireland's Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DCHG, 2019) identifies various Irish, EU-protected habitats and species to be of unfavourable status and many to be still declining, although it also identifies that a range of positive actions are underway. Categories for pressures and threats on Ireland's habitats and species identified by the report comprise:

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);
- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems;
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas;
- Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry);
- Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions;
- Alien and problematic species;
- Mixed source pollution;
- Human-induced changes in water regimes;
- Natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate change);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes;
- Climate change; and
- Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures from outside the Member State.

Ireland's Article 12 Birds Directive Reports and the 6th National Report under the Convention of Biological Diversity identify similar issues.

³⁶ For more detail refer to: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>.

³⁷ Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/72ef0-ministers-announce-new-world-heritage-tentative-list-for-ireland/>

The Plan includes measures to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna and associated ecosystem services.

Previous changes in land uses arising from human development have resulted in a loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being conflicted with.

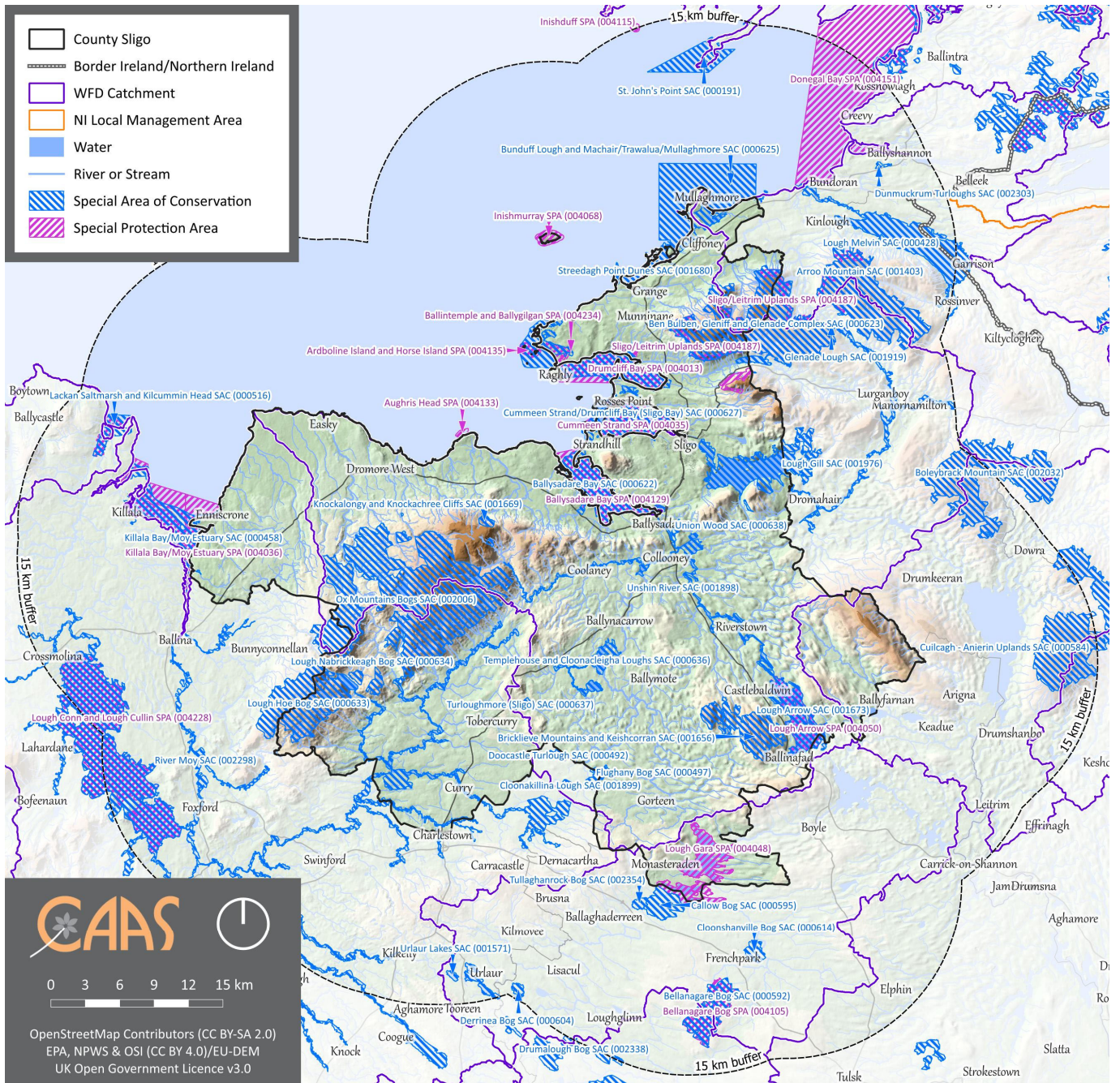


Figure 4.1 European sites within and within 15 km of the County

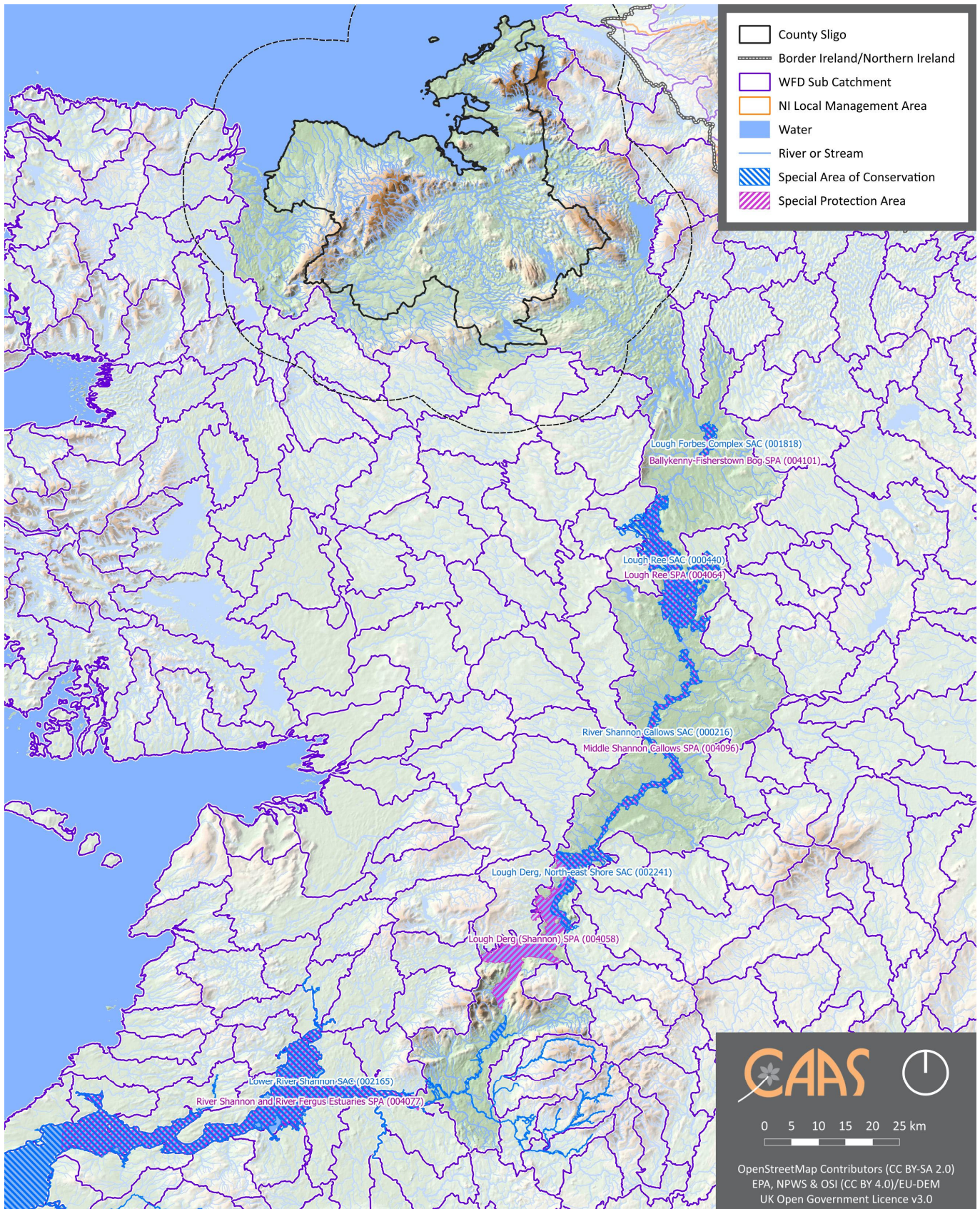


Figure 4.2 Other connected European sites beyond 15 km of the County and hydrologically linked

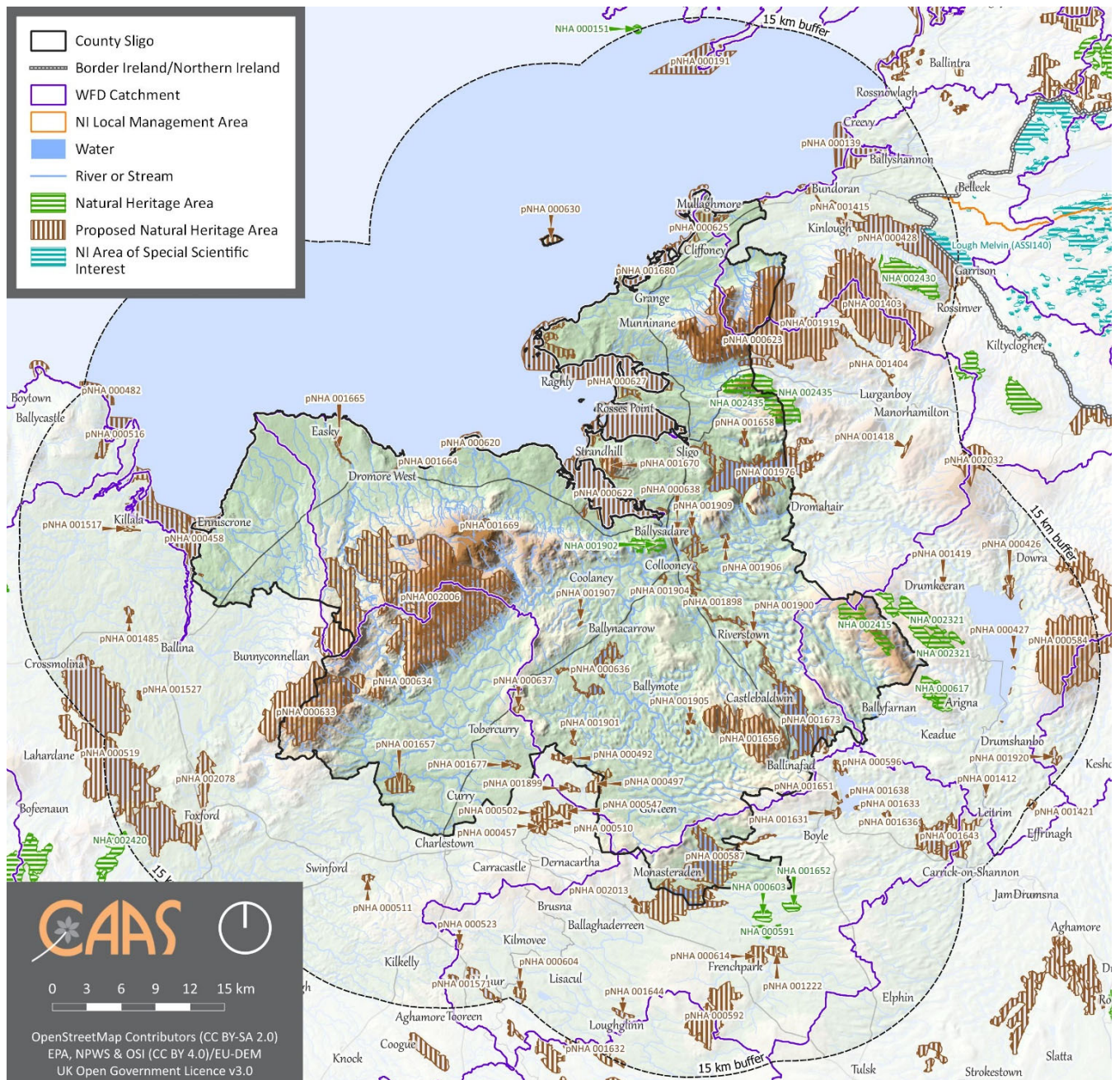
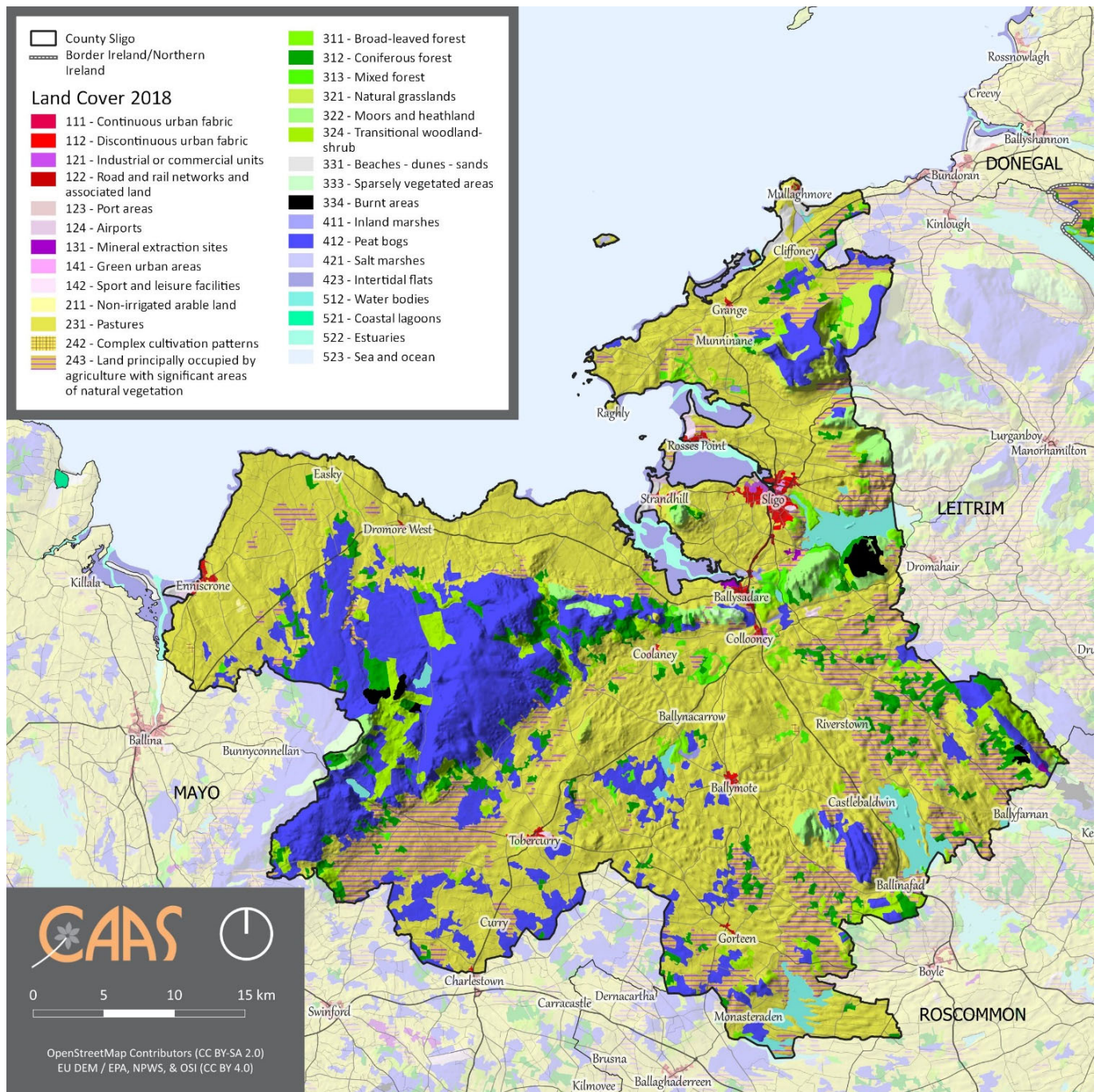
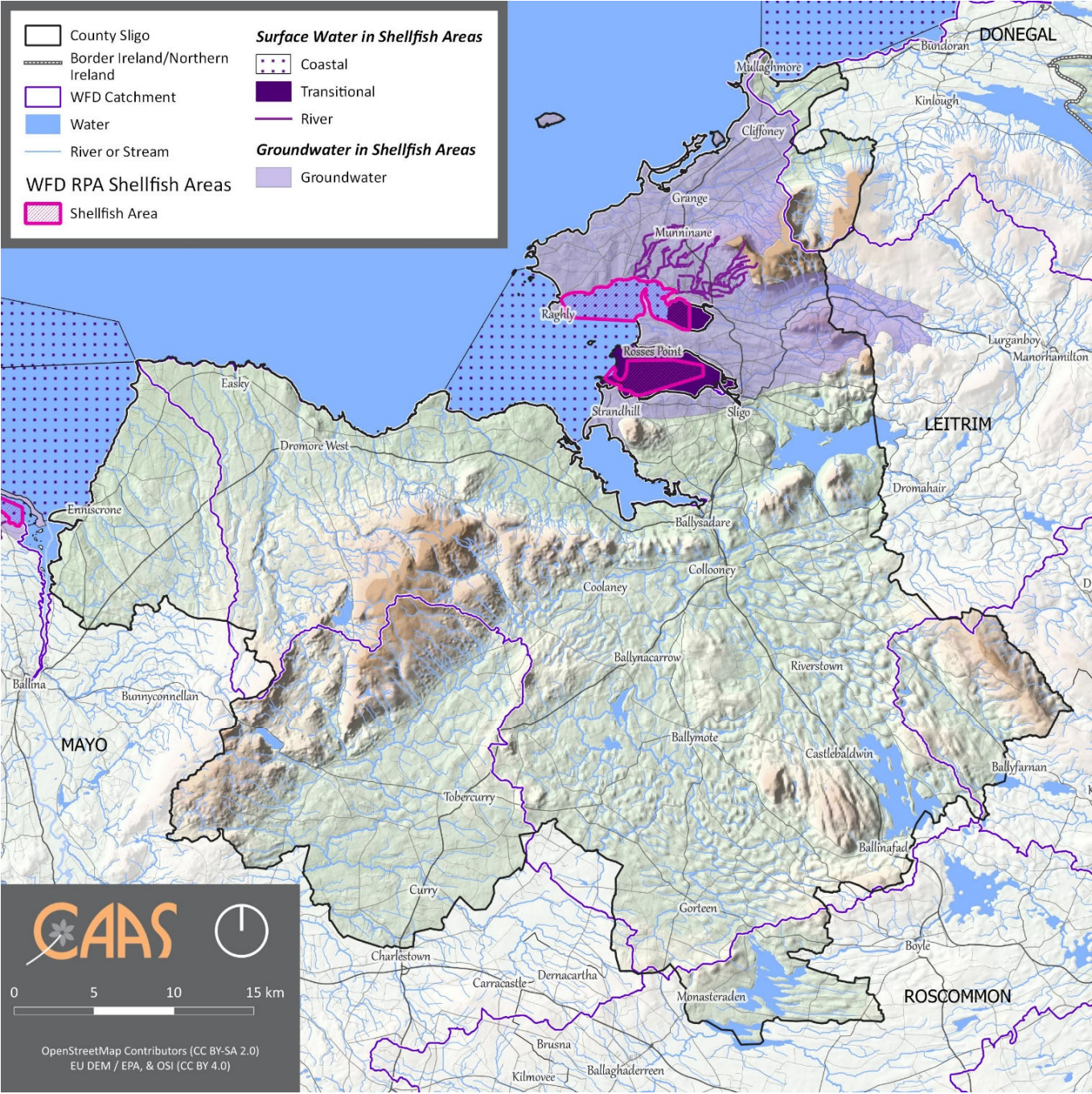


Figure 4.3 Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Areas of Special Scientific Interest within and within 15 km of the County



CAAS for Sligo County Council





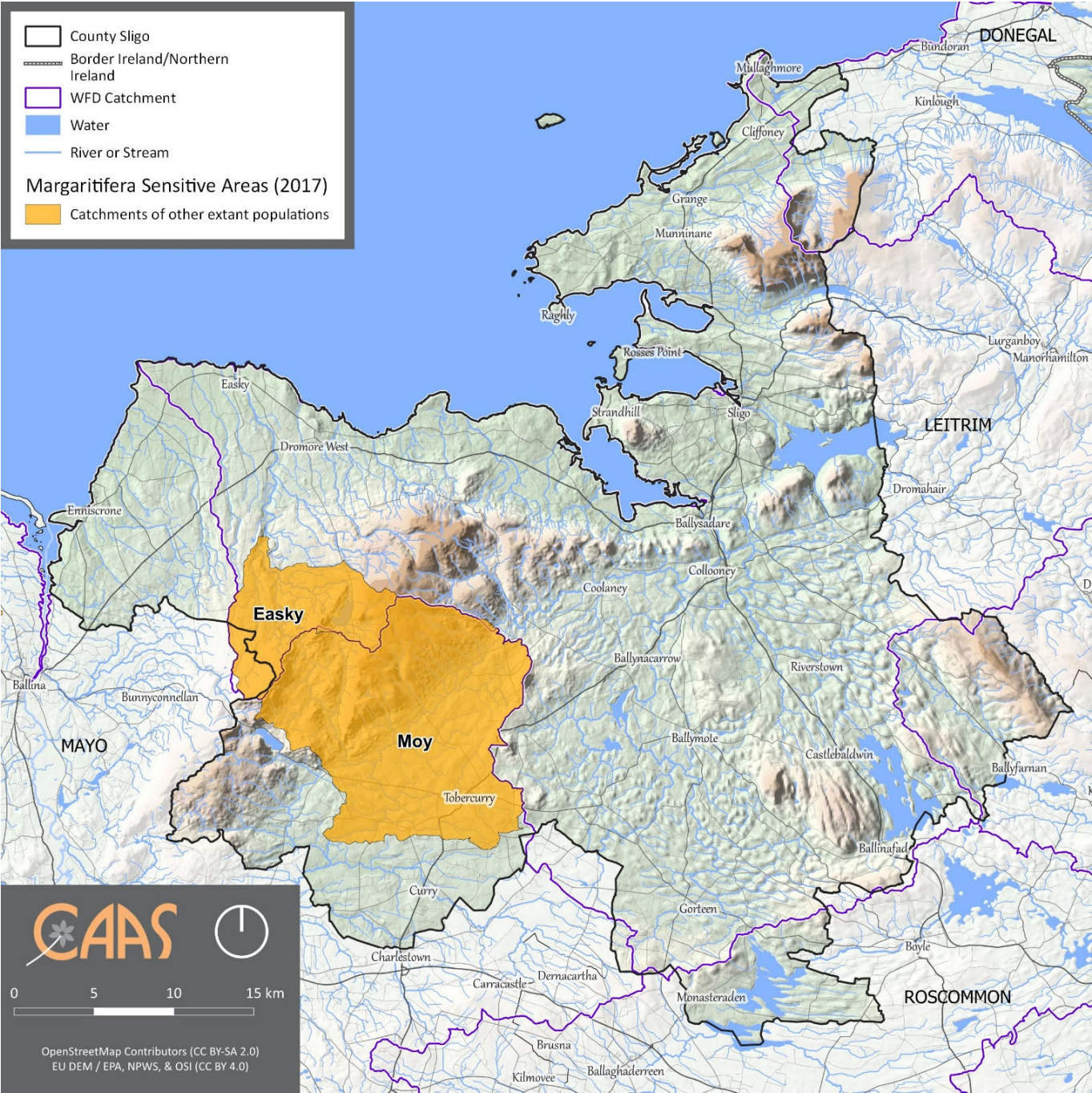


Figure 4.8 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas

4.7 Population and Human Health

4.7.1 Population

In the 2022 Census, the total population of County Sligo was identified as being of 70,198 persons, an increase in total population in the County by c. 7% (c. 4,663 persons) since the previous census³⁸. The NPF Implementation Roadmap provides a transitional set of population projections to inform city and county development plans for the periods to 2026 and to 2031. The population growth projections for County Sligo indicate population growth up to 71,500 - 72,500 persons by 2026 and up to 74,000 - 75,500 persons by 2031.

Sligo Town is the County's main urban centre, which provides employment, education, healthcare and other services to people living in its large hinterland, within and beyond the County boundaries. It is the designated Regional Growth Centre of the North-West.

The Plan designates a hierarchy of the County's settlements as follows:

- Regional Growth Centre (Sligo Town);
- Support Towns (Ballymote, Tobercurry and Enniscrone);
- Satellite Villages (Ballysadare, Collooney, Coolaney, Grange and Strandhill);
- Villages with special coastal tourism functions (Easky, Mullaghmore and Rosses Point);
- Serviced villages sustaining rural communities (Aclare, Ballinacarrow, Ballinafad, Ballincar, Ballintogher, Bellaghy, Bunnanadden, Carney, Castlebaldwin, Cliffony, Cloonacool, Culfadda, Curry, Dromore West, Drumcliff, Geevagh, Gorteen, Monasteraden and Riverstown); and
- Unserviced villages and dispersed settlement in rural areas (Ballygawley, Banada, Ransboro, Rathcormac, Tourlestrane and rural areas).

The new population provided for by the Plan will interact with various environmental components. Potential interactions include:

- Increase in demand for wastewater treatment at the municipal level;
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction from the rivers;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

4.7.2 Human Health

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e., environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

4.7.3 Soil

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species.

As is the case with other historically developed areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at local sites within the Plan area, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of the high standards of today's environmental protection legislation.

4.7.4 Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County (see information on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment at Section 4.9.9).

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos

³⁸ Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country³⁹.

Human health has the potential to interact with potentially contaminated lands and landfill sites (see also Section 4.8.2), the status of groundwaters and surface waters (see Section 4.9) and water services (see Section 4.11.11).

4.8 Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is a complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including: food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. Such functions of soil are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic and environmental importance. Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. However, the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 sets out a framework and concrete measures to protect and restore soils, and ensure that they are used sustainably. It sets a vision and objectives to achieve healthy soils by 2050, with concrete actions by 2030. It also announces a new Soil Health Law by 2023 to ensure a high-level of environmental and health protection.

The GSI (Geological Survey Ireland) have a suite of data sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

- Aggregate Potential Mapping;
- Bedrock mapping;

- Geochemistry mapping;
- Geophysical mapping;
- INFOMAR mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

Peat soils are the most dominant soil type in County Sligo. Peatlands are found at many locations across the County and extensively in the western, south-western and north-western parts of the Plan area (shown on Figure 4.9).

Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Ombrotrophic (rain-fed) and minerotrophic (groundwater-fed) peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues. Many of these peat areas are also subject to ecological designations (Figure 4.1).

Other soil types (shown on Figure 4.9) identified within the County include:

- Brown podzolics⁴⁰ (occurring mainly in the north-east and central parts of the County);
- Brown earths⁴¹ (occurring mainly in the central and coastal areas throughout the County);
- Alluvial soils⁴² (occurring mainly along the rivers, lakes and estuaries within the County)
- Lithosol soils⁴³ (occurring mainly in the west of the County);
- Surface water and groundwater gleys⁴⁴ (occurring mainly in the south, south-west, south-east and north of the County);
- Luvisol soils⁴⁵ (occurring mainly in central, south and north of the County);
- Podzols⁴⁶ (occurring mainly in the central parts of the County); and

⁴⁰ Dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves.

⁴¹ Well-drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

⁴² These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

⁴³ Thin soil consisting mainly of partially weathered rock fragments.

⁴⁴ Wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

⁴⁵ Generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

⁴⁶ Infertile acidic soils with an ash-like subsurface layer associated with acid leaching typically formed under coniferous forest.

³⁹ Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

- Rendzinas⁴⁷ (occurring mainly in the south-east of the County).

Tidal marshes can be found along rivers and coasts which flood and drain by the tidal movement of the adjacent estuary, sea or ocean. Sand dunes are small ridges or hills of sand found at the top of a beach, above the usual maximum reach of the waves. They form from windblown sand that is initially deposited around obstacles on the beach such as driftwood, rocks or a fence. Areas of tidal marsh occur along estuaries and blown sand and dunes occur in the north of the County. These areas are often very sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities. Outcropping rock is found mainly in the coastal and upland areas.

4.8.1 County Geological Sites

Geological Survey Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Sligo was completed in 2004 and identified 25 County Geological Sites. County Geological Sites⁴⁸ are mapped on Figure 4.10, with the highest concentration of these sites occurring within coastal and upland locations, comprising:

- Meenamore;
- Diarmuid and Gráinne's Cave;
- King's Mountain Rift;
- Glencarbury Barite Mine;
- Aughris Head;
- Streedagh Point;
- Serpent Rock;
- Mullaghmore Head;
- Bricklieves/Keshcorran;
- Knocknarea;
- Split Rock or Giant's Rock;
- Slishwood Gap, Ox Mountains;
- Glen;
- Scalpna Capaill;
- Zion Hill;
- The Gap (NW of Lough Talt);
- Easky River solifluction lobe;
- Gleniff;
- Inishcrone;
- Truskmore;
- Swiss Valley;
- Geevagh;
- Lough Nasool – Lough Bo;

- Benbulbin; and
- Knocknarea Glen.

4.8.2 Potentially contaminated lands and landfill sites

In the absence of mitigation, contaminated materials have the potential to adversely impact upon human health, water quality and habitats and species.

As is the case with other areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within County Sligo, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of today's environmental protection legislation. Such contamination has the potential to affect water quality, biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health.

4.8.3 Source Protection Areas

Source Protection Area delineation provides an assessment of the land area that contributes groundwater to a borehole or spring. Source reports have been undertaken by the GSI on behalf of Local Authorities since the mid-1990s.

Public Supply Source Protection Areas comprise are managed by Uisce Éireann to supply Public Water Supply Schemes across Ireland. Source Protection Areas provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source.

Groundwater bodies are important water supply sources for private wells, group schemes and local authority supplies and for use in a range of commercial activities. This is particularly the case in rural areas that are not served by public or group water schemes, with private bored wells being the only source of supply.

Public Supply Source Protection Areas (including Inner Protection Areas and Outer Protection Areas⁴⁹) and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas⁵⁰ in County Sligo are shown on Figure 4.11.

⁴⁷ A fertile lime-rich soil with dark humus above a pale soft calcareous layer.

⁴⁸ County Geological Sites in the neighbouring counties (also shown on Figure 4.10), which straddle County Sligo boundaries, have also been considered by the assessment.

⁴⁹ The Zone of Contribution is the land area that contributes water to the well or spring. The Inner Protection Area (SI) is designed to protect against the effects of human activities that might have an immediate effect on the source and, in particular, against microbial pollution. The Outer Protection Area (SO) is encompassing the remainder of the zone of contribution to the groundwater abstraction point (e.g. borehole or spring).

⁵⁰ The Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas comprises Zones of Contribution to groundwater abstraction points that supply Group Water Schemes across Ireland that are affiliated

4.8.4 Landslides

The term "landslide" describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of materials such as rock, debris, earth, mud and peat under the force of gravity. Issues such as existing ground conditions, slope stability and storage of excavated material have the potential to influence susceptibility to landslides/bog bursts. The potential impacts of landslides include loss of human life/injury, flooding, pollution of watercourses and impacts upon aquatic biodiversity.

The County has numerous locations with a history of landslide events⁵¹ (shown on Figure 4.12). Many of these events are associated with the upland and peatland areas in the County.

The GSI have identified that most of the County has having mainly low levels of landslide susceptibility with some areas of moderately low, moderately high and high levels of landslide susceptibility associated mainly with peatlands and coastal and upland areas (as mapped on Figure 4.12).

4.8.5 Existing Problems

Legislative objectives governing soil were not identified as being conflicted with.

to the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and that supply more than 15 people.

⁵¹ Over 2,500 landslide events are recorded in the National Landslides Database available from GSI (www.gsi.ie). This dataset also includes Landslide Susceptibility Mapping to assist in the identification of areas that are likely to experience landsliding.

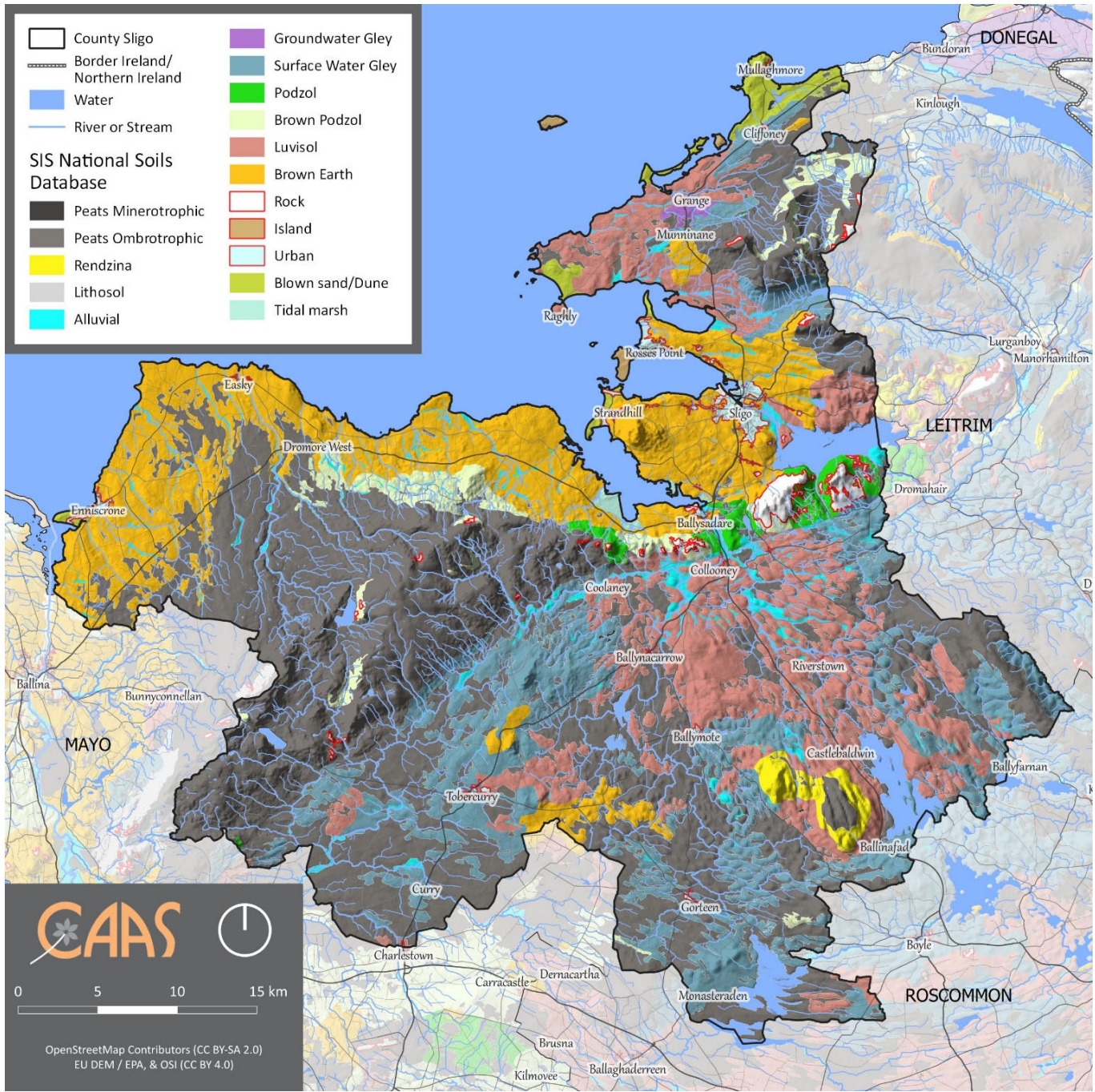


Figure 4.9 Soil Types

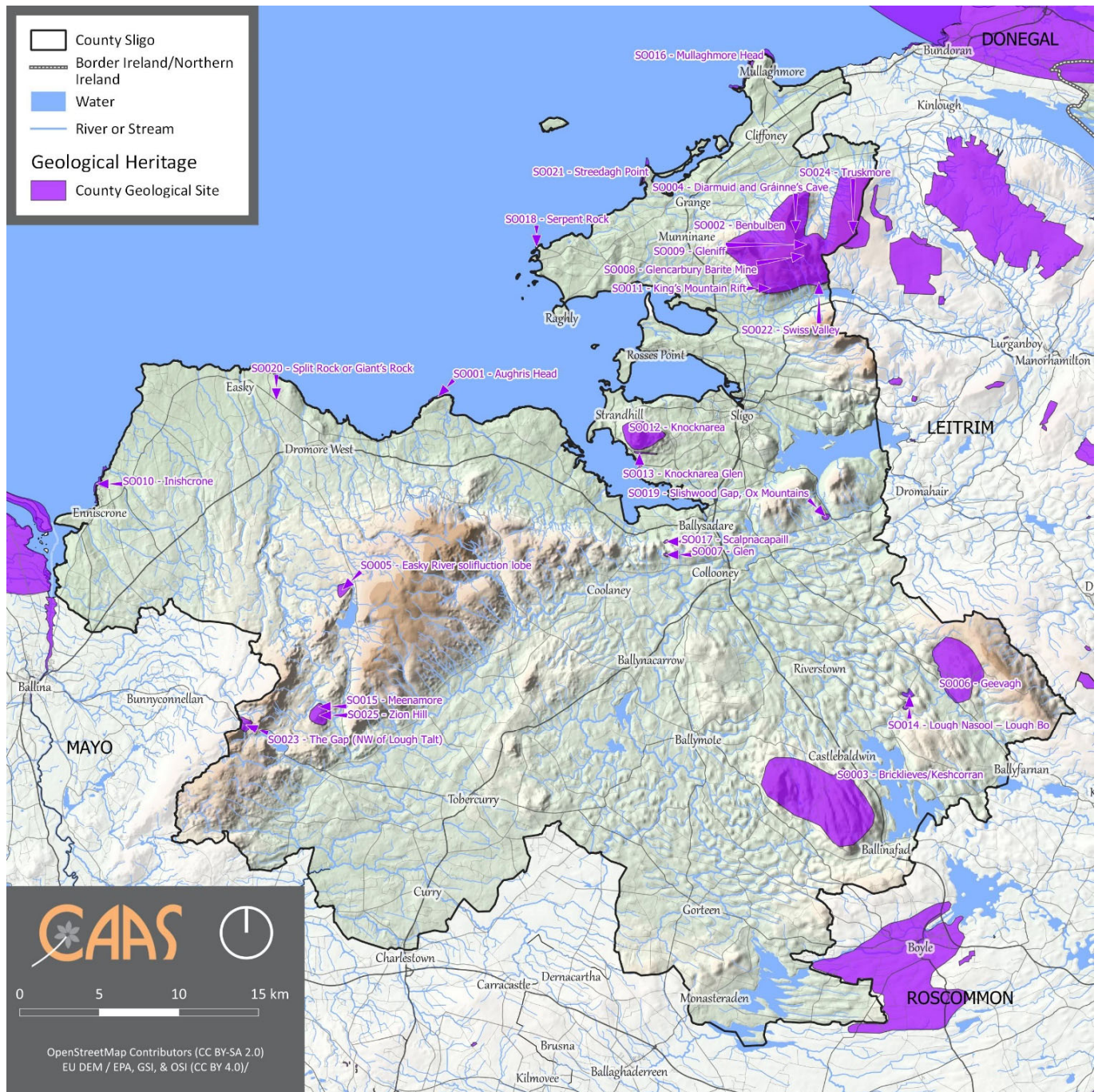


Figure 4.10 County Geological Sites

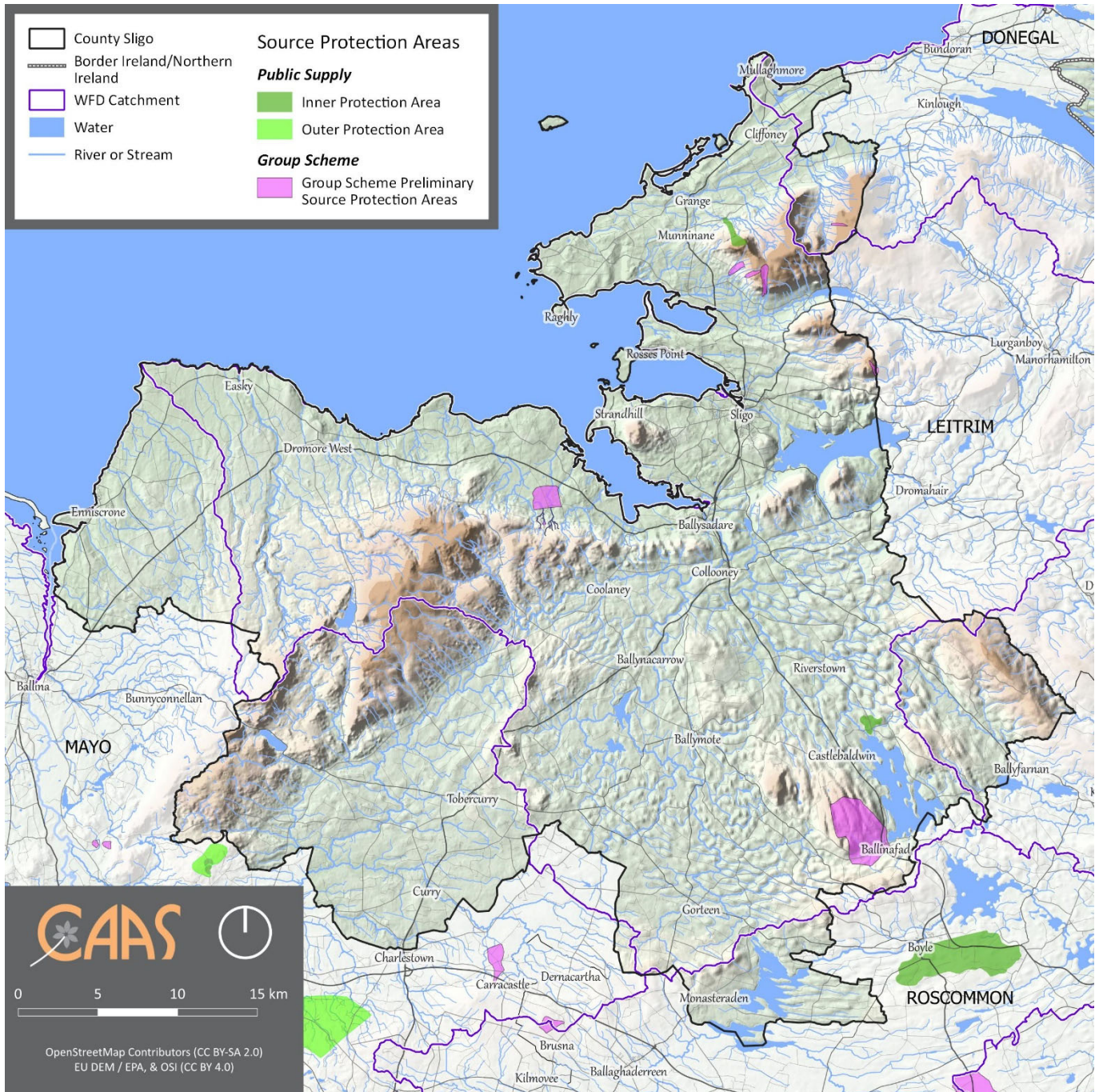


Figure 4.11 Source Protection Areas

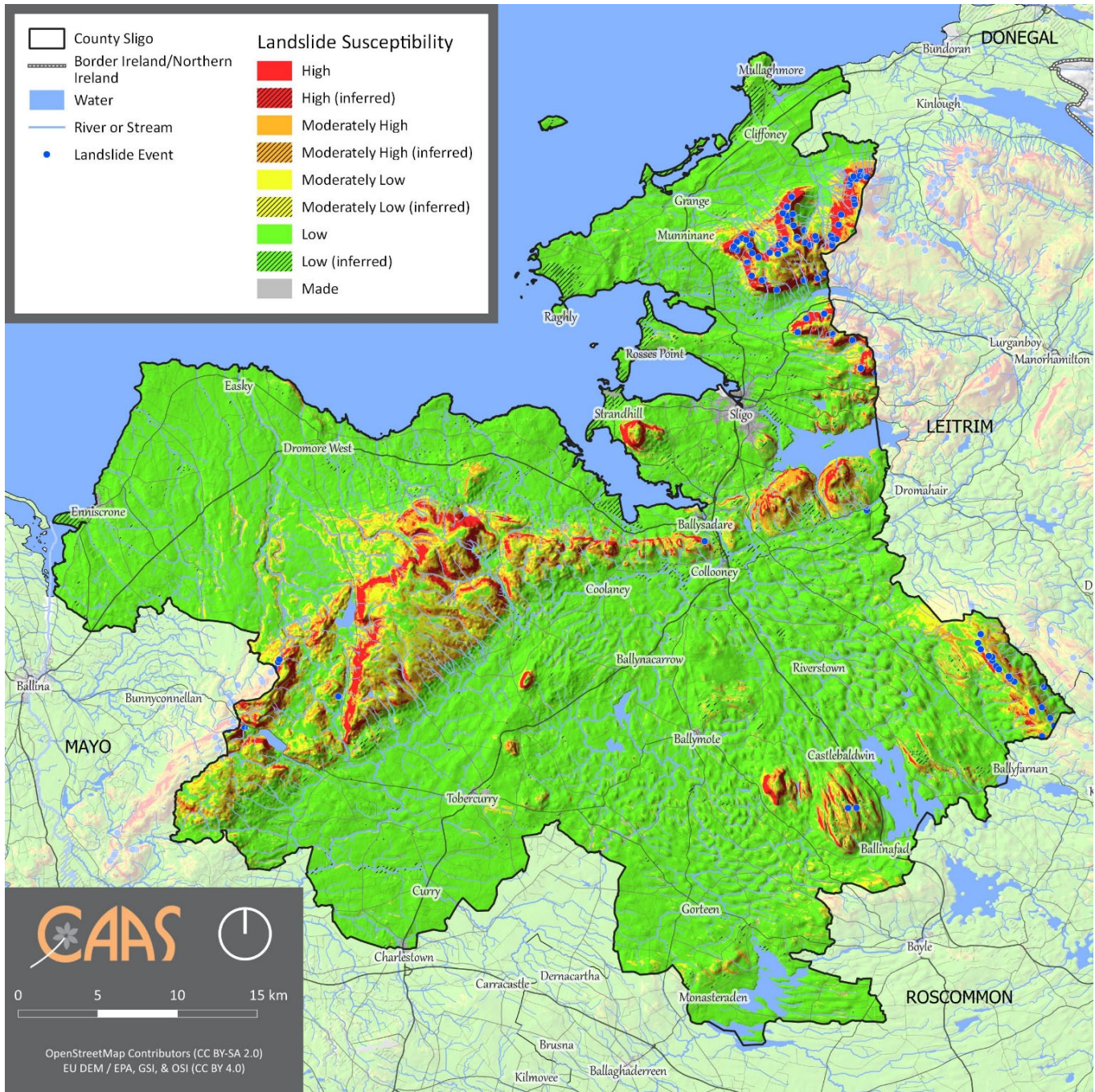


Figure 4.12 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events

4.9 Water

4.9.1 Water Framework Directive

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving *good status*. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to *good status*.

Article 4 of the WFD sets out various exemptions for deterioration in status caused as a result of certain physical modifications to water bodies. This is provided: all practicable mitigation measures are taken; there are reasons of overriding public interest or the benefits to human health, safety or sustainable development outweigh the benefits in achieving the WFD objective; there are no better alternatives; and the reasons for the physical modification are explained in the River Basin Management Plan.

The EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the WFD.

For the purpose of assessment, reporting and management, water is divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters that are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

4.9.2 Zone of Influence

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County boundary, with respect to impacts upon waters, can be estimated to be all bodies of groundwater and all surface waters downstream areas of catchments that drain the County.

4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

A catchment is an area of land contributing to a waterbody, with all the water ultimately running off to a single outlet. The WFD requires water quality management to be based on natural river catchments i.e., by reference to the natural, environmental unit rather than by reference to administrative or legal boundaries, which often fragment river catchments.

The County is situated within the surface water catchments of: Erne⁵²; Sligo Bay and Drowse⁵³; Upper Shannon (26A⁵⁴ and 26B⁵⁵); and Moy and Killala Bay⁵⁶.

The main waterbodies in the County include: Lough Gill; Lough Arrow; Lough Talt; Lough Gara; Easky Lough; Templehouse Lake; Owenmore River; Unshin River; River Moy; and Easky River.

4.9.4 Surface Water Status

The WFD defines 'overall surface water status' as the general expression of the status of a body of surface water, determined by the poorer of its ecological status and its chemical status. Thus, in order to achieve 'good surface water status' both the ecological status and the chemical status of a surface water body need to be at least 'good'.

⁵² This catchment includes the area drained by the River Erne and all streams entering tidal water between Aughrus Point and Kildoney Point, County Donegal. This is a cross border catchment with a surface area of 4,415km², 2,512km² of which is located within Ireland (ROI).

⁵³ This catchment includes all streams entering tidal water in Sligo Bay and between Lenadoon Point and Aughrus Point, County Donegal. The catchment has a surface area of 1,866km². A small part of this catchment, 109km², is located within Northern Ireland.

⁵⁴ This catchment covers an area of 604km² and is characterised by the Breda upland areas including the karst area of the Gevagh Hills, location of the Arigna Coalfield, the karstic southern slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain and the western flanks of Slieve Anierin, which surround the lowland area containing the large source of the River Shannon (Shannon Pot) and Lough Allen.

⁵⁵ This catchment covers an area of 674km² and is characterised by old red sandstone uplands running along the northern catchment boundary, the highest of which are the Curlew Mountains and karstified limestone lowlands in the southern half of the catchment.

⁵⁶ This catchment includes the area drained by the River Moy and all streams entering tidal water in Killala Bay between Benwee Head and Lenadoon Point, County Sligo, draining a total area of 2,345km². The lowland parts of the catchment are underlain by various types of limestones while the upland areas from the Ox Mountains and Croaghmoyle are underlain by a band of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Much of the lowland area south of Lough Conn exhibits a drumlin topography. There are extensive sand and gravel aquifers lying between Swinford and Charlestown to as far south as Knock, to the east of Ballina and southwest of Crossmolina.

Ecological status is an expression of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems associated with surface waters. Such waters are classified as of 'good ecological status' when they meet Directive requirements.

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more Priority Action Substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at European level. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

The WFD surface water status (2016-2021), for rivers, lakes, coastal and transitional waters within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 4.13 and Table 4.1.

The WFD status of the rivers and lakes within the area to which the Plan relates is classified as *high*, *good* and *moderate* however, sections⁵⁷ of rivers and streams (including: Bunnanaddan Stream; Cartonkillerdoo; Douglas, Sligo; Garavogue; Grange, Sligo; Owenmore, Sligo; Tubbercurry Stream; Tubbercurry; and Gill) are identified as being of *poor* status, while the Templehouse Lake is identified as *bad* due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

The status (2016-2021) of transitional and coastal waterbodies within and adjacent to the area to which the Plan relates ranges from *moderate* to *high* and *good*, including a number of *unassigned* waterbodies, as shown on Figure 4.13.

The 'Blue Dot Catchments Programme' is a key action under the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021. The aim of the 'Blue Dot' programme is to protect and restore high ecological status to a network of river and lake catchments. 'Blue Dot' waterbodies within the Plan area are shown on Figure 4.14.

In addition to this, many water bodies are identified as being at risk of not achieving their water quality objectives due to the damage

being caused by significant pressures⁵⁸. Significant pressures, those pressures which need to be addressed in order to improve water quality, have been identified for waterbodies that are 'At Risk' of not meeting their water quality objectives under the WFD. Significant pressures for surface water bodies within or adjacent to County Sligo are identified on Table 4.1.

There are various types of pressures identified, such as:

- **Agricultural pressures** – may include issues related to farming, including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters.
- **Urban run-off pressures** – may include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.
- **Urban wastewater pressures** – may include direct discharge of nutrients from urban wastewater treatment plants and discharge from combined storm overflows or storm water overflows. Discharges of elevated concentrations of phosphorus, ammonium and nitrogen impact on the ecology of surface waters.
- **Hydromorphological and anthropogenic pressures** are identified together in many instances, Hydromorphological pressures may include: modifications to the physical habitat conditions or the natural functioning of a waterbody which can impact on ecology, caused by dredging and straightening of rivers (channelisation), land drainage or hard infrastructure such as dams, weirs, culverts or other obstructions. Anthropogenic pressures may include:

⁵⁷ As per EPA classification system (gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps)

⁵⁸ EPA (2022): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021

water abstractions; invasive species; agriculture; use of fertilizers, manures and pesticides; animal husbandry activities; inefficient irrigation practices; deforestation of woods; aquaculture; pollution due to industrial effluents and domestic sewage; and recreational activities.

- **Extractive industry related pressures** – may include different activities that lead to the extraction of raw materials from the earth, such as oil, metals, mineral and aggregates. Impacts from extractive sites include sediment/siltation pollution and alteration to the physical environment.
- **Forestry pressures** - may include poorly managed and inappropriately sited forest operations, negatively impact on water quality and aquatic habitats and species. The most common water quality problems arising from forestry relate to the release of sediment and nutrients and the impacts from acidification. Forestry may also give rise to changes in stream flow regimes caused by associated land drainage.
- **Domestic wastewater pressures** – may include septic-tank systems associated with one-off housing and small unlicensed private urban wastewater treatment plants. If not correctly installed and well maintained, these systems can result in leakage of untreated effluent to waters.
- **Invasive species pressures** – may include those relating to non-native species introduced outside their natural range that threaten ecosystems, habitats and native species with environmental or socio-economic harm. Currently 37 species have been identified across the EU as a high priority for management, and nine of these occur in Ireland. The potential impacts of IAS include the alteration of eco-systems (by causing bank erosion, for example), inhibition of access to water bodies, hindrance of land development and, in some cases, potential human health impacts.

Table 4.1 WFD River, Lake, Transitional and Coastal Waterbodies Status

Name and Code ⁵⁹	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2016 -2021) ⁶⁰
Templehouse	Lake	Bad – due to bad ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.
Bunnanaddan Stream_010	River	Poor - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and urban waste water sources.
Cartonkillerdoe_010	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Douglas (Sligo)_010	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, forestry and urban run-off sources.
Garavogue_010	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry and urban run-off sources.
Grange (Sligo)_010	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from abstractions, urban run-off and urban waste water sources.
Owenmore (Sligo)_030	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and hydromorphological sources.
Owenmore (Sligo)_060	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Owenmore (Sligo)_080	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from urban waste water sources.
Tubbercurry Stream_010	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological, urban run-off and urban waste water sources.
Tubbercurry_010	River	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from urban run-off sources.
Gill SO	Lake	Poor – due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from abstractions, agricultural and invasive species sources.
Ballymote Stream_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Ballysodare_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Bahy (North Mayo)_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Boyle_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, domestic waste water, forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Boyle_020	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Buncrowey_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry sources.
Charlestown Stream_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and hydromorphological sources.
Cloonen (Sligo)_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and hydromorphological sources.
Derrymaquirk_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Doonflin_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Drumcliff_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Dunneill_020	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Feorish (Ballyfarnon)_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Feorish (Ballyfarnon)_030	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Killoran Lough Stream_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Lugdoon Stream_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Mad_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Moy_010	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Moy_040	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Mullaghmore_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Owenbeg (Coolaney)_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Sligo)_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, forestry and urban run-off sources.
Owenmore (Sligo)_040	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Sligo)_050	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Scurmore_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Shannon (Upper)_040	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic pressures and hydromorphological sources.
Tubbercurry_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Unshin_020	River	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic pressures sources.
Willsborough Stream_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Arkedy	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Cloonacleigha	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Dargan	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Gara	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Labe	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Skean	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Ballysadare Estuary	Transitional	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and urban waste water sources.
Garavogue Estuary	Transitional	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Moy Estuary	Transitional	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, domestic waste water and urban waste water sources.
Portavaud West, Ballysadare Bay	Transitional	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Portavaud East, Ballysadare Bay	Coastal	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Sligo Bay	Coastal	Moderate. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic pressures sources.
Arigna (Roscommon)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Ballybeg (Sligo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Barnabrack_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bellanamean_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bellawaddy_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bellawaddy_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.

⁵⁹ The number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the water body is located along the main river channel. For example, the water body at the source is coded '_010', the next water body downstream is coded '_020' and the final water body before the river becomes transitional is '_180'.

⁶⁰ There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "unassigned status" applies in respect of these waterbodies.

Black (Sligo)_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and hydromorphological sources.
Breaghwy35_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Brusna (North Mayo)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Carrownrush_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Clooneen (Sligo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cloonen (Sligo)_030	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Corsallagh Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cregg (Sligo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Doonbeakin_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Doonowney_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dooyeaghny_Or_Cloonloughan_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Drumbaun_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Drumcliff_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Drumfin_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Duff_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Duff_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dunmoran_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and anthropogenic pressures sources.
Dunmoran_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Dunneill_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Easky_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Easky_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Eignagh_020	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Eignagh_030	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Fallsollus_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Feorish (Ballyfarnon)_020	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Finned_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, forestry and extractive industry sources.
Finned_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Gowlan (Sligo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Killannummery_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Killannummery_020	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Kilrusheighter_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Kilshalvy_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Knappagh (Sligo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Knocknahur_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Leaffony_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Leaffony_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Moy_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Moy_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Mullaghanoe_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural, forestry and hydromorphological sources.
Owenbeg (Coolaney)_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owengarve (Sligo)_010	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Owengarve (Sligo)_020	River	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from hydromorphological sources.
Owenmore (Sligo)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Quigabar_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Unshin_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Unshin_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Arrow	Lake	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from invasive species sources.
Bellanascarrow	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Easky	Lake	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from anthropogenic pressures sources.
Glencar	Lake	Good. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Kilsellagh	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Talt	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Easky Estuary	Transitional	Good. No pressures identified.
Killala Bay	Coastal	Good. No pressures identified.
Brusna (North Mayo)_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Easky_030	River	High. No pressures identified.
Easky_040	River	High. No pressures identified.
Eignagh_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Glenree_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Lenyvee_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Liskeagh_010	River	High. This waterbody is also identified to be under significant pressure from forestry sources.
Loughanaboll_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Moy_050	River	High. No pressures identified.
Moy_060	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owenaher_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owenaher_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owenbeg (Coolaney)_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owengarve (Sligo)_030	River	High. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Sligo)_070	River	High. No pressures identified.
Unshin_040	River	High. No pressures identified.
Unshin_050	River	High. No pressures identified.
Yellow (Foxford)_010	River	High. No pressures identified.
Hoe	Lake	High. No pressures identified.
Tullyvella	Lake	High. No pressures identified.
Duff Estuary	Transitional	High. No pressures identified.
Donegal Bay (Erne)	Coastal	High. No pressures identified.
Donegal Bay Northern	Coastal	High. No pressures identified.
Donegal Bay Southern	Coastal	High. No pressures identified.
Drumcliff Estuary	Transitional	Unassigned. No pressures identified.
Tanrego Intake	Transitional	Unassigned. No pressures identified.

4.9.5 Ground Water

Groundwater is stored in the void spaces in underground layers of rock, or aquifers. These aquifers are permeable, allowing both the infiltration of water from the soils above them and the yielding of water to surface and coastal waters. Groundwater is the part of the subsurface water that is in the saturated zone - the zone below the water table, the uppermost level of saturation in an aquifer at which the pressure is atmospheric, in which all pores and fissures are full of water.

For groundwater bodies, the approach to classification is different from that for surface water. For each body of groundwater, both the chemical status and the quantitative must be determined. Both have to be classed as either *good* or *poor*. The WFD sets out a series of criteria that must be met for a body to be classed as good chemical and quantitative status.

The WFD status (2016-2021) of groundwater underlying the entire County (shown on Figure 4.15) is identified as being of *good* status.

4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

The Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) rates groundwaters according to both their productivity and vulnerability to pollution.

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the County are mapped on Figure 4.16. Classifications comprise:

- Low vulnerability;
- Moderate vulnerability;
- High vulnerability;
- Extreme vulnerability; and
- Extreme (rock at or near surface or karst) vulnerability.

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.17. Classifications comprise:

- Regionally important aquifer karstified;

- Regionally important aquifer karstified (Conduit);
- Locally important aquifer karstified;
- Locally important aquifer bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones;
- Locally important aquifer, bedrock which is generally moderately productive;
- Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally unproductive except for local zones;
- Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally unproductive; and
- Locally important gravel aquifer.

4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

The WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) are compiled for a number of water bodies or part of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife.

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g., Salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the County include:

- WFD RPA Bathing Waters and associated WFD Surface Waters in Bathing Locations (as shown on Figure 4.7) and including bathing locations at: Enniscrone Beach; Dunmorán Beach; Rosses Point Beach; Streedagh Beach; and Mullaghmore Beach;
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Lakes and Rivers) and associated Surface Water and Groundwater in Nutrient Sensitive Areas (as shown on Figure 4.18); and

- WFD RPA Drinking Water Surface Water Bodies⁶¹ (as mapped on Figure 4.19), including lakes (such as Kellsellagh, Gill, Arrow, Gara, Labe, Talt and Easky) and the Grange River. Groundwater beneath the entire County is also included on the RPA for Drinking Water for Groundwater bodies.

RPA's relating to Shellfish Areas and Salmonid Waters are addressed under Section 4.6 "Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna". There are also a number of water dependent habitats in the County that have been listed on RPA's – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3.1).

4.9.8 Bathing Waters

Bathing locations identified as 'Bathing Waters' under the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, as amended, are mapped on Figure 4.13.

For bathing waters, Mandatory and Guide Values are set out for bathing waters in the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Regulations. Mandatory Values are values that must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with Guide Values exceeds guidance with Mandatory Values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Bathing waters are now classified into four quality categories; '*excellent*', '*good*', '*sufficient*', or '*poor*' with a minimum target of '*sufficient*' required to be achieved for all bathing waters.

The most recent available data from the EPA⁶² shows that locations of designated bathing waters (see Figure 4.13) are classified as *excellent*⁶³ at Rosses Point, Dunmoran and Streedagh; *good* at Enniscrone Beach; and *sufficient* at Mullaghmore Beach.

The Blue Flag award is given to beaches and marinas that have excellent water quality and maintain other standards including effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment and

safety standards. Rosses Point Beach was awarded with the Blue Flag in 2023.

4.9.9 Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk from flooding from sources including groundwater, pluvial⁶⁴, fluvial⁶⁵ and coastal⁶⁶. There is historic evidence of flooding (shown on Figure 4.20) in various locations across the County, including coastal areas and along the County's various rivers and streams.

Predictive Office of Public Works (OPW) Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (Figure 4.21) indicate areas likely to be at most risk of flooding in the County.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), as required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW, 2009), has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the SEA and the preparation of the Plan. This assessment considers available and emerging information on historical and predictive flood risk indicators.

4.9.10 Existing Problems

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data, certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is historic and predictive evidence of elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial and coastal sources at various locations across the County.

⁶¹ Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278/2007).

⁶² EPA (2023) Report: *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland 2022*

⁶³ The highest, cleanest class

⁶⁴ Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

⁶⁵ Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

⁶⁶ Resulting from higher sea levels than normal causing the sea to overflow onto land. Such flooding is influenced by high tide level, storm surges and wave action.

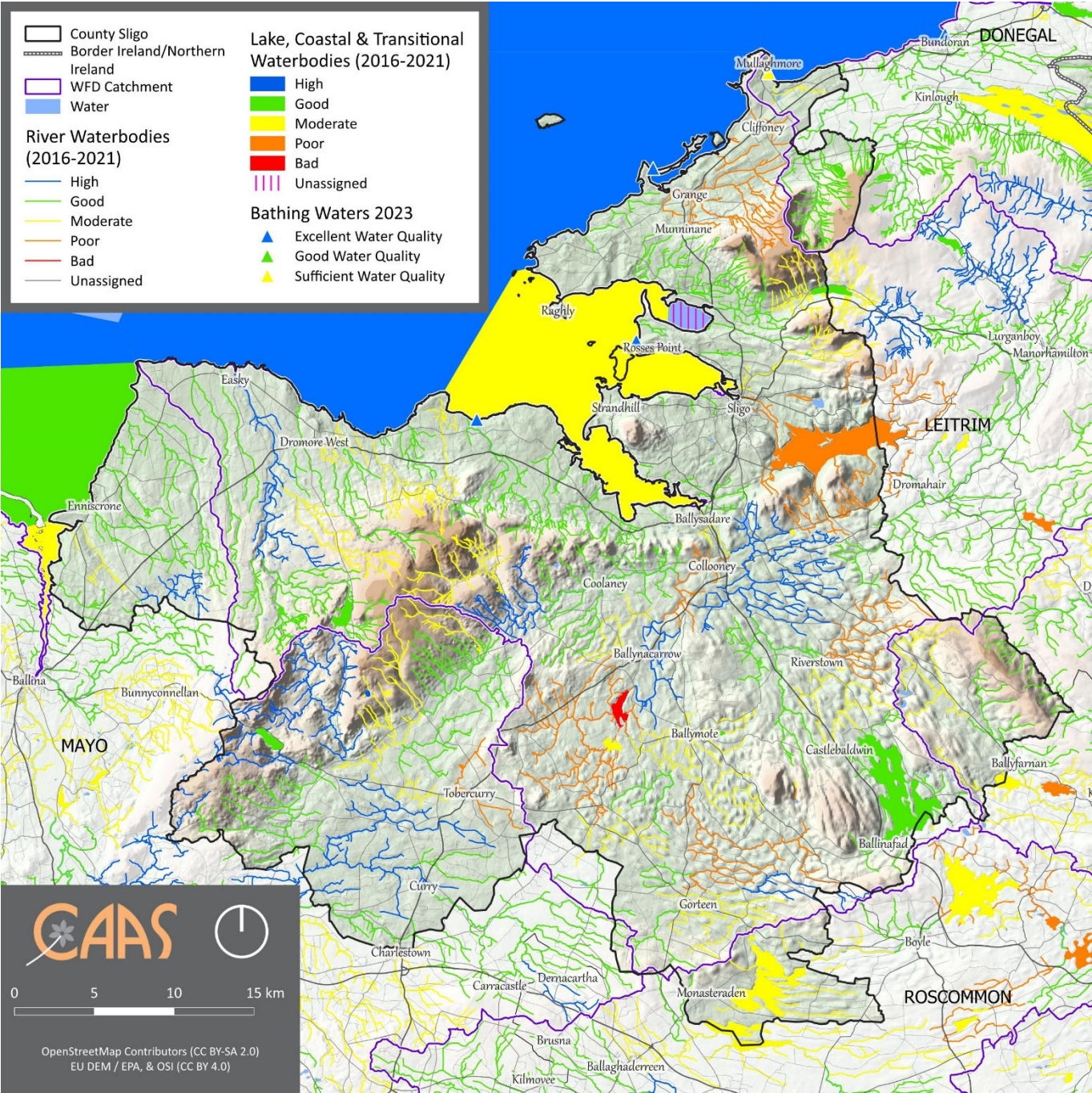


Figure 4.13 WFD Surface Waterbodies Status (2016-2021) and Bathing Waters (2022)⁶⁷

⁶⁷ This map shows Bathing Water Quality in Ireland in 2022 (dataset issued in 2023)

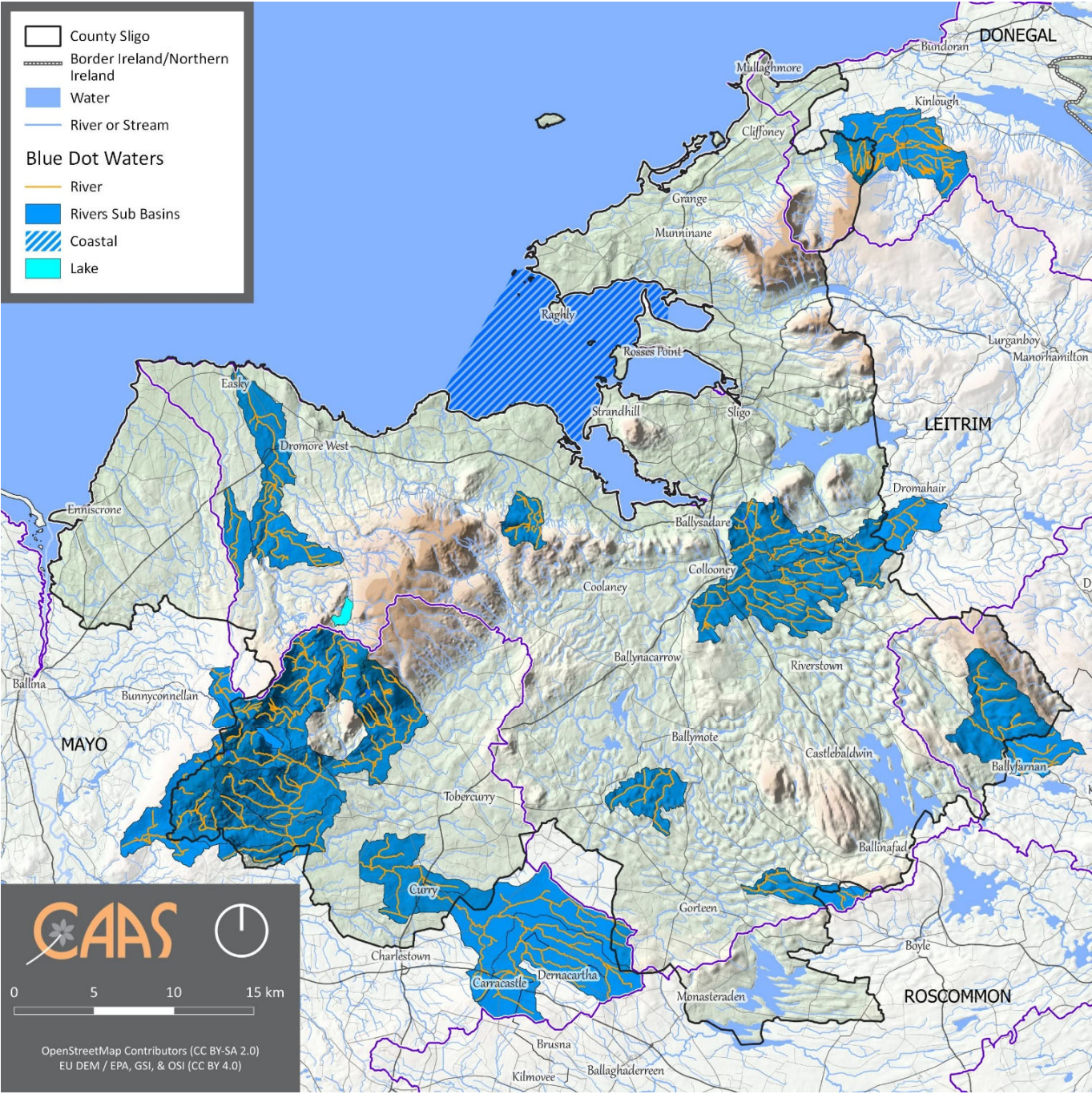


Figure 4.14 'Blue Dot' Waterbodies

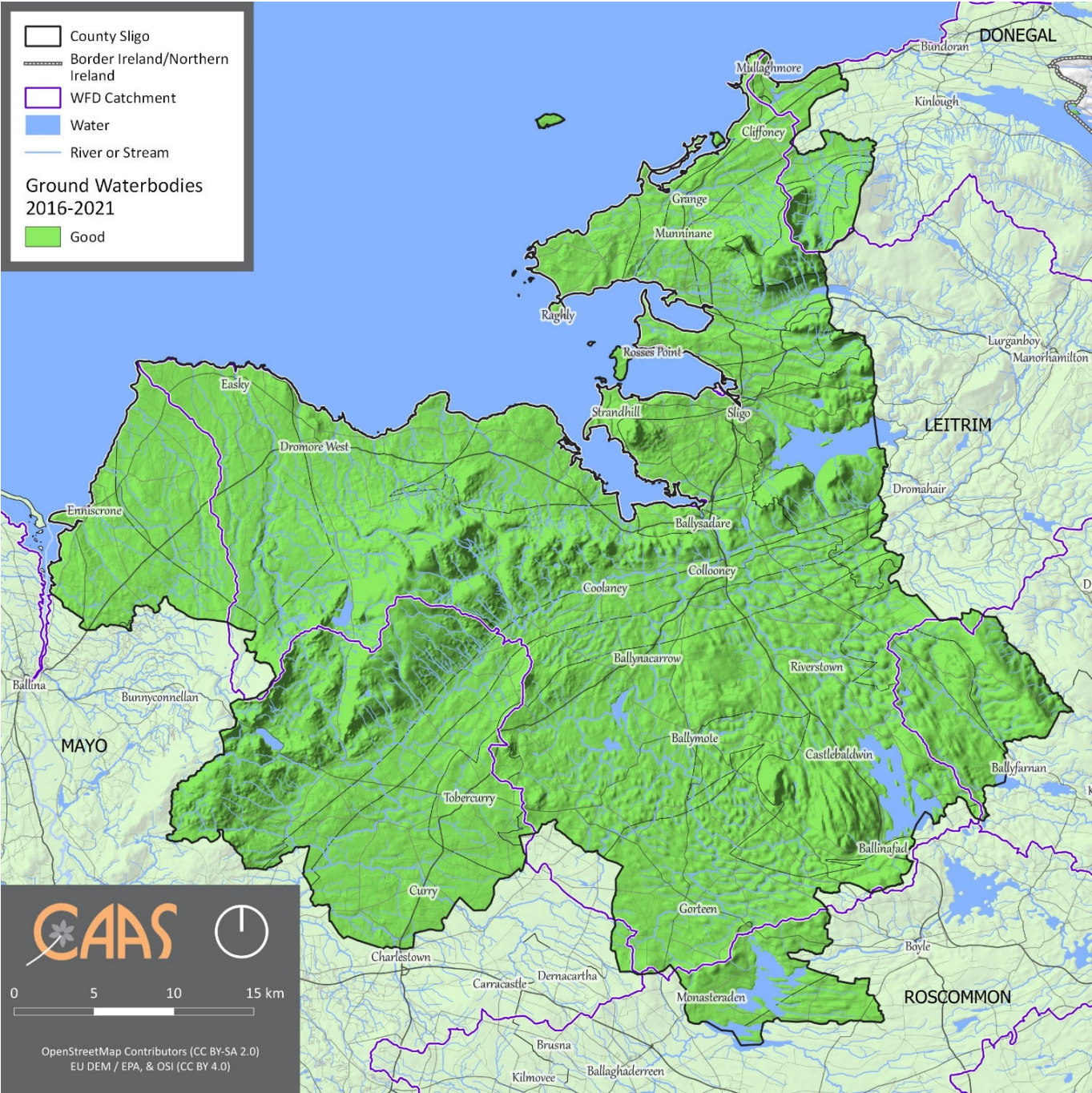
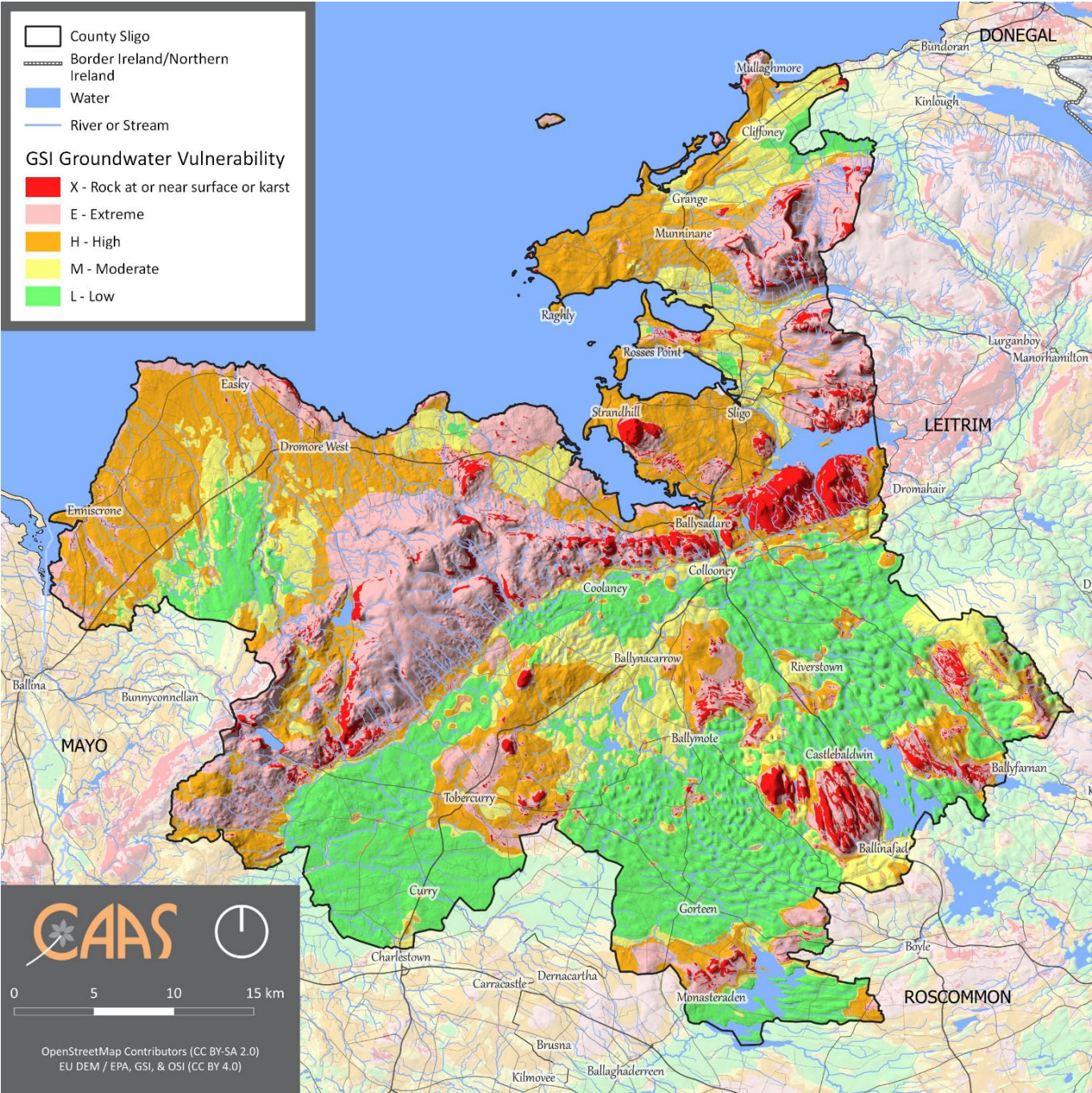


Figure 4.15 WFD Groundwater Status (2016-2021)



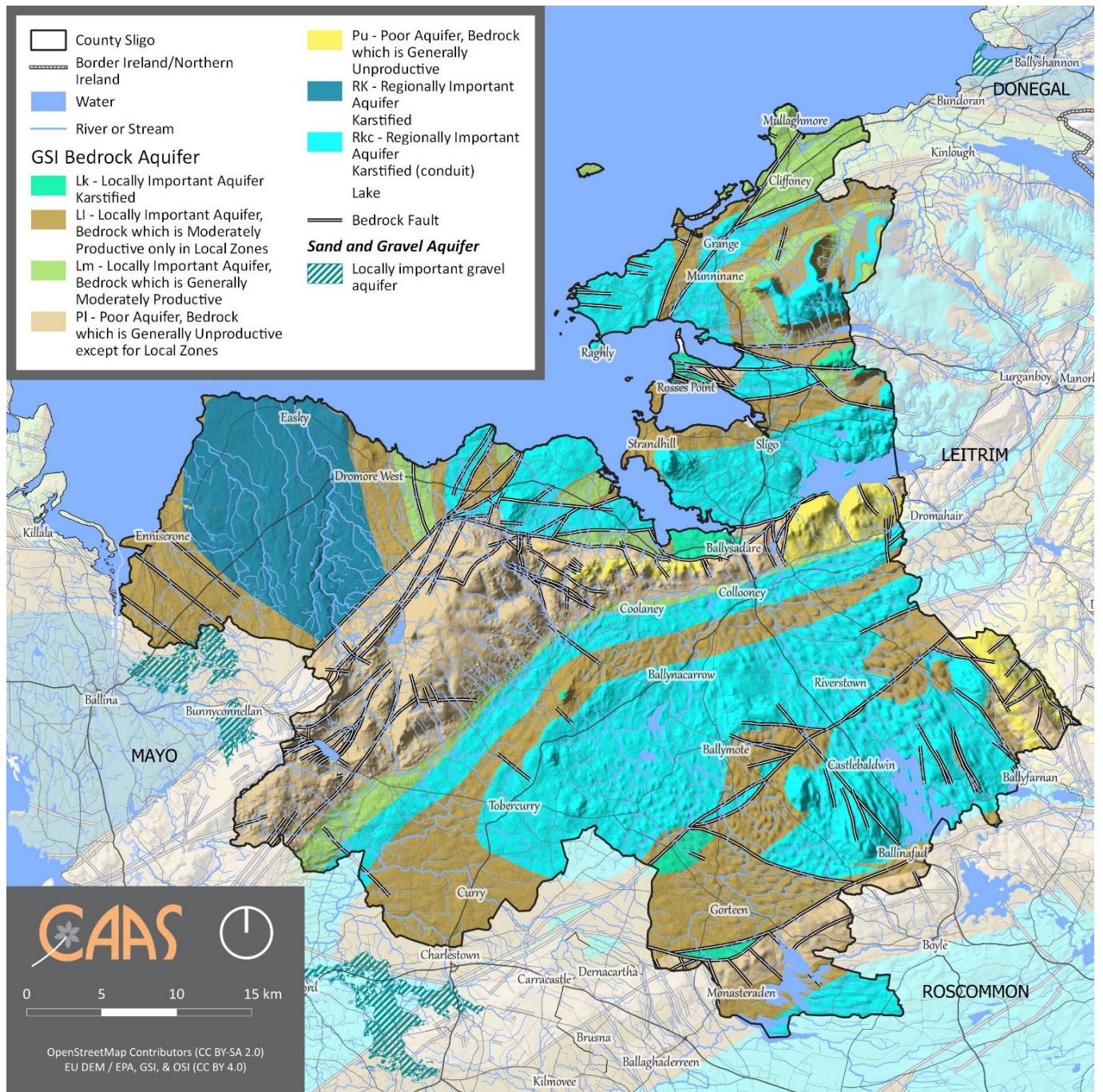


Figure 4.17 Groundwater Productivity

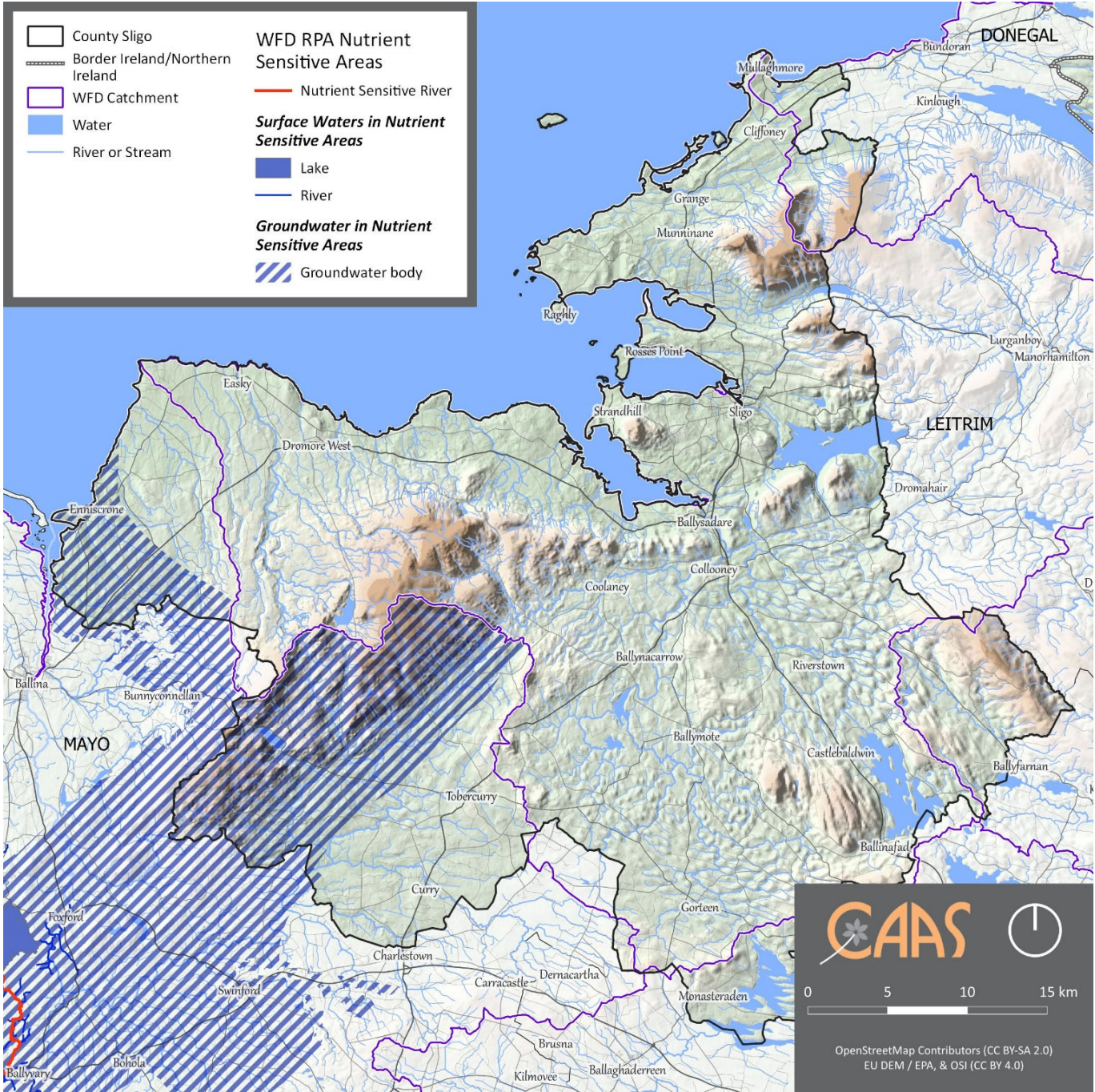


Figure 4.18 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas

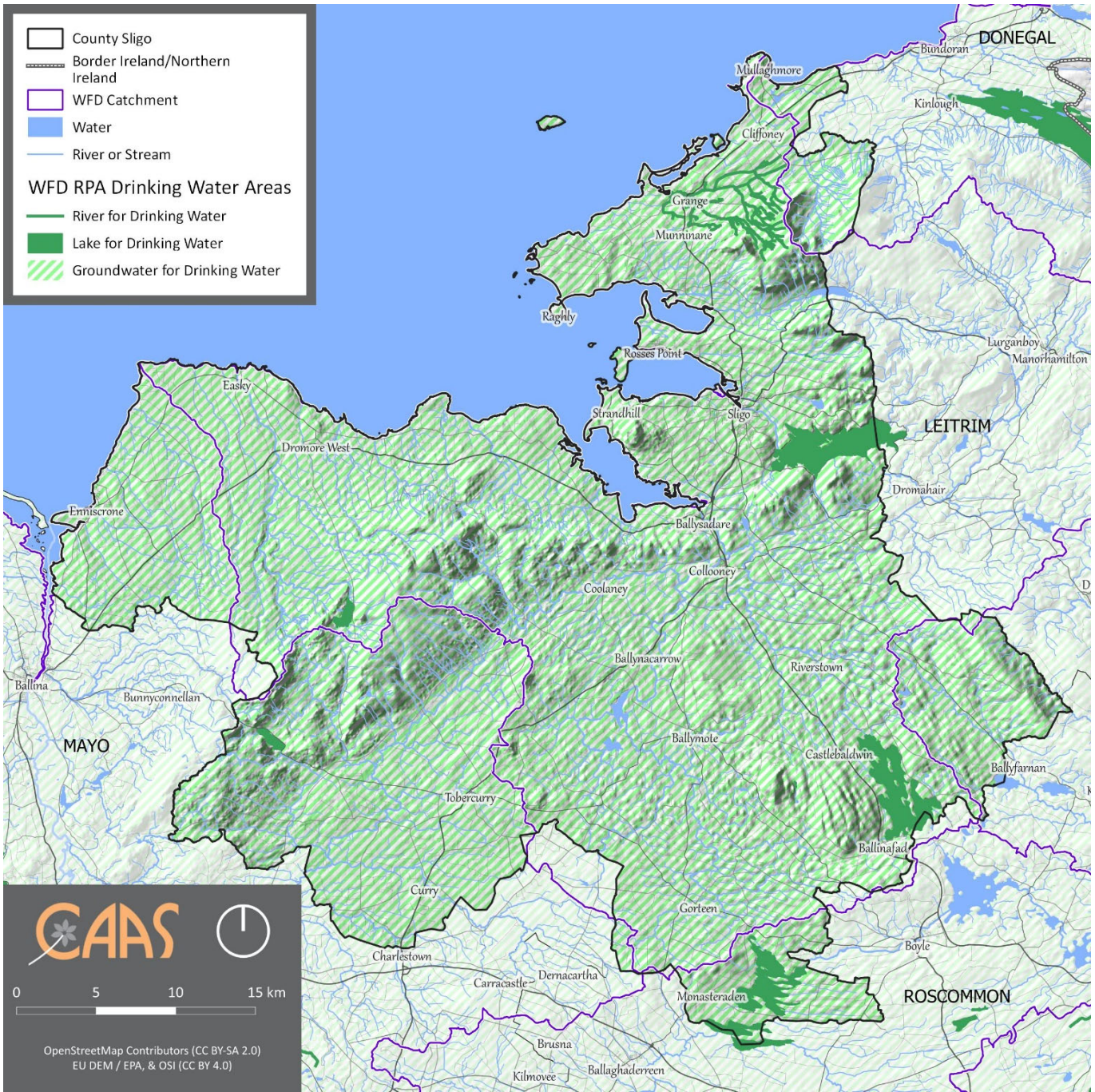


Figure 4.19 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water

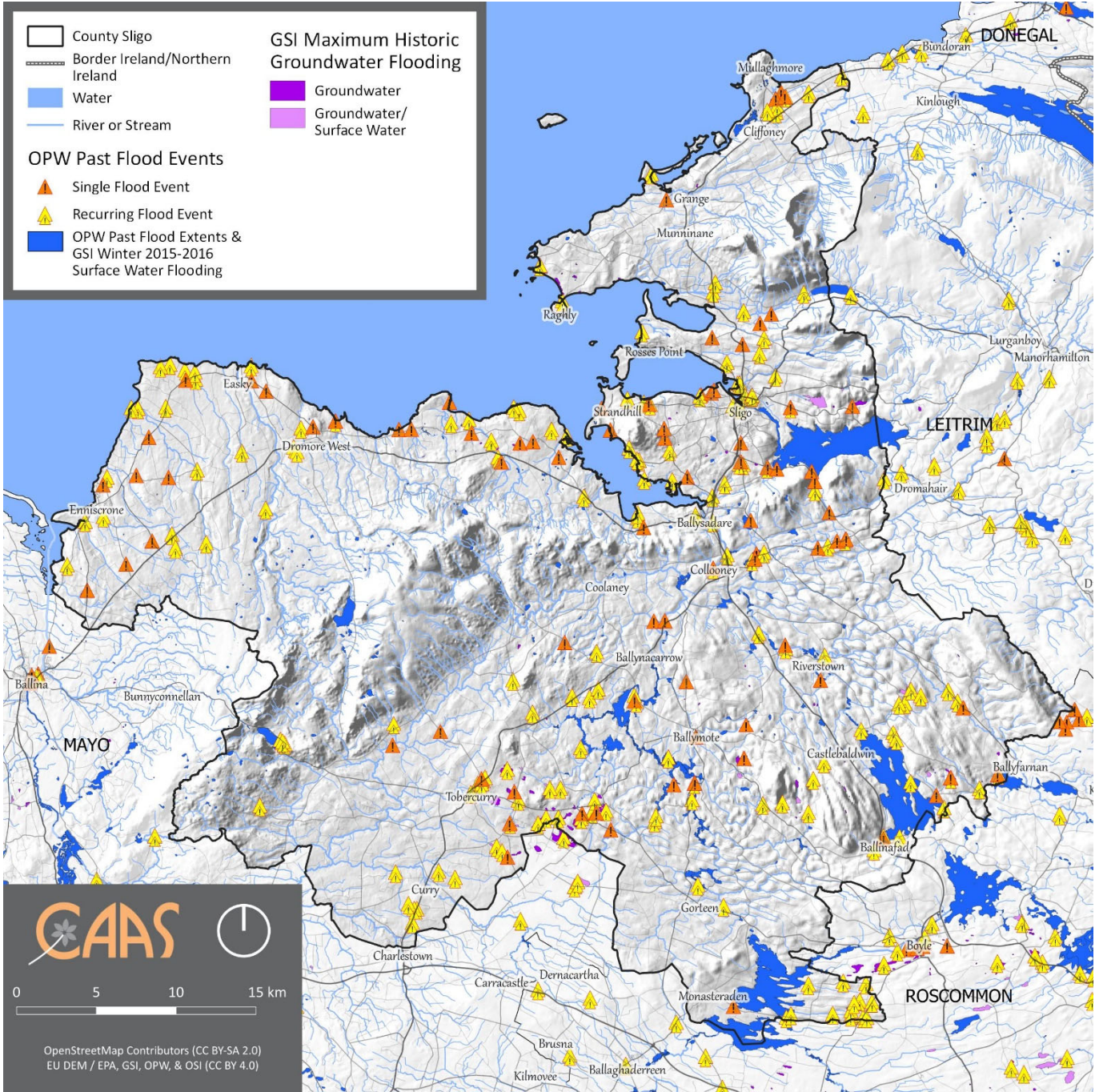


Figure 4.20 Historical Flood Data

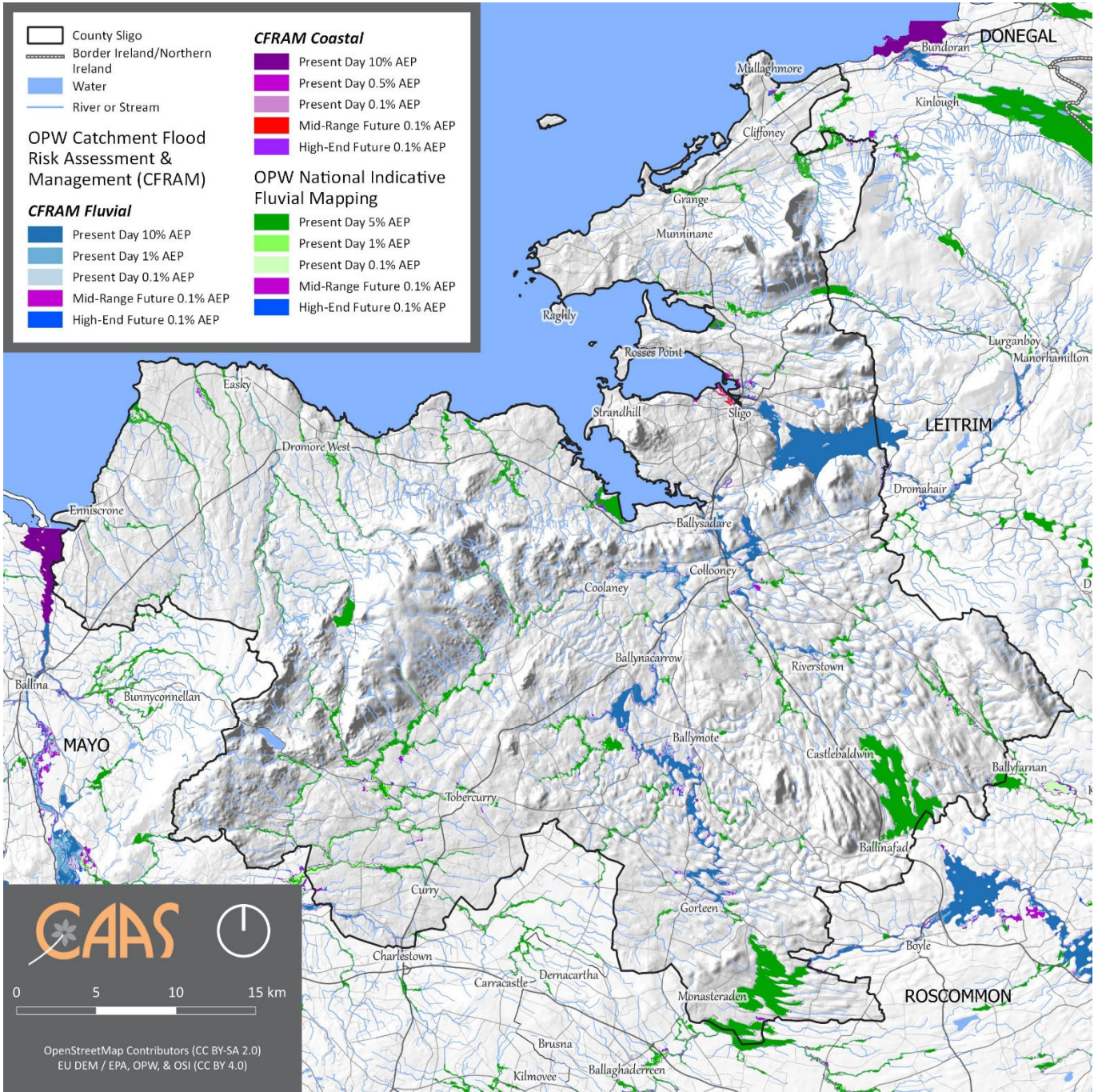


Figure 4.21 OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping

4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

4.10.1 Introduction

Total emissions of greenhouse gases by humans come from various sectors including transport, agriculture, energy industries, manufacturing combustion, industrial processes, residential developments, commercial services developments, waste management processes and fluorinated gases equipment (such as refrigeration and fire protection systems).

In 2023, Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions are estimated to be 55.01 million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂ eq), which is 6.8% lower (or 4.00 Mt CO₂ eq) than emissions in 2022 (59.00 Mt CO₂ eq) and follows a 2.0% decrease in emissions reported for 2022. Emissions are 1.2% below the historical 1990 baseline for the first time in 33 years.

In 2023, emissions in the stationary ETS1 emissions (covering emissions from sectors including Agriculture, Transport, Energy, Industries, Residential, Manufacturing Combustion and Industrial Processes) decreased by 17%. When land use, land-use change and forestry is included, total national emissions decreased by 3.8%.

Emissions under the Effort Sharing Regulation (covering emissions from the electricity and heat generation, industrial manufacturing and aviation sectors) decreased by 3.4%.

Decreased emissions in 2023 compared to 2022 were observed in the largest sectors except for transport which showed an increase of 0.3%.

The EPA's 2024 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2023-2040* provides an updated assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions to 2040, using the latest Inventory data for 2021 as the starting point. The report provides an assessment of Ireland's progress towards achieving its national ambitions under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and EU

emission reduction targets for 2030 as set out under the Effort Sharing Regulation⁶⁸. Key findings identified as part of the report are that:

- Ireland is not on track to meet the 51% emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections, which include most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures.
- The first two carbon budgets (2021-2030), which aim to support the achievement of the 51% emissions reduction goal, are projected to be exceeded by a significant margin of between 17% and 27%.
- Sectoral emissions ceilings for 2025 and 2030 are projected to be exceeded in almost all cases, including agriculture, electricity, industry, and transport.
- Ireland will not meet its non-ETS⁶⁹ EU targets of a 42 per cent emissions reduction by 2030 under the With Additional Measures Scenario.
- Emissions in the 'Planned Additional Measures' scenario are projected to be 29% lower in 2030 (compared with 2018) whereas in the 'Implemented Existing Measures' scenario the emissions reduction is projected to be 11%. There has been no improvement in these figures since EPA projections published in 2023.
- Faster implementation of measures is necessary to meet both National and EU targets. The pace at which planned policies and measures are implemented needs to be accelerated.
- Total emissions from the agriculture sector are projected to decrease by between 1% and 18% over the period 2022 to 2030. Savings are projected from a variety of measures including limiting usage and switching to different fertilisers, methane reductions measures and water table management.
- Transport emissions are projected to decrease by 5% to 26% over the period 2022-2030. Measures that are projected to contribute to greater emissions reductions include 945,000 EVs by 2030, a 20 per cent biodiesel blend rate by 2030 and avoid/shift measures such as 50% increase in daily active travel journeys and a 130% increase in daily public transport journeys.
- Emissions from the Energy Industries sector are projected to decrease by between 57% to 62% over the period 2022 and 2030. Renewable energy generation at the end of the decade is projected to range from 69% to 80% of electricity generation as a result of a projected rapid expansion in wind energy and other renewables.
- Emissions from the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector have been revised

⁶⁸ Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement.

⁶⁹ Any company or body within the EU that emits a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions is included in the Emissions Trading System, commonly known as the ETS for short. This includes large industries, electricity generators, and the aviation industry. All greenhouse gas emissions that are not from companies in the ETS are called non-ETS emissions. Non-ETS emissions include greenhouse gas emissions from homes, cars, small businesses and agriculture. These are often collectively called the non-ETS sector.

significantly to reflect new science. Total emissions from the LULUCF sector are projected to increase over the period 2022 to 2030. It is unlikely with the currently planned measures that the target set under the EU LULUCF Regulation and included in the Climate Action Plan 2024 will be met.

4.10.2 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

Climate mitigation describes the action to reduce the likelihood of climate change occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g. emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

The National Climate Action Plan 2024 is the second statutory update to the plan since the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law, committing Ireland to 2030 and 2050 targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It builds on Climate Action Plan 2023, outlining how Ireland will accelerate the actions required to respond to the climate crisis, putting climate solutions at the centre of Ireland's social and economic development.

Climate adaptation is a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

The National Adaptation Framework (2024) aims to create a unified approach involving both government and society to adapt to climate change. It outlines how various sectors and local authorities can implement adaptation measures to minimise Ireland's vulnerability to climate change's adverse effects while taking advantage of any beneficial impacts. The Framework emphasises the importance of integrating adaptation strategies into all levels of policy making, infrastructure development, and local planning.

In 2018, four Climate Action Regional Offices were established for the purpose of coordinating climate action at regional and local levels. As specified in its Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly supports the work of the Climate Action Regional Offices.

The Sligo Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 will contribute towards addressing the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change adaptation, and strengthening the alignment between national climate policy and the delivery of local climate action. The local objectives of Sligo County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 address thematic areas including:

- Governance and Leadership
- Built Environment and Transport
- Natural Environment and Green Infrastructure
- Community Resilience and Transition
- Sustainable Resource Management

4.10.3 Alternative Fuels and Renewable Electricity Generation Targets

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce transport emissions. The Plan facilitates a mode shift away from the private car to public transport, walking and cycling and provisions relating to electric vehicles. This will contribute towards reductions in the consumption of non-renewable energy sources and achievement of legally binding renewable energy targets.

The first Renewable Energy Directive (RED)⁷⁰ was the most important legislation influencing the growth of renewable energy in the EU and Ireland for the decade ending in 2020. From 2021, RED was replaced by the second Renewable Energy Directive (REDII)⁷¹, which continues to promote the growth of renewable energy out to 2030. RED set out two mandatory targets for renewable energy in Ireland to be met by 2020, while REDII sets new targets and criteria to be met by Ireland in 2030 and the interim.

The overall renewable energy share is referred to as the overall RES target. REDII introduced a binding EU-wide target for overall RES of 32% in 2030 and requires Member States to set their national contributions to the EU-wide target. As per the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030, Ireland's overall RES target is 34.1% in 2030. The sectoral targets are referred to as RES-E (electricity), RES-T (transport) and RES-H (heat). Ireland's NECP

⁷⁰ Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

⁷¹ Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources (recast).

2021-2030 set targets for RES-E of 70%, RES-H of 24% and RES-T of 14%, by 2030.⁷²

Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to contribute towards energy security.

4.10.4 Ambient Air Quality

In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives set down air quality standards in Ireland and the other Member States for a wide variety of pollutants. These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry and, in sufficient amounts, could affect the well-being of the areas inhabitants. The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles to this European approach are set out in the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) (which replaces the earlier Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 and the first, second and third *Daughter Directives*; the fourth *Daughter Directive* will be included in CAFE at a later stage).

In order to comply with the directives mentioned above, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 271 of 2002).

The EPA's (2024) *Air Quality in Ireland 2023 Report* identifies that:

- Ireland's latest monitoring shows we are in compliance with current EU standards.
- Ireland is not on track to achieve its ambition, set out in the National Clean Air Strategy, to meet the health-based WHO air quality guideline limits in 2026.
- Main pollutants of concern are fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from solid fuel combustion and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) from vehicle emissions/traffic.
- Air pollution can be a major environmental risk to people's health, with approximately 1,600 premature deaths annually in Ireland due to poor air quality.

The report further identifies the critical role of local authorities in the enforcement and

implementation of existing plans and investment in infrastructure to encourage cleaner and healthier air quality choices, including:

- Local authorities must provide more resources to implement the new solid fuel regulations and full implementation of air quality plans.
- Local authorities must prioritise resource allocation of resources to advance enforcement.
- Investment in clean public transport infrastructure across the country must be maintained and increased.
- More safe footpaths and cycle lanes must be created to continue to increase active travel as a viable and safe alternative to car use and associated NO₂ emissions.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at monitoring stations across the country.⁷³

4.10.5 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing EU policy on noise reduction from source. The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

- Draw up *strategic noise maps* for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people who may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;
- Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and,
- Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.

In compliance with the Directive and transposing Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006), Noise Action Plans have been prepared for each local authority

⁷² SEAI (2022): *Energy in Ireland 2022 Report*. Available at: <https://www.seai.ie/publications/Energy-in-Ireland-2022.pdf>

⁷³ For more detail on current daily air quality data for the Plan refer to: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>.

area within the country, including for Sligo County Council. The purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to avoid, prevent and reduce, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the long-term exposure to environmental noise.

4.10.6 Existing Problems

Significant progress is being made in the reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and the EPA's 2024 publication Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2023-2040 identifies that Ireland's emissions, under the Emissions in the 'Planned Additional Measures' scenario that includes most 2024 Climate Action Plan measures, are projected to be 29% lower in 2030 (compared with 2018). However, this would not meet the 51% emissions reduction target (by 2030 compared to 2018) based on these projections.

In the Climate Change Advisory Council's *Annual Review 2024* the findings of an assessment of the degree to which progress is being made solely in the implementation of adaptation policy and increasing resilience during the period April 2023 to March 2024 is provided. The Review details that four sectors (Transport, Flood Risk Management, Built and Archaeological Heritage and Local Government) demonstrated good overall progress, six showed moderate progress (Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood, National Adaptation Framework, Communications Networks, Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure, Health and Electricity and Gas Networks) and one (Biodiversity) showed no progress and supplied insufficient evidence. This was a slight improvement compared with the results in 2023.

Air quality and noise can present challenges, especially in urban areas, as detailed under the relevant sub-sections above. With regard to air quality, air pollution from transport is dominated by NO_x emissions. Of these, NO₂ is particularly impactful from a health perspective. The Plan will help to facilitate reductions in emissions and a transition from dependence on fossil fuel combustion powered transport.

4.11 Material Assets

Other material assets, in addition to those detailed below, covered by the SEA include

archaeological and architectural heritage (see Section 4.12) natural resources of economic value, such as water and air (see Sections 4.9 and 4.10).

4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the Plan, if unmitigated, include; settlements; resources such as public open spaces, parks and recreational areas; public buildings and services; transport and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.); forestry; and natural resources that are covered under other topics such as water and soil.

4.11.2 Green Infrastructure

Parks and open space promote health and well-being, provide recreational facilities and range of habitats for various species. Green infrastructure is also a crucial component in building resilient communities capable of adapting to the consequences of climate change with trees, woodlands and wetlands providing carbon capture and slowing water flows while improving air quality.

4.11.3 Land

The Plan seeks to assist with the reuse and regeneration of brownfield sites thereby contributing towards sustainable mobility and reducing the need to develop greenfield lands and associated potential adverse environmental effects. Brownfield lands are generally located within urban/suburban areas.

4.11.4 Forestry

Some parts of the County are covered by forestry. Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism, and also important as links in the county's green infrastructure network.

4.11.5 Peatlands

Peatlands provide a valuable natural and archaeological resource. Peatlands are also

important controllers of water levels in river catchments, providing a source of water in dry conditions and soaking up excess water during wetter periods; they actively capture and hold carbon and are an important natural resource in combatting climate change. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste management, industrial, and tourism and recreation. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues; various peatland areas are subject to ecological designations (see Section 4.6).

4.11.6 Coastline

County Sligo has a varied coastline, over 197 km long. Management of the County's coastline and coastal erosion are topics with relevance to various environmental components. The coastline of Sligo is sensitive and valuable in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries.

The Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), completed in 2013, provides predictive erosion maps prepared for the years 2030 and 2050. The identified areas of potentially significant coastal erosion in County Sligo are:

- Marley's Point to Strandhill
- Raghly
- Streedagh Point to Cliffony

Coastal protection works aim to reduce loss of land, infrastructure, and the impacts of coastal flooding. This may require hard-engineered defences in order to withstand the storms and retain and defend a location. Such defences may be necessary, but can cause alterations to nearby coastal behaviour. Softer-engineered solution may be appropriate in many areas and where loss of lives is unlikely. Other options include sacrificial areas and allowing nature to take its course.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Sligo CDP 2024-2030

4.11.7 Renewable Energy Potential

Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy, renewable energy sources are defined as renewable non-fossil energy sources such as, but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, bio-gases and bio-char (i.e., the thermal treatment of natural organic materials in an oxygen-limited environment).

In County Sligo, the principal renewable energy sources are wind and micro-renewables (such as small scale hydro plants and domestic solar panels). There are opportunities for other sources, such as green hydrogen and biomethane.⁷⁵

4.11.8 Minerals and Aggregates

The GSI have a suite of data sources available that may be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

- Aggregate Potential Mapping;
- Bedrock mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

Mineral localities within and surrounding the Plan area are shown on Figure 4.22.

4.11.9 Fisheries

Fisheries play a role in the economy of County Sligo, supporting local employment. Important angling locations include the Ballisodare River, Ballysadare Bay, Easkey River and Lough, Streedagh Beach and Mullaghmore.

4.11.10 Transport

Transport infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes.

⁷⁵ Sligo CDP 2024-2030

County Sligo occupies a strategic location on the National Road network with the N15, N16, N17, N59 and N4 traversing parts of the County. The national road network in the County provides an essential means of access from the County to Dublin and other regional centres. There are three railway stations in Sligo that are served by the train line to Dublin – Sligo Mac Diarmada Station (Sligo town), Collooney Station and Ballymote Station. Bus Éireann and a number of other private operators provide bus services into and out of the County.

County Sligo is also served by Sligo Airport (Strandhill) and Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK) in County Mayo. Harbours, piers and slipways along the Sligo coast provide marine access for the fishing industry and commercial or recreational boat users. Sligo Port is one of seven in the Region, and the most important in the County.

Both regional and local roads provide vital links between the towns and villages to retail, service and employment centres throughout the County and to adjoining counties.

4.11.11 Water Services

4.11.11.1 Wastewater

The EPA's 2024 report '*Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2023*' identified that:

- 10 large urban areas that did not meet European Union treatment standards in 2023 require improvements to comply with these standards and protect the environment;
- 16 towns and villages discharging raw sewage into the environment every day must be connected to wastewater treatment plants;
- 6 collecting systems (sewers) were subject to a judgement from the Court of Justice of the European Union and must be prioritised;
- 34 priority areas require improvements to protect rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters that are adversely impacted by wastewater;
- 3 collecting systems must be upgraded to prevent sewage pollution at bathing waters that were classified as having poor water quality; and
- 12 areas need improvements in wastewater treatment to protect endangered freshwater pearl mussels.

Based on the EPA's assessment of monitoring information provided by Uisce Éireann and the enforcement activities carried out by the EPA, this report identifies urban areas with the most important environmental issues that must be addressed.

From January 2014, Irish Water, now Uisce Éireann, became responsible for all public water services, involving the supply of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Uisce Éireann is also responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and waste water treatment plants. The Council is an agent of Uisce Éireann for operations and remains the designated Water Authority for the assessment and approval of on-site wastewater treatment systems and is responsible for surface water drainage in the town.

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the town while also protecting the environment and public health. Uisce Éireann is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of waste water where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages.

There is currently⁷⁶ one Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in County Sligo located in Ballymote, listed as a priority area, where improvements are required to resolve urgent environmental issues.

The Uisce Éireann Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 (CIP) sets out the priorities for investing 5.35 billion euro to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service. The CIP funds individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants, upgrading existing networks, and national programmes such as the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme. The 2020-2024 CIP includes six projects in County Sligo, some of which have been completed.⁷⁷

4.11.11.2 Wastewater Infrastructure

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the County in line with the Settlement and

⁷⁶ Updated list of priority urban areas (EPA, May 2023)

⁷⁷ Sligo CDP 2024-2030

Core Strategy while also protecting the environment and public health. Uisce Éireann is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages. In unserved areas and outside the main towns and villages, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems.

The County is served by various Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs). In unserved areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by individual septic tanks and other types of wastewater treatment.

Uisce Éireann has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned within the County to improve the existing network, to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan. This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth ("headroom") in terms of Population Equivalent (PE)⁷⁸ in areas serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Uisce Éireann have identified that there is spare treatment capacity is identified as being available in most key settlements, however; there is currently no spare capacity at Mullaghmore (a project to provide additional license-compliant capacity is at Stage 2- Preliminary Business Case (concept design) and will be progressed during the Plan period, subject to the necessary approvals). Additional information is provided in the County Development Plan, which included objectives requiring new development to be adequately served by water services infrastructure.

Table 4.2 provides information on wastewater treatment plant performance sourced from the EPA's 2022 and 2021 Annual Environmental Reports (AERs). These Wastewater Agglomerations are subject to Wastewater Discharge Licences issued by The Environmental Protection Agency. WWTPs

non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) set in the Discharge Licences comprise:

- Cliffoney WWTP (D0394-01);
- Mullaghmore WWTP (D0239-01);
- Sligo WWTP (D0014-01);
- Ballysadare WWTP (D0095-01);
- Enniscrone WWTP (D0102-01);
- Coolaney WWTP (D0392-01);
- Easky WWTP (D0373-01);
- Collooney WWTP (D0093-01);
- Ballymote WWTP (D0094-01); and
- Strandhill WWTP (D0107-01).

Sligo County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Uisce Éireann's Water Investment Plan to support and facilitate the delivery of new or improved wastewater treatment plants in the County. Projects have recently been completed at Strandhill, Ballinacfad, Tobercurry, Collooney, Ballymote and Charlestown-Bellaghy WWTPs. The Rosses Point Sewerage Scheme commenced construction in 2022, with completion understood to be imminent (September 2023). Sligo County Council's Water Services Section nominated the villages of Cliffoney, Mullaghmore, Castlebaldwin, Geevagh, Ballintogher, Ballygawley and Rathcormac for inclusion in the Uisce Éireann's Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme which is intended to provide growth capacity at WWTPs which would not otherwise be provided for in the 2020-2024 Capital Investment Plan (CIP). The provision of a new WWTP to serve Mullaghmore will be included in Uisce Éireann's CIP 2025-2029.⁷⁹

Uisce Éireann is responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. Uisce Éireann has prepared a National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan 2016-2021 that outlines Uisce Éireann's strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge over a 25-year period. A separate plan will be prepared in relation to sludge produced at drinking water plants.

At present, sludge generated from public sewerage schemes throughout the County and from private treatment systems (including individual septic tanks and on-site systems serving one-off housing) can be transported to a sludge hub centre at the Sligo Main Drainage

⁷⁸ WWTPs are described in terms of their designed treatment capacity, which is generally expressed as population equivalent (PE). This is a measurement of total organic biodegradable load, including industrial, institutional, commercial and domestic organic load, on a wastewater treatment plant, converted to the equivalent number of PEs. One person is considered to generate 60g of five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) per day. 1 PE is defined as being equivalent to 60g of BOD per day.

⁷⁹ Sligo CDP 2024 - 2030

Centre at Finisklin for treatment and disposal.⁸⁰

4.11.11.3 Water Supply

Uisce Éireann is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout the County. Public drinking water in County Sligo is supplied through public water supply schemes. The remaining households are served by either Group Water Schemes or private wells, which do not fall within the remit of Uisce Éireann.

As identified in the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, approximately 20% of dwellings throughout County Sligo do not have access to a public mains water supply system. These dwellings are served by group water schemes or by individual wells. Many private water users rely on groundwater sources that are prone to contamination from septic tanks or farmyard effluent.

There are two main sources of water supplying the Sligo and Environs area, namely Kilsellagh Reservoir and Lough Gill. The Sligo and Environs Water Supply Scheme is designed to provide for the domestic, agricultural and industrial water requirements of Sligo Town and its outlying regions, such as Ballincar, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Ballysadare, Collooney and Ballintogher. Lough Talt Regional Water Supply covers the area of County Sligo east of the Ox Mountains. It supplies to Ballymote, Bellaghy, Coolaney, Ballinacarrow, Aclare, Banada, Cloonacool, Curry and Tobercurry. Currently there is a water treatment plant at Kilsellagh and two plants treating water from Lough Gill – Cairns Hill and Foxes Den. Currently there are eight schemes supplying public water throughout Sligo comprising: Carns Hill Water Supply Scheme; Foxes Den Water Supply Scheme; Kilsellagh Water Supply Scheme; Lough Easky Regional Scheme; Lough Talt Regional Scheme; North Sligo Regional Scheme; South Sligo Regional Scheme; Riverstown Regional Scheme; and Killaraght Regional Scheme. More detail on water supply and treatment in the County is provided on Table 4.4.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered

by the European Communities (Drinking Water). The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above. The most recent EPA Remedial Action List (Q2 of 2024) does not include any water scheme that supplies the Plan area.

Currently, Uisce Éireann is implementing a National Water Resource Plan 2021 outlining how to move to a sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply over a 25-year period while safeguarding the environment. It will outline how Uisce Éireann intends to maintain a balance between supply from water sources around the country and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term. This will facilitate future planning and ensure provision of sufficient, safe, clean drinking water to facilitate the social and economic growth of the County. It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Uisce Éireann to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

Uisce Éireann have identified that there is capacity available in the Sligo Town and Environs Water Resource Zone and Lough Talt Regional Water Supply Water Resource Zone. Uisce Éireann have identified that there is potential spare capacity, subject to level of service improvements being implemented, in the Lough Easky Regional Water Supply and North Sligo Regional Water Supply Water Resource Zone.

4.11.11.4 Surface Water Drainage

Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS) can minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff as well as mitigating adverse impacts of climate change. SUDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. The Council seeks to ensure the sustainable management of surface water discharges in urban areas through the use of SUDS.

4.11.12 Waste Management

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, 2024) sets out

⁸⁰ Sligo CDP 2024-2030

a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030. The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.

4.11.13 Existing Problems

The provisions of the Plan will contribute towards the protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets. The provision of infrastructure and supporting services for development, particularly water and wastewater services, is critical. Current challenges include those identified in the sub-sections above.

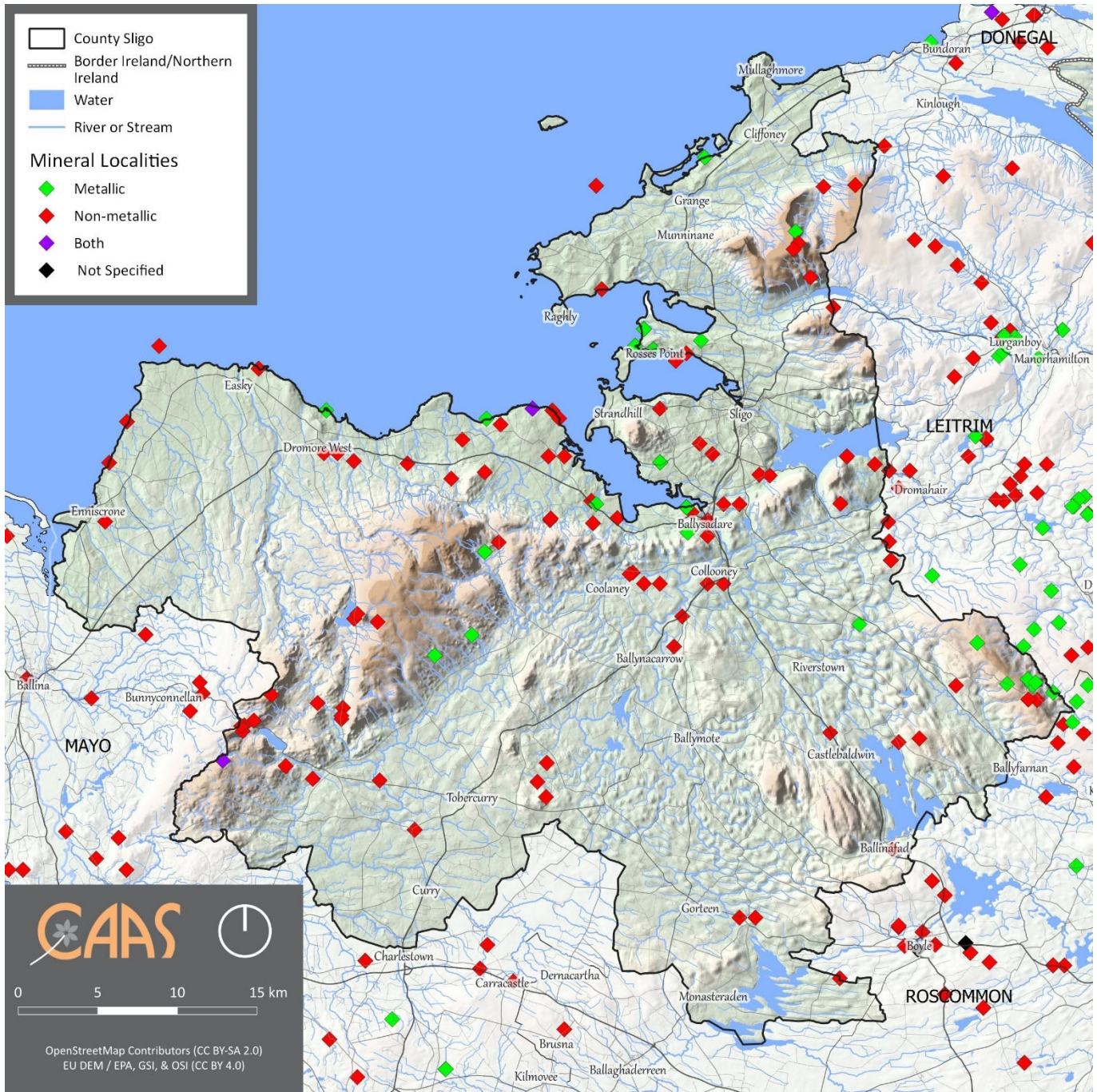


Table 4.2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance (Annual Environmental Reports 2022 and 2021, EPA)

Plant name and Reference	Year	Treatment Provided	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Parameter Failed	Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	Organic Capacities (PE)		
						As Constructed	Collected Load (peak week)	Remaining
Cliffoney D0394-01	2022	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous mg/l COD-Cr mg/l ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l Suspended Solids mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence. The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream and the downstream monitoring locations. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in Ammonia, ortho-Phosphate (as P) and BOD-5days (Total), concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are: Unknown. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. 	800	479	321
Mullaghmore D0239-01	2022	Primary	Fail	Suspended Solids mg/l, BOD, 5days with inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD), mg/l	<p>Cause: The WWTP is operating above capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is caused by the WWTP. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. 	320	786	0
Sligo D0014-01	2022	Tertiary	Fail	Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coastal/transitional ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l. The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream and the downstream monitoring locations. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. 	50000	27753	22247

Plant name and Reference	Year	Treatment Provided	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Parameter Failed	Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	Organic Capacities (PE)		
						As Constructed	Collected Load (peak week)	Remaining
Ballysadare D0095-01	2022	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	<p>Cause: Equipment failure at WWTP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l, Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l. The ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in Ammonia-Total (as N), concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are: Unknown <p>The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.</p>	4500	1727	2773
Enniscrone D0102-01	2022	Secondary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	<p>Cause: Equipment failure at WWTP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coastal/transitional ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l, Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the bathing water quality 	5000	3429	1571
Grange D0381-01	2022	Tertiary	Pass	N/A	The WWTP is compliant with the Emission Limit Values set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.	1000	787	213
Coolaney D0392-01	2019	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	<p>Cause: Breach of ELV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l. The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream and the downstream monitoring locations. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is 	2500	1231	1269

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Plant name and Reference	Year	Treatment Provided	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Parameter Failed	Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	Organic Capacities (PE)		
						As Constructed	Collected Load (peak week)	Remaining
					not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are: Unknown The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. 			
Tubbercurry D0092-01	2022	Tertiary	Pass	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP is compliant with the Emission Limit Values set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence. 	3500	2480	1020
Easky D0373-01	2022	Secondary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	Cause: Inadequate operational procedures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l. The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream monitoring location. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are: Unknown The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. 	500	380	120
Colloney D0093-01	2021	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	Cause: at the time of exceedance an update to the plant was required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l. The ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality. A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it is or is not caused by the WWTP. Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. 	3100	1903	1197
Ballymote D0094-01	2021	Secondary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l ortho-	Cause: WWTP not designed for nutrient removal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive 	3000	2594	406

Plant name and Reference	Year	Treatment Provided	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Parameter Failed	Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	Organic Capacities (PE)		
						As Constructed	Collected Load (peak week)	Remaining
				Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	status.			
Strandhill D0107-01	2021	Secondary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	Cause: Shock loading to plant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the coastal/transitional water quality. 	2700	2360	340

Table 4.3 Details on Water Supply Schemes⁸¹

Scheme	24-h production capacity (m ³ /day)	Current average daily production (m ³ /day)	Spare capacity (m ³ /day)	Planned works
Foxes Den Water Supply Scheme (Sligo and Environs)	16,000	7,820	8,680	No planned works. Recently upgraded.
Kilsellagh Water Supply Scheme (Sligo and Environs)	8,000	4,800	3,200	No works are proposed by UÉ* in relation to this scheme.
Lough Easky Regional Scheme	4,400	3,125	1,275	No works are proposed by UÉ in relation to this scheme.
Lough Talt Regional Scheme	8,000	6,490	1,510	"interim" WTP** recently upgraded.
North Sligo Regional Scheme	3,300	1,995	1,305	No works are proposed by UÉ in relation to this scheme.
South Sligo Regional Scheme	1,500	1,035	465	Supplied by RCC*** from the Lough Gara WTP. No works are proposed by UÉ in relation to this scheme. There is significant headroom available for future development. Spare capacity estimated.
Riverstown Public Water Scheme	640	230	410	No works are proposed by UE in relation to this scheme.
Killaraght Regional Scheme	100	60	40	Supplied from the Boyle/Ardcairn Regional Scheme by RCC. No works are proposed by UÉ in relation to this scheme. There is significant headroom available for future development. Spare capacity estimated.

* UÉ – Uisce Éireann ** WTP – Water Treatment Plant *** RCC – Roscommon County Council

⁸¹ Sligo CDP 2024 - 2030
CAAS for Sligo County Council

4.12 Cultural Heritage

4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types and periods, (e.g., early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

Archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts.

A Tentative List is an inventory of natural and cultural heritage sites, which may have potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and therefore considered suitable for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Irish heritage sites currently on Tentative List⁸² and within the Plan area include (as mapped on Figure 4.23) "The Passage Tomb Landscape (Carrowmore and Carrowkeel in County Sligo)".

To date there has been over 6,500 known Recorded Monuments identified in County Sligo including many monuments in State Care. Each of the Recorded Monuments is encircled by a Zone of Archaeological Notification. Clusters of archaeological heritage are concentrated within and surrounding towns and villages and in lowland rural areas.

Sligo's archaeological heritage includes monuments from the Mesolithic Period (7,000 BC) to the end of the Medieval Period (1,700 AD). These monuments range from megalithic tombs, churches, castles, linear earthwork and ringforts and are found throughout the County. There are also approximately 1,200 industrial heritage sites across the County as identified in the Industrial Archaeology Survey of County Sligo (2005).

Sligo has a number of significant archaeological and historical landscapes, the most notable being the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill), Carrowkeel and Inishmurray. The cluster of megalithic tombs at Carrowmore represents one of the four major passage tomb cemeteries in Ireland and is the largest such cemetery in the country. Others include Carrowkeel, also in County Sligo, as well as Newgrange and Lough Crew in County Meath. The archaeological landscape of the Cuil Irra (Knocknarea) Peninsula dates from around 4,000 BC, which formed an important ritual centre in the Neolithic period. Queen's Maeve's Cairn on Knocknarea is an iconic landscape feature of County Sligo and forms part of Sligo's Neolithic passage tomb tradition.

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. It is available from the National Monuments Service and at archaeology.ie.

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State, but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

⁸² Source: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/72ef0-ministers-announce-new-world-heritage-tentative-list-for-ireland/>

A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map, which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Notification within which requirements for notifications of proposed works apply.

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)⁸³ is a manual containing a numbered list of all certain and possible monuments. An Urban Archaeology Survey was completed in 1995 and contained reports on historic towns dating to before 1700 A.D. with a view to delineating zones of archaeological potential (SMR Zones of Notification). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - the statutory list of recorded monuments established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

Figure 4.23 shows the spatial distribution of recorded monuments within and surrounding the Plan area and beyond. Clusters of archaeological heritage are concentrated around the towns and villages and in lowland rural areas across the County. These monuments include examples of medieval sites such as megalithic tombs, churches, castles, linear earthwork and ringforts and are found throughout the County.

These archaeological monuments include 24 National Monuments in State Care (20 in State Ownership and four in State Guardianship)⁸⁴ within the County, as mapped on Figure 4.23 and listed in Appendix II.

Lakes, rivers, estuaries, coastal and transitional waters within and surrounding the area to which the Plan relates, may contain many features and finds associated with maritime/riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features.

⁸³ The RMP was issued for each county between 1995 and 1998 in a similar format to the existing SMR. However, the RMP differs from the earlier lists in that, as defined in the Act, only monuments with known locations or places where there are believed to be monuments are included. The large archive and supporting database are managed by the National Monuments Service and the records are continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. (<https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland>).

⁸⁴ This list of National Monuments in State care includes those which are in the ownership and guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Sites of particular archaeological significance in County Sligo include the wrecks of three ships considered to be of the Spanish Armada (c.1588 A.D.) at Streedagh, County Sligo.⁸⁵

4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

The term architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act 1999 as meaning all: structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings; groups of structures and buildings; and, sites which are of technical, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Protected structures are defined as amended, as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are encompassed:

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage⁸⁶ of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within developed urban and suburban locations across the County, as shown on Figure 4.24. There are currently over 700 Protected Structures designated in County Sligo,

⁸⁵ National Monuments Service: Wreck Viewer (arcgis.com)

⁸⁶ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

including churches, houses, bridges, castles, lodges and artisan dwellings. Notable protected structures in County Sligo include: St. Crumnath's Cathedral; Pollachurry Pier; Coastguard Station; Oyster Island Lighthouse; Sligo Gaol; and Markree Demesne.

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are encompassed:

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage⁸⁷ of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area or group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures, whose character it is an objective to preserve in a development plan. The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. Five ACAs have been designated in Sligo Town; the town centre of Ballymote has also been designated as an ACA⁸⁸ (as mapped on Figure 4.24).

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a State initiative under the administration of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments

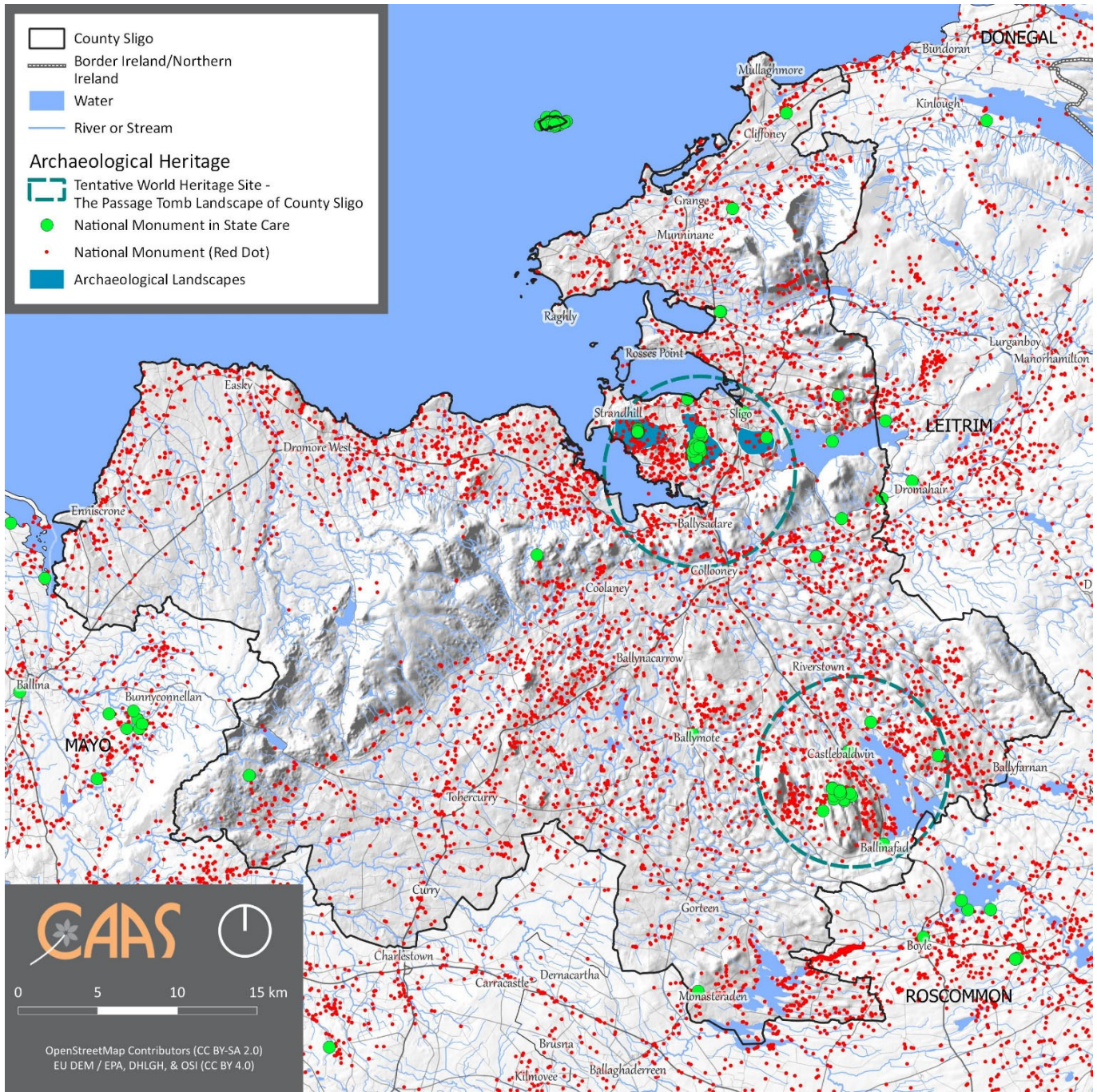
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. In 2003, the NIAH carried out a desktop survey of Historic Gardens and Demesnes in Ireland, which identified approximately 72 such sites in County Sligo. Figure 4.24 shows entries to NIAH within the County, including historic gardens and designed landscapes such as Markree Castle and Classiebawn Castle.

4.12.3 Existing Problems

The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time within the County, however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.

⁸⁷ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

⁸⁸ Sligo CDP 2024 - 2030



CAAS for Sligo County Council

4.13 Landscape

4.13.1 Introduction

Article 1 (a) of the European Landscape Convention provides a definition of landscape as follows; "Landscape means an area, as perceived by people whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural/or human factors". The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

County Sligo is characterised by a variety of mainly rural landscapes, including rough pasture predominantly in the mountains, hills, and peat bogs. On the east, the boundary with County Leitrim runs southward through the coastal lowland to the limestone Dartry Mountains, including Benbulbin Mountain (noted as one of Ireland's most distinctive natural landmarks). The County boundary crosses Glencar and an area of plateau to Lough Gill with the island of Innisfree. West of the Collooney Gap, the ridge forms the Ox Mountains and a peat moorland and, to the north, an area of continuously farmed lowland, from the mouth of the River Moy to the Leitrim border. The coastal areas of the County include Sligo Bay with three long estuaries, leading to the towns of Drumcliff, Sligo, and Ballysadare, which receive the waters of the Rivers Drumcliff, Garravogue, and Owenmore.

The different landscapes found across the Plan area have varying visual and amenity values, topography, exposure levels and contain a variety of habitats. Each landscape type has varying capacity to absorb development related to its overall sensitivity.

4.13.2 Landscape Character Assessment and Designations

The European Landscape Convention was ratified in Ireland in 2002, this required EU Member States to adopt national measures to promote landscape, planning, protection and management.

The purpose of landscape character assessment is to provide the foundation for policy formulation and decision-making for landscape management.

Landscape designations are assigned to particular areas for the purpose of managing change whilst having regard for the full range of special qualities and natural and cultural values attached to these areas. Designation can help safeguard important and sensitive landscapes and landscape features which are particularly valued and may have limited capacity for change. The designation process can contribute to wider policies for guiding development, by specifically identifying and safeguarding areas of landscape which are of particular importance and sensitivity.

A landscape characterisation and appraisal study for Sligo County Council was completed in 1996. This resulted in a map that was the basis for the Landscape Characterisation Map, which classified the areas in the County according to its visual sensitivity and capacity to absorb new development without compromising the scenic character of certain areas (mapped on Figure 4.25). It identified the following:

- Normal Rural Landscapes (generally have the capacity to absorb a wide range of new development forms);
- Sensitive Rural Landscapes (low capacity to absorb new development); and
- Visually Vulnerable Areas (extremely low capacity to absorb new development) and Scenic Routes.

Areas, which are of exceptional value and of international importance, such as the Cuil Irra Peninsula, Carrowkeel and Inishmurray and are highly sensitive to development.

4.13.3 Landscape Designations in Adjacent Counties

County Roscommon borders County Sligo to the south. Roscommon County Council have identified seven Landscape Character Types and 36 Landscape Character Areas within the County. Landscape Character Areas adjacent to County Sligo, include: Lough Allen and Arigna Foothills; Upper Shannon and Derreenannagh Drumlin Belt; Lough Corry Drumlin Basin; Kilglass Drumlin Lakelands; and Slieve Bawn and Feirish Bogland Basin. Other

landscape designations within County Roscommon include Scenic Views and Scenic Routes.

County Leitrim borders County Sligo to the east. Leitrim County Council have identified 17 Landscape Character Types and 14 Landscape Character Areas. Landscape Character Areas adjacent to County Sligo, include: Tullaghan Coast; Tievebaun Uplands; The Northern Glens and Central Lowlands; The Doons and Crackauns; and Corry Mountain. Other landscape designations within County Leitrim include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Areas of High Visual Amenity; Protected Views and; Scenic Routes.

County Mayo borders County Sligo to the west. Mayo County Council have identified 16 Landscape Character Units. Landscape Character Units adjacent to County Sligo, include: North Mayo Drumlins; East Mayo Drumlins; and East-Central Drumlin Spine. Other landscape designations include Area Designations.

4.13.4 Existing Environmental Problems

New developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of lands within the County however legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.

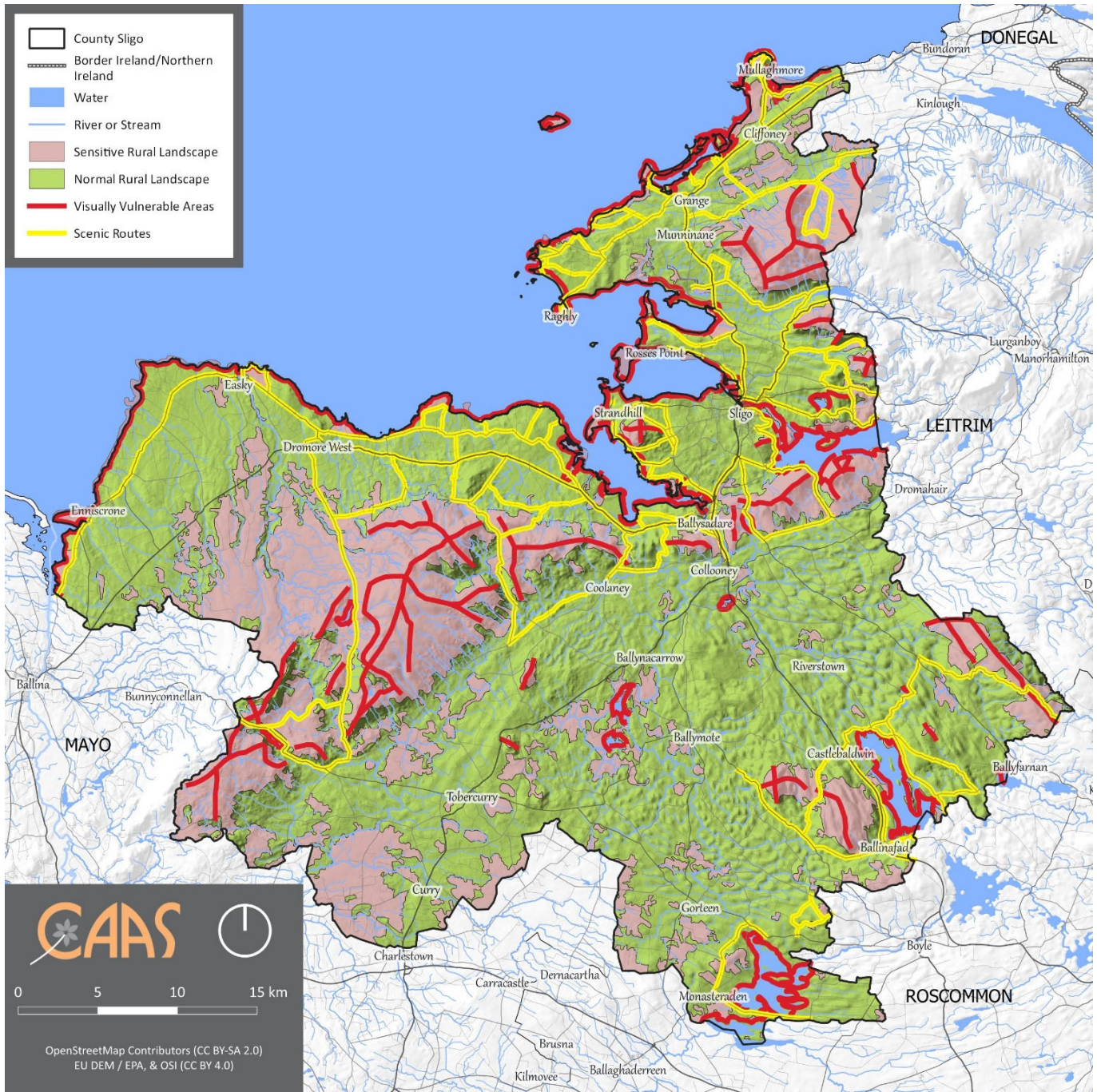


Figure 4.25 Landscape Sensitivity and Designations

4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the County occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other.

Figure 4.26 provides an Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in the County. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity. The map was prepared using Geographical Information System (GIS) software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

- European Sites – SACs and SPAs (10 points);
- Other Ecological designations – NHAs, pNHAs and National Parks (5 points);
- Sensitive Landcover Categories (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface moderate and unassigned ecological status (5 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water poor ecological status (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water bad ecological status (15 points);
- Groundwater vulnerability (aquifers which are extremely vulnerable, 10 points; and highly vulnerable, 5 points);
- Source Protection Areas (Inner Protection Area and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Area, 10 points);
- WFD RPA Rivers and Lakes for Drinking Water (10 points);
- WFD RPA Bathing Water Areas (10 points);
- WFD RPA Shellfish Areas (10 points), Rivers and Surface Water in Shellfish Areas (5 points);
- Salmonid River Regs (S.I. 293 only) (10 points) and River in Salmonid Regs and Surface Waters in Salmonid Regs (5 points);
- Margaritifera Sensitive Areas – Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009 (5 points);
- County Geological Sites (10 points);
- GSI Landslide Susceptibility (High or High Inferred, 10 points; Moderately High or Moderately High Inferred, 5 points);
- Flood Zones: CFRAM Fluvial 0.1% and Coastal 0.1% present day, PFRA Fluvial and Coastal 0.1%, NIFM 0.1% present day (10 points);
- Cultural Heritage including: Architectural Conservation Areas, entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, SMR and RMP Zones of Notification, National Monuments in State Care and entire to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (10 points); and
- Scenic Routes and Visually Vulnerable Views and Sensitive Rural Landscapes (10 points).

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration. However, the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have been integrated into the Plan - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland areas, such as Knocknarea, the Dartry Mountains and the Ox Mountains in the northern half of the County – on account of landscape designations, landslide susceptibility, ecological designations and groundwater vulnerability;
- Lakes throughout the County, including Lough Gara and Lough Arrow, on account of ecological and landscape designations, water status and flood risk;
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the

County's settlements, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;

- Coastal areas and areas adjacent to rivers and streams, on account of ecological and visual sensitivities and elevated levels of flood risk; and
- Extensive areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability throughout the County.

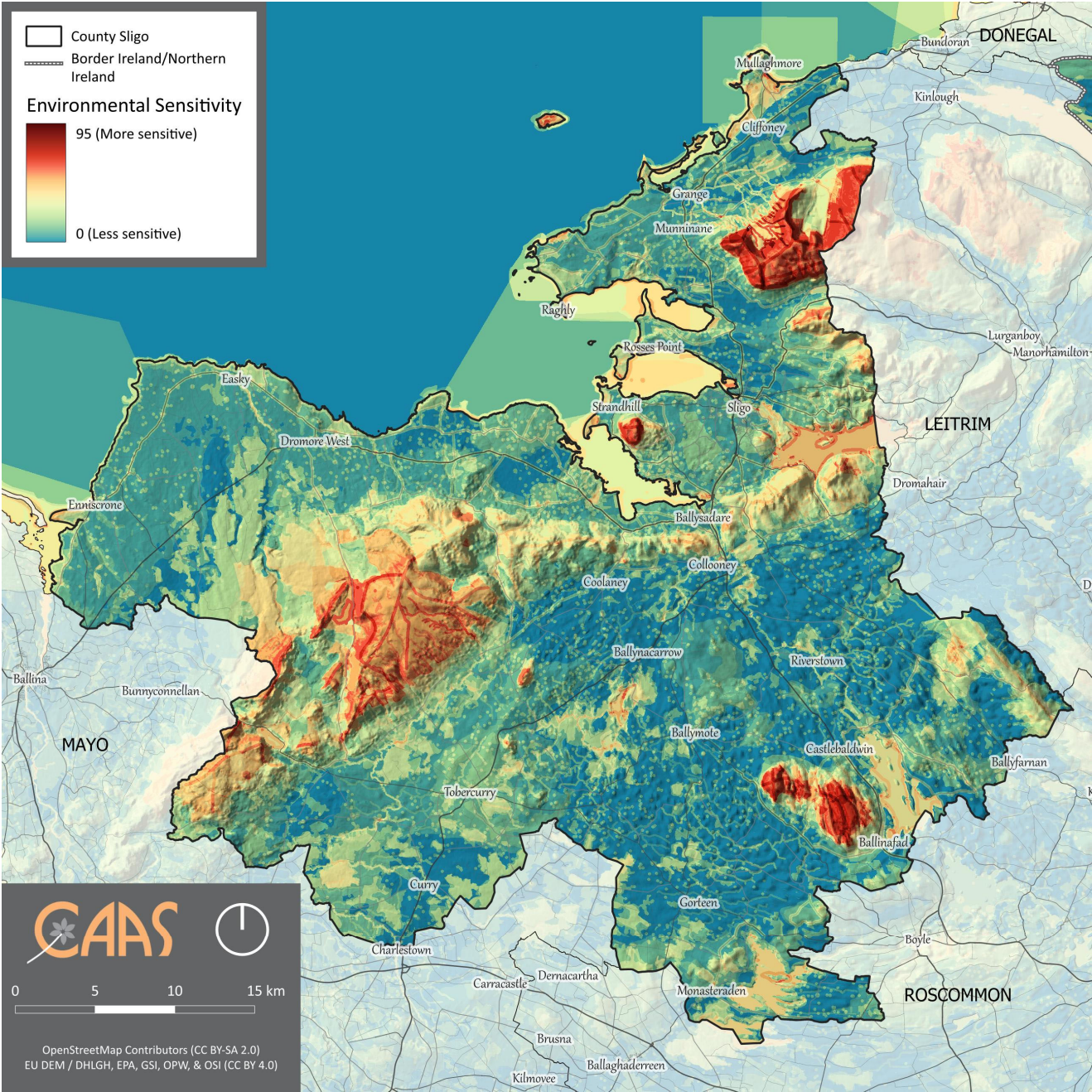


Figure 4.26 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Sligo

Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies that generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level e.g. the environmental protection objectives of various European Directives that have been transposed into Irish law and which are required to be implemented.

The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if – in the case of adverse effects – unmitigated.

The SEOs are linked to indicators which can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of the Plan as well as identifying targets which the Plan can help work towards.

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf.

Further detail on legislation, plans and programmes are provided under Section 2 (and associated Appendix I “Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans, and Programmes”) and Section 4.

Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Northern and Western RSES, the measures identified in the RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs), Indicators and Targets

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Sligo Local Biodiversity Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Sligo Local Biodiversity Action Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. Included under Water below
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 24 "Natural Heritage" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 24 "Natural Heritage"
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 7 "Economic Strategy" and Chapter 28 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 7 "Economic Strategy" and Chapter 28 "Economic Development"
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
			and designated geological sites		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
			including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids		
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency • Promote continuing improvement in air quality • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels • NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels • Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter
Climatic Factors⁸⁹	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels).
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan

⁸⁹ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6 and Appendix I.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

Section 6 Description of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Available reasonable alternatives for the County Development Plan are provided under Types 1 to 5 detailed below. These alternatives are assessed in Section 7.

6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas. In addition, the Development Plan Guidelines (2022) contain a detailed methodology (in Section 4 and Appendix A) for implementing the NPF requirement regarding Infrastructural Assessment (IA) of existing and proposed zoned lands. The Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA), based on the IA, must be the basis of Core Strategy formulations and corresponding zoning decisions for residential development.

6.3 Type 1: Alternatives for positioning in the Settlement Hierarchy

The categories of the Settlement Hierarchy in the Plan area are identified in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Settlement Hierarchy levels in County Sligo

Settlement level	Settlement category	Description
1	Regional Growth Centre	Sligo Town and its immediate Environs, providing services and employment for the population of a very large hinterland
2	Support Towns	Small urban centres able to sustain the County's social and economic development outside Sligo Town
3	RGC Satellite Villages	Commuter villages close to Sligo Town, providing accommodation to a substantial proportion of Sligo Town's workforce
4	Villages with special coastal tourism functions	Villages located along the Wild Atlantic Way, widely recognized for their coastal tourism role
5	Villages sustaining rural communities (served)	A variety of small villages with adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure providing limited services to surrounding rural communities
6	Unserviced villages and dispersed settlement in rural areas	Very small villages without adequate infrastructure and one-off rural houses with individual wastewater treatment systems

In considering realistic alternatives for placing of individual settlements under different typologies, the Planning Authority has taken into consideration their role in providing services and the change in population over the past two decades (2002-2022), in addition to NPF and RSES objectives.

Sligo is a mono-nodal county, dominated by Sligo Town. There is very little scope to consider reasonable alternatives for the lower-level settlements in the hierarchy. Nonetheless, strategic alternatives have been considered for level 2/Support Towns:

Alternative A: Retain the Support Towns designations for Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry, despite relatively low population growth in these towns, compared to Satellite Villages.

Alternative B: Retain the Support Town designation for Tobercurry and designate Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill Support Towns, since their population is higher than that of Ballymote and Enniscrone.

6.4 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Alternative A: Support "Towns-only" growth, i.e. allocate significant proportions of future housing and corresponding additional population to Sligo Town/Regional Growth Centre and to the Support Towns (Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry), and strictly limit growth in Satellite Villages and lower levels.

Alternative B: Driving growth through the Sligo Regional Growth Centre, i.e. allocate the majority of future housing and corresponding additional population to Sligo Town, and a small proportion to the Satellite Villages located within the RGC Strategic Plan Area (as specified in the NWRA RSES).

6.5 Type 3: Alternatives for Rural Settlements

Alternative A: Include specific objectives for serviced villages to support their economic, social and community infrastructure, thereby offering a more attractive alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Alternative B: Designate only development limits for villages, without any provisions targeting economic, social and community infrastructure.

6.6 Type 4: Alternatives for Residential Densities

Alternative A: Apply standard residential densities to lands zoned for housing across the entire County, set at the levels recommended in Chapters 5 and 6 of the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines (2009) for larger towns, smaller towns and villages.

Alternative B: Adopt a tailored approach to residential development by specifying locally appropriate residential densities, to ensure that new development responds to the character, scale and setting of the town or village (as specified in the Circular Letter NRUP 02/2021).

6.7 Type 5: Alternatives for Land-Use Zoning (residential and mixed uses, including residential)

The provisions for land-use zoning introduced by the NPF and Development Plan Guidelines 2022, particularly for residential and mixed uses including residential have severely limited the options previously available to the Planning Authority when preparing town and village plans.

Fixed housing targets (calculated in accordance with the Housing Supply Targets Methodology) and increased density requirements indicate clearly that the amount of land currently (2023) zoned for housing and mixed uses needs to be substantially reduced. Two realistic alternatives have been examined in this regard.

Alternative A: Retain unchanged the extent of land zoned for residential and mixed uses including residential, but introduce a phasing policy, whereby only a specified proportion/area of each zoned site can be developed during the Plan period.

Alternative B: Zone lands for residential and mixed uses based on a scoring system designed e.g., to promote the sequential and compact growth of settlements (using the methodology recommended in the Development Plan Guidelines 2022).

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects⁹⁰ of implementing available alternatives that are described in Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

7.2 Methodology

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 1 and Table 7.1) are used in the assessment of alternatives.

The degree to which effects can be determined is limited as implementation of the Plan will involve assessment, consideration and decision-making associated with lower tier plans and individual projects. Nonetheless a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁹¹

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species • Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function • Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species • Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets • To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management • Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services • Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being

⁹⁰ These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

⁹¹ See also Section 1

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource • Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County • Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency • Promote continuing improvement in air quality • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels
Climatic Factors⁹²	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

⁹² Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6 and Appendix I.

7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

Each of the alternatives would be part of a wider Plan envisaging – in compliance with the robust policy framework in place at national, regional and local level – sustainable development and compact growth in County Sligo generally. As such, common environmental effects (as detailed on Table 7.2) would be present under Plans adopting each of the different alternatives, though to varying degrees.

Table 7.2 Effects common to Plans adopting each of the different alternatives

Environmental Component	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.

Environmental Component	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology⁹³ and protected architecture⁹⁴ arising from construction and operation activities.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

⁹³ Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and underwater archaeology. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

⁹⁴ Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Records of Protected Structures. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

7.3.2 Type 1: Alternatives for positioning in the Settlement Hierarchy

Alternative A would retain the Support Towns designations for Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry, despite relatively low population growth in these towns, compared to Satellite Villages.

Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry are urban centres with multiple functions, capable of providing local employment and a good variety of services not just to their residents, but also to rural communities in their large rural hinterlands. These towns, located in the south, south-west and extreme west of the County, are closer and are more accessible to large numbers of rural dwellers than Sligo Town.

Consolidation of these towns, supporting their economic development and improving their social/community infrastructure would help create additional local jobs and services, thereby reducing their residents' need to commute to Sligo Town for work, school, shopping etc.

Alternative B would retain the Support Town designation for Tobercurry and instead designate Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill Support Towns, since their population is higher than that of Ballymote and Enniscrone.

Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill have seen substantial growth between 2002 and 2022, doubling or even nearly tripling their population – 104%, 190% and 97% respectively.

However, they continue to lack jobs, services and community infrastructure, and function largely as “dormitories” for people who work elsewhere, mostly in Sligo Town. While their designation as Support Towns might help in the provision of suitable community and recreational facilities, it would not be likely to stimulate local jobs creation, given the proximity and competition of Sligo Town.

There are also physical constraints to the further development of these settlements, especially Ballysadare and Strandhill, which are adjoining highly sensitive European sites.

Type 1 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Selected Type 1 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Table 7.3 Assessment of Type 1 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative A: Retain the Support Towns designations for Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Alternative B: Retain the Support Town designation for Tobercurry and designate Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill Support Towns		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L

7.3.3 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Alternative A comprises "Support "Towns-only" growth", i.e. allocate significant proportions of future housing and corresponding additional population to Sligo Town/Regional Growth Centre and to the Support Towns (Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry), and strictly limit growth in Satellite Villages and lower levels.

Under this option, future population and housing would be directed into Sligo Town, Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry, where employment and services can be provided more efficiently.

The existing residential and mixed-use zoning in Ballymote and Enniscrone would be largely retained. Up to 20-23 ha would be zoned in Tobercurry (as per the Draft LAP 2015). All zoning would be subject to infrastructural assessment.

In order to ensure that sufficient housing land is available in the four towns, no sites would be designated for residential development (or mix of uses including residential) outside these urban areas.

Undeveloped lands previously zoned for residential and mixed uses in serviced villages would be zoned "RV" (Rural Village) instead. The flexible "RV" (Rural Village) zoning objective would allow for local housing need to be catered for in villages with adequate service infrastructure, while unserved settlements would not be zoned.

Alternative B comprises "Driving growth through the Sligo Regional Growth Centre", i.e. allocate the majority of future housing and corresponding additional population to Sligo Town, and a small proportion to the Satellite Villages located within the RGC Strategic Plan Area (as specified in the NWRA RSES).

This approach would be the most closely aligned with the RSES, which promotes development in the Sligo Regional Growth Centre and requires a Local Transport Plan for the Sligo RGC Strategic Plan Area. Population and housing growth would be promoted in the area where land-use can be best integrated with public transport and active travel.

While the focus remains on Sligo RGC, there would be reasonable population and housing allocations for the three Support Towns (Ballymote, Enniscrone, Tobercurry), recognising their roles in the Settlement Strategy.

Similar to Alternative A, the flexible "RV" (Rural Village) zoning objective would allow for locally-needed housing and minimal population growth in other villages with adequate service infrastructure, while unserved settlements would not be supported for growth.

Type 2 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Selected Type 2 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Table 7.4 Assessment of Type 2 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative A: Support "Towns-only" growth		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L
Alternative B: Driving growth through the Sligo Regional Growth Centre	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

7.3.4 Type 3: Alternatives for Rural Settlements

Alternative A would include specific objectives for serviced villages to support their economic, social and community infrastructure, thereby offering a more attractive alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Objectives would be provided in Village Plans for small settlements with adequate wastewater treatment system but no specific housing or population allocations.

Objectives would relate to the design of any new village-centre development, the provision or improvement of local infrastructure (e.g. school extensions, parks, walkways etc.), and the protection of significant natural and built heritage.

A flexible RV ("Rural Village") zoning objective would allow for the construction of locally-needed houses, thereby providing an alternative to the construction of isolated rural dwellings served by on-site wastewater treatment systems.

Alternative B would designate only development limits for villages, without any provisions targeting economic, social and community infrastructure.

The purpose of designating development limits would be to encourage the clustering of one-off houses in compact areas, to take advantage of existing wastewater treatment infrastructure or to facilitate their future servicing by Uisce Éireann. However, this alternative would not include specific objectives to support the villages in developing community and recreational facilities, or to protect the natural/built heritage and amenities. As a consequence, these villages would not become more attractive as places to live, and would not be seen as viable alternatives to the open countryside in terms of building individual houses.

Type 3 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Selected Type 3 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

Table 7.5 Assessment of Type 3 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative A: Include specific objectives for serviced villages to support their economic, social and community infrastructure, thereby offering a more attractive alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
Alternative B: Designate only development limits for villages, without any provisions targeting economic, social and community infrastructure		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L

7.3.5 Type 4: Alternatives for Residential Densities

Alternative A would apply standard residential densities to lands zoned for housing across the entire County, set at the levels recommended in Chapters 5 and 6 of the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines (2009) for larger towns, smaller towns and villages.

A key objective of the NPF and RSES is to promote the compact growth of towns and villages by increasing the density of development in existing built-up areas and in new developments, particularly in town centres. This would lead to more efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and services, thereby reducing the need for motorised travel. It is also likely to decrease the amount of open space and residential amenities available to local people.

Alternative B would involve adopting a tailored approach to residential development by specifying locally appropriate residential densities, to ensure that new development responds to the character, scale and setting of the town or village (as specified in the Circular Letter NRUP 02/2021).

Adapting the scale, design and layout of housing in towns and villages would ensure that suburban or high-density urban approaches are not applied to small villages or to settlements where the natural and built heritage would be negatively affected by dense development.

Reducing the attractiveness of small towns and villages by imposing out-of-character, high-density development is likely to stimulate more house-building in the open countryside.

Having regard to the NPF, the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines (2009) and subsequent Circular Letter (2021), the Planning Authority would determine the appropriate average residential density in each town and village subject to land-use zoning.

Type 4 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Selected Type 4 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Table 7.6 Assessment of Type 4 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative A: Standard residential densities		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L
Alternative B: Tailored approach to residential densities	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

7.3.6 Type 5: Alternatives for Land-Use Zoning (residential and mixed uses, including residential)

The provisions for land-use zoning introduced by the NPF and Development Plan Guidelines 2022, particularly for residential and mixed uses, including residential, have severely limited the options previously available to the Planning Authority when preparing town and village plans.

Fixed housing targets (calculated in accordance with the Housing Supply Targets Methodology) and increased density requirements indicate clearly that the amount of land currently (2023) zoned for housing and mixed uses needs to be substantially reduced. Two realistic alternatives have been examined in this regard.

Alternative A would retain unchanged the extent of land zoned for residential and mixed uses including residential, but introduce a phasing policy, whereby only a specified proportion/area of each zoned site can be developed during the Plan period.

Under this approach, lands which have been zoned for residential and mixed uses for more than two iterations of the Development Plan (2011 to present), and which could not be developed because of the economic crisis, Covid-19 pandemic, recent steep rise in energy prices etc., would be given an opportunity to fulfil their potential for development by 2030.

Alternative B would zone lands for residential and mixed uses based on a scoring system designed e.g., to promote the sequential and compact growth of settlements (using the methodology recommended in the Development Plan Guidelines 2022).

This approach would entail an Infrastructural Assessment (IA) and a Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) for each town or village where land is proposed to be zoned.

The IA would consider the availability of transport infrastructure (roads, footpaths, cycleways) and service infrastructure (watermains, foul sewers, surface drainage systems) that would allow the development of lands immediately or during the Plan period.

“Tier 1” (fully serviced) sites resulting from the IA would be subject to a further assessment as part of the SCA. This further evaluation would assign numerical scores to sites, based on criteria grouped under two main headings:

- “Spatially sequential” test – where the main consideration was proximity to the town/village centre (defined as the walking distance to a specified landmark); and
- Availability of social/community/recreational infrastructure in the surrounding area (e.g. primary school, grocery shop, pharmacy, public open space).

Further points would be awarded to sites where planning permission had been previously granted or a Local Authority housing scheme had been approved (“Part 8” development).

In Sligo Town, additional points would also be given to sites that are highlighted in the RSES for their high potential to contribute to the development of the Regional Growth Centre.

Type 5 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

Selected Type 5 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

Table 7.7 Assessment of Type 5 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Alternative	Likely to Improve status of SEOs		Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a Greater degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Lesser degree	to a Greater degree
Alternative A: Retain unchanged the extent of land zoned for residential and mixed uses including residential, but introduce a phasing policy		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L
Alternative B: Zone lands for residential and mixed uses based on a scoring system designed e.g., to promote the sequential and compact growth of settlements	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	

7.4 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

Selected alternatives for the Plan from each of the tiers of alternatives that emerged from the planning/SEA process are indicated above.

These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which are identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered.

Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

8.1 Introduction

This section provides an assessment of environmental effects using the information on the current state of the environment (provided in Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 8.1) from implementation of the Plan. The degree of significance of effects occurring cannot be fully determined at this level of decision making due to the lack of exact detail available with regard to the type or scale of development that will be permitted under the Plan. However, a strategic assessment can be undertaken.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives⁹⁵

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication

⁹⁵ See also Section 5

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels
Climatic Factors	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

8.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are one of the types of effects which have been considered by the assessment of the alternatives. Cumulative effects can be described as the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact. There are two types of potential cumulative effects that have been considered, namely:

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities (such as those identified under Section 4), future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.5 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.2.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.5 (and associated Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes"), Section 4 and Section 1. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, adjoining County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans);
- Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Climate Policy Position and Climate Action 2014, Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, Climate Action Plan 2024, the National Adaptation Framework 2024, and the Sligo Climate Action Plan 2024);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Uisce Éireann's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:
 - Sustainable compact growth;
 - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
 - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
 - Renewable energy; and
 - Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green and blue infrastructure.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of, for example, housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to green and blue infrastructure, including beyond the County border;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects is consistent with those described on Table 8.2. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

These effects would have the potential, if unmitigated, if they occurred, to result in changes in the environment within and beyond County Sligo.

A variety of the issues covered by the Plan provisions are regional issues which are considered: at Regional Assembly level, in the Northern and Western RSES and by planning authorities across the Region. The solutions to these issues are often regional solutions which are subject their own consenting procedures. Works arising outside of the Plan as a result of providing for new development within the County including those arising as a result of the cumulative provision of development in the wider Northern and Western region would potentially conflict with a number of environmental components, across the wider Northern and Western region and beyond, including: ecology, soil function, the status of water bodies and the landscape. Some of these conflicts would be mitigated by measures which will be integrated into the Plan while some will be mitigated by measures arising out of separate consent procedures.

8.3 Overall Evaluation

Sligo County Council have integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes into the Plan (see Section 9). Table 8.2 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, considering mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan – see Section 9.

Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation – Effects arising from the Plan

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. • Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. • Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. • Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere. • Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. • Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. • Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. • Riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere. • Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. • Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. • Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere. • Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. • Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. • Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. • Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. • Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. • Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere. • In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable compact growth; ○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; ○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; ○ Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and ○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. • Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur		Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology⁹⁶ and protected architecture⁹⁷ arising from construction and operation activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.

⁹⁶ Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and underwater archaeology. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

⁹⁷ Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Records of Protected Structures. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

8.4 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

The Plan, considered as a whole, contributes towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development and complies with various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation.

Various Plan provisions that would contribute towards the sustainable development of the County would, at the same time, have the potential to conflict with the environment, were mitigation measures not taken into account. This is normal and mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to deal with these potential effects.

However, a number of alterations were adopted by the Elected Members as part of the Plan that are somewhat inconsistent with the overall approach provided for by the Plan, including those which are identified on Table 8.3. Also included on this table is the advice that was provided by the SEA for consideration in advance of adoption of the Plan.

Table 8.3 Alterations Advised Against but Adopted

Proposed Amendment No's.	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption, including
PA-50 PAZ-9 PAZ-10 PAZ-11 PAZ-12 PAZ-13 PAZ-14 PAZ-16 PAZ-21 PAZ-22 PAZ-31 PAZ-32 PAZ-33 PAZ-35 PAZ-40 PAZ-41 PAZ-42 PAZ-43 PAZ-44 PAZ-45 PAZ-46 PAZ-55 PAZ-56 PAZ-57 PAZ-58 PAZ-60 PAZ-64 PAZ-66 PAZ-73 PAZ-81 PAZ-84 PAZ-85	This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and would have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.

Proposed Amendment No's.	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption, including
PAZ-15 PAZ-34 PAZ-62 PAZ-76	<p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and would have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies. <p>In addition, part of the undeveloped lands proposed to be zoned by this Proposed Amendment overlaps with Flood Zones A/B and would fail the Justification Test under the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines. However, the "Limitations related to Flood Risk Zones" at Chapter 10.5.4 "Land-use Zoning Matrix" of the Draft Plan would ensure that development is limited in these areas.</p>
PAZ-18 PAZ-63 PAZ-79 PAZ-80	<p>Part of the undeveloped lands proposed to be zoned by this Proposed Amendment overlaps with Flood Zones A/B and would fail the Justification Test under the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines. However, the "Limitations related to Flood Risk Zones" at Chapter 10.5.4 "Land-use Zoning Matrix" of the Draft Plan would ensure that development is limited in these areas.</p>

8.5 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network⁹⁸.

SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2009) and associated Government Circular PL2/2014. Various recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan.

Various policies and objectives have been integrated into the Plan through the SEA, SFRA and AA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

8.6 Integration of Climate Action into the Plan

The Plan will contribute towards climate action in combination with:

- The Climate Action Plan that identifies various climate mitigation and/or adaptation actions.
- The National Planning Framework, which has identified National Strategic Outcome Objectives 8 "Build Climate Resilience" and 9 "Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy" under National Strategic Outcome 8 "Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society".

⁹⁸ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

(a) no alternative solution available;
(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan/programme/project to proceed; and
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

- The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that has identified various Regional Policy Objectives relating to climate action, including:
 - RPO 4.16 The NWRA shall co-ordinate the identification of potential renewable energy sites of scale in collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders within 3 years of the adoption of the RSES. The identification of such sites (which may extend to include energy storage solutions) will be based on numerous site selection criteria including environmental matters, and potential grid connections.
 - RPO 4.17 To position the region to avail of the emerging global market in renewable energy by: Stimulating the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy systems; Supporting research and innovation; Encouraging skills development and transferability; Raising awareness and public understanding of renewable energy and encourage market opportunities for the renewable energy industry to promote the development and growth of renewable energy businesses; Encourage the development of the transmission and distribution grids to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects and the effective utilisation of the energy generated from renewable sources having regard to the future potential of the region over the lifetime of the Strategy and beyond.
 - RPO 4.18 Support the development of secure, reliable and safe supplies of renewable energy, to maximise their value, maintain the inward investment, support indigenous industry and create jobs.
 - RPO 4.20 Support and encourage the development of the bio-economy sector, and facilitate its development for energy production, heat, and storage distribution, in particular advocating Combined Heat and Power Units integrated into District Heating networks, in combination with Pyrogenic Carbon Capture and Storage or Bio-Energy Carbon capture and storage all to be done in collaboration with EPA and other regulators.
 - RPO 4.21 Promote innovative new building design and retrofitting of existing buildings, both private properties, and publicly owned, to improve building energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources following National Regulations, and Policy.
 - RPO 5.1 The Assembly will support through CARO and Local Authorities the preparation and implementation of Local Climate Strategies which will, inter alia, address vulnerability to climate risks and provide prioritised actions in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework.
 - RPO 6.51 Promote values and policies that make it easy to commute between home, work and school across the region in a way that contributes to a healthy, attractive and climate-friendly region.

Progressing climate action is a priority for the County Development Plan which will be done through a Climate Strategy which incorporates national and regional policy through an approach which includes mitigation and adaptation. These two components of climate action are critical in order to build resilience and adapt to the changing climate in a planned and structured way.

Detail on climate action effects from the various Plan Volumes are identified on Table 8.4 overleaf, which is also included in the Plan's Climate Action Strategy (Chapter 2 of the Plan).

Table 8.4 Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Effects

Development Plan Volume	Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Effects of Development Plan provisions
Volume 1 – Core Strategy Including chapters on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Settlement Strategy, – Housing Strategy, – Economic Strategy, – Transport Strategy 	The preferred spatial development option was selected as part of this SEA, which has considered climate action interactions. The preferred option integrates land-use and transport in a manner that seeks to reinforce the existing settlement structure, focusing on the Regional Growth Centre, enhanced public transport and active travel provisions with consequent greenhouse gas emission reductions.
Volume 2 – Urban Development Including Sligo Town Plan and similar land-use plans for Support Towns, Satellite Villages and Villages with Special Coastal Tourism Functions	Settlement consolidation, compact housing and economic growth, regeneration and reuse of brownfield lands – all these measures support energy efficiency and a reduction in traffic-related greenhouse gas emissions.
Volume 3 – General Development Policies Including chapters on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Natural heritage – Residential, community, economic development – Transport, water, energy infrastructure – Flood risk management 	A safe and climate-resilient living environment can be created through energy-efficient design and layout of buildings, appropriate mix of uses, densities, height and the sensitive integration of the natural and built environment. Locating homes close to workplaces, services, amenity and leisure facilities reduces the need to travel by car and can result in significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Promotion of sustainable travel modes and patterns contributes to emission reductions. The preservation of a robust green infrastructure network and the use of nature-based solutions for urban rainwater drainage contribute directly to carbon sequestration and water quality improvements, in addition to decreasing flood risk to settlements.
Volume 4 – Village development Including plans for Villages Sustaining Rural Communities	The principles of consolidation, regeneration and compact development are applied to villages, supporting energy and resource efficiency, with consequent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and protection of the rural/natural environment.

8.7 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.5.

Table 8.5 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components

Component	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air and Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Population and Human Health			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Soil				Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Water					No	Yes	No	No
Air and Climatic Factors						Yes	No	No
Material Assets							Yes	Yes
Cultural Heritage								Yes
Landscape								

8.8 Detailed Evaluation

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 95.

The following applies to each of the sub-sections 8.8.1 to 8.8.22 below:

The Plan is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.5 "*Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes*" in this report).

These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and already provide for various measures that have been compiled into the Plan. The Plan aligns with these documents and will be incorporated into the review and preparation of these documents.

Lower tier plans and projects must be consistent and comply with the provisions of the Plan and of these other policies, plans etc. and will be subject to their own project level EIA and AA requirements as relevant. An assessment of cumulative effects is provided at Section 8.2 of this report.

8.8.1 Chapter 1: Introduction

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the introduction for the Plan, including identifying the Vision for Sligo in 2030 from the "Sligo 2030: One voice, One vision – Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2030". The assessment of the Plan's introductory chapter, including the Vision for Sligo in 2030 from the "Sligo 2030: One voice, One vision – Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2030", against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The Vision identified in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>As detailed in this chapter, the Council have chosen an option for the Plan that would see the majority of population accommodated in the Sligo Town and its Satellite Villages located within the RGC Strategic Plan area. This approach would be the most closely aligned with the RSES, which promotes development in the Sligo Regional Growth Centre and requires a Local Transport Plan for the Sligo RGC Strategic Plan Area. Population and housing growth would be promoted in the area where land-use can be best integrated with public transport and active travel. While the focus remains on Sligo Town, there would be suitable population and housing allocations for the three Support Towns (Ballymote, Enniscrone, Tobercurry), recognising their roles in the Settlement Strategy. A flexible Rural Village zoning objective would allow for locally-needed housing in the remaining villages with adequate service infrastructure, while unserved settlements would not be zoned.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. 	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.2 Chapter 2: Climate Action Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's Climate Action Strategy. The assessment of the Climate Action Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Section 8.5 of this report including Table 8.2 "Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Effects" provides details on how climate action has been integrated into the Plan.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.3 Chapter 3: Core Strategy Statement

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's Core Strategy Statement. The assessment of the Core Strategy Statement against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>As detailed in this chapter, in accordance with National Planning Framework requirements, the Planning Authority has carried out an Infrastructural Assessment of the existing undeveloped zoned lands in towns and villages which currently (2023) have land-use plans in place. The assessment considered the availability of service infrastructure (watermains, foul sewers, surface drainage systems) and transport infrastructure (roads, footpaths, cycle lanes) that would allow the development of lands immediately or during the Plan period. The Tier 1 sites resulting from the Infrastructural Assessment have been subject to a further examination as part of the Settlement Capacity Audits for relevant settlements. The outcome of the Infrastructural Assessment and Settlement Capacity Audits confirmed that there is an excess of fully serviced, undeveloped, zoned land in Sligo Town and County. In the interest of achieving compact growth, it was decided to retain the most suitable (highest-scoring) sites for future residential (and mixed-use) development and designate them as Settlement Consolidation Sites and - in Sligo Town only – Infill Sites. In accordance with the Development Plan Guidelines (2022), which recommend that zoned and serviced housing land should not be subject to de-zoning, less centrally-located lands with live planning permission for residential development were designated as Additional Provision sites.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.4 Chapter 4: Sligo Regional Growth Centre

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's provisions for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre. Section 3.7(c) of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes a Regional Growth Centre Strategic Plan for Sligo, seeking to ensure that the place grows as a successful population, employment and service centre which is "enterprising, inclusive, resilient and environmentally sustainable". The Regional Growth Centre Strategic Plan contains fifteen regional policy objectives grouped under three strategic goals identified as "Compact Growth", "Enterprising Sligo" and "Liveable Sligo". This chapter helps to integrate these goals into the Plan. In order to achieve the desired population and employment growth, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy lists key infrastructure projects that need to be delivered and this chapter supports these.</p> <p>The assessment of the provisions for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.5 Chapter 5: Settlement Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's Settlement Strategy, which provides local direction on the desired future development of all urban and rural settlements, including rural areas. The Plan supports the development of Sligo Town by seeking to defuse the pressure for additional housing in rural areas close to Sligo and Environs. At the same time, the Plan acknowledges that it is necessary to accommodate those applicants with a genuine need to live in a rural area, which must be demonstrated at planning application stage. Outside development limits identified for towns and villages, Green Belts have been designated for the purposes of preventing urban sprawl and preserving the visual identity of Sligo's towns and villages.</p> <p>The assessment of the Settlement Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.6 Chapter 6: Housing Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's Housing Strategy, summarising the prescribed contents, including identified trends, social housing requirements and housing land provision recommended in the Housing Strategy document. It also contains the strategic housing policies of the Council. A commitment is provided to monitor residential development and manage the supply of new housing to ensure that it is consistent with the requirements of the Core Strategy and the infrastructural capacity of each of the County's settlements.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Housing Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.7 Chapter 7: Economic Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's Economic Strategy, which focuses on the spatial elements of economic activity in County Sligo. The Strategy is consistent with the provisions of both the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Sligo 2030 strategic framework, which also acts as the County's statutory Local Economic and Community Plan. This chapter of the Plan includes strategic policies for economic development.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Housing Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.8 Chapter 8: Retail Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Council's strategy for retail development by 2030 in terms of hierarchy and guidance on the location and scale. Complementary policies and objectives relating to urban regeneration, public realm interventions and mobility management measures are included in Volume 2. Relevant criteria for assessing retail development proposals are specified in Chapter 33 Development management standards.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Retail Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.9 Chapter 9: Transport Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's Transport Strategy. As detailed in the Plan, it is the Council's aim to support the provision and maintenance of an effective, sustainable and accessible transport system, integrated with land-use planning. The Development Plan provides the local framework for investment in transport infrastructure to ensure economic growth, expanded employment opportunities, reduced commuting times, more sustainable communities and enhanced quality of life through improved connectivity within and between the settlements. A Local Transport Plan, consistent with existing transport policy, including at regional level in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, accompanies the Plan and will provide a basis for transport strategies and interventions over the six-year County Development Plan period. Most of the interventions identified within the Local Transport Plan target Sligo Town and its Environs and these will be subject to further consideration during the preparation of a Local Area Plan for the town. Chapter 29 "Transport Infrastructure" of the Plan includes transport/mobility policies and objectives that reflect the proposals contained in the Local Transport Plan as have the chapters dealing with the County's towns and villages as relevant.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Transport Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.10 Chapter 10-22: Urban Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>These Chapters provide for urban development for the settlements of Sligo Town, Ballymote, Enniscrone, Tobbercurry, Ballysadare, Collooney, Coolaney, Grange, Strandhill, Easky, Mullaghmore and Rosses Point.</p> <p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in these chapters would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Each settlement is defined by a development boundary, wherein development is generally encouraged in an orderly sequential manner outward from the core area. This pattern of development will maximise the utility of existing and future infrastructure provision in a manner that promotes sustainability, active travel and makes more efficient use of underutilised lands. The provisions of these chapters will guide development to the right location and ensure that the development takes places in a coordinated and coherent way, while protecting the built and natural environment of each settlement.</p> <p>Environmental considerations were integrated into the land use zoning through an interdisciplinary approach involving Planners and environmental specialists. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA process facilitated zoning that avoids impacts upon sensitive ecology and European Sites. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan, including the provisions for these settlements, will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of European Sites⁹⁹. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated 	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

⁹⁹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<p>zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated flood risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planning team also took into account other environmental considerations including sustainable mobility and sensitivities relating to cultural heritage, landscape and water as detailed in Section 4 of this report. <p>There are a wide range of land use types identified under most of the Land Use Zoning Objectives. Proposals for development will need to demonstrate compliance with the various written provisions of the Plan, as relevant, including those relating to environmental protection and management. Environmental considerations, such as those related to elevated levels of flood risk or ecological sensitivities may limit the types of uses that may be possible at certain sites.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in these Chapters of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

8.8.11 Chapter 23: Landscape Character

	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs	Potential <u>Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <u>Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<u>No Likely</u> interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The focus of the provisions in this chapter is the preservation of the character of the landscape and the preservation of views and prospects. A Landscape Character map, available separate to this Chapter, classifies the County according to its visual sensitivity and capacity to absorb new development without compromising the scenic character of certain areas. Appended to the Plan is a list of roads designated as Scenic Routes and details of scenic views to be preserved.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's landscape character provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

8.8.12 Chapter 24: Natural Heritage

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The focus of the provisions in this chapter is the protection and management of the County's natural heritage (including biodiversity, water, soil and landscape). Strong provisions are included for the conservation of biodiversity within and outside of designated sites, woodlands, trees and hedgerows, invasive species, geological heritage sites, inland waters and water quality. The Plan requires that applications for development must demonstrate that such proposed development would not adversely affect the ability of any water body to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually (as a result of the proposed development) or cumulatively (in combination with other developments).</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's natural heritage provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes,</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

8.8.13 Chapter 25: Built Heritage

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The focus of the provisions in this chapter is the protection and management of the County’s built heritage (including archaeological heritage and architectural heritage). An objective is included to support the State in the nomination process of ‘The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo’ to UNESCO World Heritage status, in co-operation with relevant State agencies and key stakeholders.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s built heritage provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

8.8.14 Chapter 26: Residential Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter focuses on the provision of sustainable residential development that delivers a good quality of life, minimises the need to use cars for daily activities, supports older persons and those with disabilities, and enables the creation of well-functioning communities. The assessment of the Plan's residential development provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.15 Chapter 27: Community and Social Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter focuses on improving existing community and social infrastructure facilities and making adequate provisions for the development of new facilities. The assessment of the Plan's community and social infrastructure provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

8.8.16 Chapter 28: Economic Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's economic development provisions and is consistent with the provisions of both the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Sligo 2030 strategic framework, which also acts as the County's statutory Local Economic and Community Plan.</p> <p>The assessment of the economic development provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Business, industry and enterprise policies integrate policies for protecting character and amenity areas and the Plan identifies that the Council will comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents. Any proposal for a Seveso development will be considered only in low-risk locations, within acceptable distances from relevant environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>Provisions for economic activities in rural areas have integrated various environmental requirements. The Policy for sustainable fishing, aquaculture and mariculture requires compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, the provisions of the EC (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes. Agriculture, forestry and access to forestry for amenity would contribute towards the sustenance of rural populations and can improve the biodiversity value of the countryside. Depending on how it is developed, forestry has the potential to adversely affect various environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna, water and human health, the landscape. Agriculture is a source of waste and emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter can have significant effects on water, soil, water, biodiversity and human health. An extractive industry is essential for sustainable development however it presents the potential for significant adverse environmental effects to arise. Land use activities and developments relating to tourism are provided for that would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors and associated potential adverse effects. Such effects would include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, including tourism. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, energy, access or accommodation. Mobility has the potential to impact upon emissions, energy usage and infrastructural capacity. Accommodation and hospitality has the potential to impact upon land-take, water service capacity and water resources, energy usage. Tourism activities and products, especially in areas outside of settlements, have the potential to impact upon ecology, heritage, water and the landscape. Mitigation referencing various environmental components is provided for in relation to all of these</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

activities.				
<p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

8.8.17 Chapter 29: Transport Infrastructure

	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs	Potential <u>Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable <u>Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	<u>No Likely</u> interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan’s provisions on transport infrastructure. As detailed in the Plan, it is the Council’s aim to support the provision and maintenance of an effective, sustainable and accessible transport system, integrated with land-use planning. The Development Plan provides the local framework for investment in transport infrastructure to ensure economic growth, expanded employment opportunities, reduced commuting times, more sustainable communities and enhanced quality of life through improved connectivity within and between the settlements. A Local Transport Plan, consistent with existing transport policy, including at regional level in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, accompanies the Plan and will provide a basis for transport strategies and interventions over the six-year County Development Plan period. Most of the interventions identified within the Local Transport Plan target Sligo Town and its Environs and these will be subject to further consideration during the preparation of a Local Area Plan for the town. Chapter 29 “Transport Infrastructure” of the Plan includes transport/mobility policies and objectives that reflect the proposals contained in the Local Transport Plan as have the chapters dealing with the County’s towns and villages as relevant.</p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Transport Infrastructure provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes,</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

Transport infrastructure and services related provisions, including those from the Local Transport Plan, would contribute towards the planning framework for the future development of sustainable transport and movement within and beyond the Plan area, in combination with the implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans and programmes. Many of these provisions would primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health. The facilitation of journeys by car, in particular, would give rise to emissions to air. Plan references various projects that are provided for by higher level plans and programmes.

As identified in Chapter 29, the identification of transport infrastructure proposals in this Plan (including locations/routes and any associated mapping), that is not already permitted or provided for by other existing plans or programmes, is non-binding and indicative. New transport infrastructure will be considered subject to environmental constraints, including those related to potential impacts on habitats. This will include minimising river crossings, avoiding sensitive habitats and disturbance from lighting, not increasing barriers to flood waters, and sustainable design and construction techniques.

The Plan requires applications for transport infrastructure projects, including greenways and blueways, that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes or are not already permitted, to demonstrate that they have been subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities and objectives relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, and where appropriate, applications for transport infrastructure projects shall demonstrate that they have been subject to a Corridor and Route Selection Process undertaken in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.

By promoting sustainable mobility initiatives, the Development Plan will contribute towards a reduction in exposure to pollution from emissions to air, including unacceptable noise levels from traffic. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements, including those relating emissions to air and noise.

The development of new greenways, blueways and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Sligo, adjoining counties and beyond, has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.8.18 Chapter 30: Water Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>This chapter sets out the Plan's provisions on water infrastructure. The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Provisions relating to water supply, wastewater and surface water drainage would, by protecting water resources, providing safe drinking water and appropriately treating waste water, contribute towards the protection of various environmental components including: human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, the status of waters, flood risk management and soil. There would be potential for significant adverse environmental effects upon various environmental components to arise during construction of water services infrastructure. Such potential significant adverse effects could also arise during operation: the protection of human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the status of waters, could all be conflicted with by outflows and abstractions. Mitigation has been integrated throughout these provisions to address these effects, for example, P-WS-6 provides that "Proposals relating to water abstractions shall be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and with the Water Framework Directive".</p> <p>Outside serviced towns and villages, much of the wastewater produced is treated and disposed of on-site by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary effluent treatment systems (PETS). It is essential that these systems are properly designed, installed and maintained to avoid environmental pollution. Provisions to make sure that this is required are included under "Wastewater management in rural areas".</p> <p>Sustainable (urban) Drainage Systems can contribute towards the maintenance and improvement in the status of water bodies and flood risk management and positively interact with other environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and 	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>	<p>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</p>		

- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

8.8.19 Chapter 31: Energy and Telecommunications

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The assessment of the Plan's energy and telecommunications provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Supporting the sustainable development, maintenance and upgrading of electricity and gas infrastructure contributes towards the framework for the development of energy. These provisions would contribute towards achieving various government objectives and targets including those relating to climate mitigation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of energy to be consumed from renewable sources. The development of renewable energy would have the potential to adversely impact upon the environment, if unmitigated. Further general commentary on the types of potential effects arising from certain renewable energy types is provided below.</p> <p>Renewable energy provisions would contribute towards achieving various government objectives and targets, including those relating to climate mitigation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of energy to be consumed from renewable sources. The development of renewable energy would also have the potential to adversely impact upon the environment, if unmitigated.</p> <p>Wind Energy Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential impacts include those associated with construction and operation of the turbines and ancillary facilities and infrastructure (including 	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>roads and electrical infrastructure)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential human health impact: shadow flicker, noise, and impacts arising from landslides • Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna including birdlife • Potential loss of soil/subsoil/geological stability, including peat slippage • Potential erosion of peatlands as a result of wind farm and ancillary infrastructure (e.g. roads) development, alone and in combination with forestry • Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology and changes to drainage • Potential impacts on water status during construction – this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity • Potential impacts upon the context of protected archaeological and architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – as well as unknown archaeological heritage • Potential impacts upon traffic during construction due to transportation of turbine components • Changes to the character of areas would be likely to occur however visual impacts would depend on various factors including the size, number and spacing of the turbines, perception of the relevant areas and any cumulative effect arising from multiple wind farms <p>Hydroelectric power</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the scale and location of the development there is potential for impacts to occur on biodiversity, in particular aquatic biodiversity • Potential to impact upon the morphological, biological and chemical status of waters - this could interact with drinking water sources (in freshwater) and biodiversity • Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology • Operation could impact upon flood risk elsewhere • Potential impacts upon archaeological heritage or nearby architectural heritage, including context • Changes to the character of locations may occur however visual impacts would depend upon, inter alia, the size of the installation, ancillary facilities and the perception and visibility of the relevant area <p>Bio-Energy</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets. Can provide for the use of agricultural and other wastes</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna arising from changes in vegetation. Soil structure may also be impacted upon. • Changes in farming practices may lead to changes in drainage and runoff which could impact upon biological and chemical status of waters - this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity • Potential human health impact: odour and noise from operation of plants • Potential impacts upon traffic during operation due to transportation of fuel to plants • Fuels derived from bio-mass still produce emissions however these are less than those derived from fossil fuels • Changes to the land cover of areas could occur however visual impacts would depend on perception of the relevant area; • Biomass plants may have visual impacts - these would depend on perception of the relevant area <p>Solar Energy</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts on architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – at micro scale • Potential impacts on habitats and species and micro scale • Large scale installations may have visual impacts – these would depend on perception of the relevant area -, however these are unlikely to be provided for 				
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

<p>Geothermal Energy</p> <p>Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets.</p> <p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential impacts upon the status of waters and ecology contained within, especially arising from changes in the temperature of groundwater which can impact upon the structure and ecology of the aquifer and any dependent surface waters - this could interact with drinking water sources Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology Potential impacts upon archaeology, including unknown underground archaeology Potential impacts upon on site water services Potential impacts upon context of archaeological and architectural heritage arising from surface installation <p>Telecommunications developments have the potential to result in significant adverse effects. Some of these types of developments require significant levels of energy to operate. Mitigation relating to the design, safety and the mitigation of intrusive impacts, including with respect to the landscape and Scenic Routes, is integrated into Chapter 33 Development Management Standards.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

8.8.20 Chapter 32: Flood Risk and Coastal Protection

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The assessment of the Plan's flood risk and coastal protection provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO's BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

<p>The provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Flood risk and coastal protection provisions would contribute towards the protection and management of human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, water status and existing infrastructure and services.</p> <p>The construction of flood risk and coastal protection has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas and adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams and along the coast. Potential adverse effects will be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments.</p> <p>Sustainable (urban) Drainage Systems can contribute towards the maintenance and improvement in the status of water bodies and flood risk management and positively interact with other environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Various provisions in this chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

8.8.21 Chapter 33: Development Management Standards

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
	+	-	-	0
<p>The focus of most of the Plan's development management standards is the protection and management of the County's environment and the achievement of proper planning and sustainable development. The assessment of these standards against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO's BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and • Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
These Chapters provide for village developments for Villages Sustaining Rural Communities (Aclare, Ballinacarrow, Ballinafad, Ballincar, Ballintogher, Bellaghy, Bunnanadden, Carney, Castlebaldwin, Cliffony, Cloonacool, Culfadda, Curry, Dromore West, Drumcliff, Geevagh, Gorteen, Monasteraden and Riverstown) and for unserviced villages (Ballygawley, Banada, Ransboro, Rathcormack and Tourlestrane) and rural areas.	+	-	-	0
<p>The assessment of these provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.6 of this report; and Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report. <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development will be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in these chapters would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential</p>	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		

adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Sligo County Council is helping to ensure that:

- The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and
- The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.

Various provisions in these Chapters of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Various environmental sensitivities and issues have been communicated to the Council through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. By integrating all related recommendations into the Plan, the Council have ensured that both the beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan have been and will be maximised and that potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Mitigation was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

9.2 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of the submission of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and adoption of the Plan, Sligo County Council undertook various research in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions, including those relating to:

- Climate Action;
- Core Strategy;
- Sligo Growth Centre;
- Settlement Strategy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Economic Strategy;
- Retail Strategy; and
- Transport Strategy.

9.3 Consideration of Alternatives

Although strategic alternatives in relation to the content of the Plan were significantly limited for the Plan (see Section 6), as part of the Plan preparation/SEA process, the Planning Department considered a number of alternatives for the Plan.

These alternatives were assessed by the SEA process (see Section 7) and the findings of this assessment informed the selection of preferred alternatives, facilitating an informed choice with respect to the type of Plan that was prepared and placed on public display.

9.4 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan's zoning through an interdisciplinary approach.

Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES.

The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input seeks to facilitate zoning that will, in general, help to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated sensitivity, such as in areas at risk of flooding or ecological sensitivity. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan that provide for flood risk management and ecological protection and management at project level.

Also considered were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

9.5 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

Various provisions have been integrated into the text of the Plan through the Plan-preparation and SEA, SFRA and AA processes. Both the Planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation which was developed over multiple iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Table 9.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could help to minimise flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan¹⁰⁰

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Various	Various	<p>Various Development Management Standards from Chapter 33 of the Plan</p> <p>SP-S-7 Prevent inappropriate development around towns and villages by establishing Green Belts which shall serve the following general purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consolidate the settlements within development limits and retain their visual identity distinct from the surrounding countryside; reserve land for future planned expansion of settlements and for the provision of major infrastructure (e.g. transport). <p>SO-HOU-2 Monitor residential development and manage the supply of new housing to ensure that it is consistent with the requirements of the Core Strategy and the infrastructural capacity of each settlement.</p> <p>P-DHOU-1 Encourage the renovation and reuse of derelict houses and consider proposals for replacement houses on their merits. The structures proposed for renovation or replacement should be generally intact and exhibit the main characteristics of a dwelling. The location, siting and design of any such replacement house shall reflect those of the existing derelict dwelling. Where vernacular non-residential buildings are located on the same site, consideration should be given to their retention or incorporation into any proposed development.</p> <p>P-DHOU-2 Generally require the retention and restoration of vernacular dwellings of local architectural, cultural or social significance. Demolition and replacement of vernacular houses will be considered only where it is clearly demonstrated, by way of a suitably qualified engineer's or architect's report, that the building cannot be made structurally sound through reasonable measures.</p> <p>P-RED-1 Facilitate farm diversification and the development of rural resource-based enterprise (such as organic farming, equestrian activities, bird watching, biomass and energy production, poultry, mushroom growing, flower growing etc.), subject to normal planning considerations and the protection of the environment. Where a proposed development needs to locate near an existing natural resource, it will be necessary to demonstrate that it can be accommodated without damage to the environment, natural or built heritage, visual amenity, and that it will not have a negative impact on the character of the area. The proposal shall also demonstrate that it does not conflict with the requirement to safeguard the strategic function, safety and investment in the strategic national road network to date, and is in compliance with the provisions of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).</p> <p>P-RED-2 Adopt a flexible approach to proposals for complementary economic enterprises undertaken to supplement income from farming. Such enterprises may be established at existing farm locations, subject to appropriate scale and intensity of development, having regard to traffic, environmental, landscape and residential amenity considerations. Where the enterprise is not dependent on a rural location, and the scale and intensity grow beyond family or personal income needs, it will be required, where appropriate, to relocate to a nearby town or village.</p> <p>P-RED-3 Facilitate remote working by rural dwellers who are not farmers, subject to normal planning considerations. Such activities would generally involve (but are not limited to) providers of professional services whose work can be carried out from a home office using high-speed broadband.</p> <p>P-RED-4 Encourage the growth or expansion of existing rural based or well-established small-scale industry and enterprise in rural County Sligo. Where an existing rural-based enterprise proposes to expand in its current location, it will be necessary to demonstrate that such expansion can be accommodated without damage to the environment, natural or built heritage, human health, visual and residential amenity, and that it will not have a negative impact on the character of the area.</p> <p>P-FOR-1 Support sustainable forestry development in County Sligo, subject to the protection of scenic landscapes and views, water quality, heritage features, residential amenity and public safety.</p> <p>P-FOR-2 Discourage new forestry development, except for broadleaf, in proposed/candidate and adopted NHAs, SACs and SPAs, in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, along designated Scenic Routes and in water quality-sensitive areas. (Broadleaf forestry will be open to consideration in these areas and in all proposed and adopted NHAs, SPAs and SACs, will be subject to consultation with the DECLG and shall have regard to any management plans prepared by the Department.)</p> <p>P-FOR-3 Require identification of existing rights-of-way and established walking routes before planting commences. Forestry should not obstruct existing rights-of-way, traditional walking routes, recreational and tourism facilities.</p> <p>P-AMF-1 Facilitate sustainable fishing, aquaculture and mariculture development associated with job creation, in a manner that is compatible with other uses of the Sligo coast, and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, the provisions of the EC (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes.</p>

¹⁰⁰ Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>P-MEQ-1 Ensure that extraction and associated processes are carried out in a sustainable manner, which minimises the impact on residential amenities, natural environment and water quality, and do not impinge on existing rights-of-way or walking routes.</p> <p>P-MEQ-2 Seek the reuse of worked out quarries for recreational, industrial, ecological, agricultural and other uses, following appropriate restoration.</p> <p>P-MEQ-3 In respect of development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, the Council will require that appropriate investigations are carried out into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable), the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works. Adequate measures to mitigate these risks shall be submitted as part of the planning application.</p> <p>P-TOU-1 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourism facilities, subject to location, siting planning considerations. Development that might be detrimental to scenic and heritage assets, in SACs, SPAs, proposed NHAs, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, and along designated Scenic Routes will be strictly controlled. Development proposals shall also demonstrate that they do not conflict with the requirement to safeguard the strategic function, safety and investment in the strategic national road network to date, and are in compliance with the provisions of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).</p> <p>P-TOU-2 Support the development of high-quality tourist accommodation and ensure high standards of architectural and urban design in all new tourist accommodation and facilities.</p> <p>P-TOU-3 Ensure that all built elements of agri-tourism developments are appropriately designed, satisfactorily integrated into the landscape, conserve natural heritage, protect the environment and do not have a negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside, on natural heritage or on the environment.</p> <p>P-TOU-4 Provide signposting, interpretative signs, information boards and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas (refer also to Chapter 27, Section 27.7 Outdoor recreation).</p> <p>P-TOU-5 Provide, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of natural heritage, geological and archaeological interest, coastal areas, islands, mountains, rivers, lakes and other natural amenities.</p> <p>P-TOU-6 Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County and its potential for niche tourism products by facilitating the development of cultural events, infrastructure and activities.</p> <p>P-CZT-1 Ensure that tourism facilities in coastal areas (e.g. car parking at WAW Discovery Points) will not be visually intrusive and will not impact on sensitive coastal environments (e.g. sand dune systems), by requiring appropriate siting, layout, design and natural screening, as well as compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>On beaches, within dunes and in other vulnerable areas, manage and control car parking, vehicular and pedestrian movements in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant.</p> <p>P-CZT-2 Promote awareness of the sensitivity of the coastal environment through the provision of heritage appreciation programmes, public information boards and other appropriate means.</p> <p>P-CZT-3 Maintain and develop small piers and harbours along the Sligo Coast, subject to funding and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>O-WAW-3 Provide Signature Discovery Point infrastructure at Mullaghmore, subject to appropriate siting and design.</p> <p>O-WAW-4 Monitor the future development of the County's section of the Wild Atlantic Way touring route to ensure that the scenic and tourism value of this important amenity is maintained. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies, local community groups and other bodies interested in protecting the coastal environment and in improving access and visitor management to the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>28.1.5 Seveso sites</p> <p>The Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 209 of 2015), known as the "COMAH Regulations", implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU). These Regulations lay down rules for the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances and seek to limit the consequences of such accidents for human health and the environment.</p> <p>This Development Plan does not designate sites or zones for uses that might be classified as Seveso establishments and no such establishments exist at present. However, such developments may occur during the Plan's life.</p> <p>The Council will comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents. Any proposal for a Seveso development will be considered only in low-risk locations, within acceptable distances from relevant environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>Such development proposals will be referred to the Health and Safety Authority, whose technical advice will be taken into account in the overall assessment of the proposals, in addition to normal planning criteria.</p> <p>32.2.1 Coastal protection</p> <p>The OPW's National Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping, completed in 2021, provides updated national scale coastal flood extent and depth maps. Maps were produced for the 50% (equivalent to a one in two-year event), 20%, 10%, 5%, 2%, 1%, 0.5% and 0.1% (equivalent to a one in 1000-year event) Annual Exceedance Probabilities for the present-day scenario and for future climate change scenarios, which represent increases in sea level. The Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), completed in 2013, provides predictive erosion maps prepared for the years 2030 and 2050.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Sligo has a varied coastline, over 197-km long. The identified areas of potentially significant coastal erosion in County Sligo are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marley's Point to Strandhill • Raghly • Streedagh Point to Cliffony <p>Coastal protection works aim to reduce loss of land, infrastructure, and the impacts of coastal flooding. This may require hard-engineered defences in order to withstand the storms and retain and defend a location. Such defences may be necessary, but can cause alterations to nearby coastal behaviour. Softer-engineered solution may be appropriate in many areas and where loss of lives is unlikely. Other options include sacrificial areas and allowing nature to take its course. The Council will contribute towards adherence to the following general guidelines in the coastal zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no building or development within 100 metres of 'soft' shorelines; • no further reclamation of estuary land; • no removal of sand dunes, beach sand or gravel; • all proposed coastal defence measures should be assessed for environmental impact and habitats directive assessment; • careful consideration should be given to the implications of using 'hard engineering' solutions, which should only be reserved for densely-populated coastal villages or for the protection of significant public infrastructure (e.g. harbours, piers, outfalls, public roads). <p>The planning and design of coastal protection works must have regard to the coastal dynamics. In light of the high cost of such defences, there is a case for restricting development near the coast, so as to minimise future demands for costly protection measures.</p> <p>P-CP-1 Ensure that visual and environmental considerations are considered in the design of coastal defence works including compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>P-CP-2 Require that any development within the coastal zone is appropriately sited and designed, having regard to coastal flooding, future shoreline erosion, predicted sea-level rise and OPW flood mapping.</p> <p>P-CP-3 Require that detailed flood risk assessment is carried out in relation to development proposals within the coastal zone and particularly on all low-lying areas, where appropriate.</p> <p>Objectives for coastal protection</p> <p>O-CP-1 Identify, prioritise and implement coastal protection works within the coastal zone where considered necessary, subject to the availability of resources and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>O-CP-2 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and carry out appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions, subject to the availability of resources and compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. Where appropriate, continue to employ soft engineering techniques (i.e. dune stabilisation and planting).</p> <p>O-CP-3 Examine existing beach bye-laws and make appropriate amendments, in the interest of protecting sand dunes from encroachment and damage.</p> <p>33.2.5 Surface water drainage</p> <p>All applications for planning permission shall incorporate proposals for the disposal of surface water. The use of nature-based solutions will be required in all medium to large scale development proposals.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions for managing rainwater and surface water runoff in urban areas seek to replicate the natural water cycle, whereby rainwater soaks into the open ground and from there into the groundwater. This slows down the speed of the runoff and also removes many of the pollutants through filtration.</p> <p>All new developments in urban areas are required to provide separate drainage systems, including nature-based SUDs (sustainable urban drainage systems) where appropriate. This approach will protect the capacity of public wastewater treatment plants and will assist in managing surface water runoff onto public roads.</p> <p>For all developments, regardless of scale, applicants will be required, as part of pre-planning and/or a planning application, to illustrate how they propose to manage rainwater. The use of nature-based solutions will be strongly encouraged. Nature-based solutions to rainwater management should be identified at the early stages of the planning and design process.</p> <p>Planning applications for larger developments should include hydraulic and topographical surveys showing the proposed development within the existing natural catchment, as well as a detailed rainwater management plan showing how nature-based solutions are being applied.</p> <p>Within the curtilage of buildings, every effort should be made to reduce the percentage of surfacing that is impermeable. Starting at ground or street level, the use of cellular grass paving systems should be considered for parking areas, hard standings, emergency median crossings and accesses.</p> <p>The replacement of impermeable surfacing with nature-based planted areas that are designed to absorb, retain, store, and treat urban runoff prior to discharge back into the environment is strongly encouraged. The Planning Authority will encourage green roofs as a proportion of all roof space for all large commercial, industrial, institutional and residential buildings (apartment blocks).</p> <p>Storm water will not generally be allowed into the foul sewerage network and should be disposed of, subject to suitable treatment where necessary, to available watercourses or through separate surface water drains to independent outfalls.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>In rural areas, when creating a new vehicular access onto public roads, existing roadside drainage shall be maintained by the incorporation of a suitably sized drainage pipe. In these circumstances, each application shall be accompanied by design calculations or appropriate evidence to support the size of pipe selected. In any event, surface water shall not be allowed to discharge onto the adjoining public road from the proposed development.</p> <p>33.2.6 Flood risk assessment</p> <p>Development management should follow the sequential approach when considering the location of development in areas at risk of flooding. Applicants may be required to submit a detailed, site-specific flood risk assessment. Pre-planning consultation is critical to the consideration of flood risk in the planning application. It is the responsibility of the applicant at this stage to gather relevant information for flood risk screening.</p> <p>Flood risk assessments should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proportionate to the risk scale, nature and location of the development; • undertaken by a competent person, such as a suitably qualified hydrologist, flood risk management professional or specialist water engineer; • undertaken as early as possible in the particular planning process; • supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events, but focusing more on predictive assessment of less frequent or more extreme events, taking the likely impacts of climate change into account; • clearly state the risk to people and development, and how that risk will be managed over the lifetime of the development. <p>Where required, flood risk assessments shall specify, in exceptional circumstances and where the criteria of the Justification Test have been met, the design of structural or non-structural flood risk management measures as prerequisites to development in specific areas, ensuring that flood hazard and risk to other locations will not be increased or, if practicable, will be reduced.</p> <p>These measures may relate to:</p> <p>Floor levels</p> <p>In areas of limited flood depth, the specification of the threshold and floor levels of new structures shall be raised above expected flood levels to reduce the risk of flood losses to a building, by raising floor heights within the building structure using a suspended floor arrangement or raised internal concrete platforms.</p> <p>When designing an extension or modification to an existing building, an appropriate flood risk reduction measure shall be specified to ensure the threshold levels into the building are above the design flood level. However, care must also be taken to ensure access for all is provided in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>Where threshold levels cannot be raised to the street for streetscape, conservation or other reasons, the design shall specify a mixing of uses vertically in buildings - with less vulnerable uses located at ground floor level, along with other measures for dealing with residual flood risk.</p> <p>Internal layout</p> <p>Internal space layout shall be designed and specified to reduce the impact of flooding [for example, living accommodation, essential services, storage space for provisions and equipment shall be designed to be located above the predicted flood level]. In addition, designs and specifications shall ensure that, wherever reasonably practicable, the siting of living accommodation (particularly sleeping areas) shall be above flood level.</p> <p>With the exception of single-storey extensions to existing properties, new single-storey accommodation shall not be deemed appropriate where predicted flood levels are above design floor levels. In all cases, specifications for safe access, refuge and evacuation shall be incorporated into the design of the development.</p> <p>Flood-resistant construction</p> <p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction aimed at preventing water from entering buildings, in order to mitigate the damage that flood water causes to buildings.</p> <p>Developments shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction, prepared using specialist technical input to the design and specification of the external building envelope, with measures to resist hydrostatic pressure (commonly referred to as "tanking") specified for the outside of the building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood-resistant construction shall specify the need to protect the main entry points for flood water into buildings, such as doors and windows (including gaps in sealant around frames), vents, air-bricks and gaps around conduits or pipes passing through external building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood-resistant construction shall also specify the need to protect against flood water entry through sanitary appliances as a result of backflow through the drainage system.</p> <p>Flood-resilient construction</p> <p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones that are at risk of occasional inundation shall incorporate design and specifications for flood resilient construction which accepts that flood water will enter buildings, and provides for this in the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. These measures limit damage caused by flood water and allow relatively quick recovery.</p> <p>This can be achieved by specifying wall and floor materials such as ceramic tiling that can be cleaned and dried relatively easily, provided that the substrate materials (e.g. blockwork) are also resilient. Electrics, appliances and kitchen fittings shall also be specified to be raised above floor level, and one-way valves shall be incorporated into drainage pipes.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Emergency response planning</p> <p>In addition to considering physical design issues for developments in flood vulnerable zones, the developer shall specify that the planning of new development also takes account of the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development.</p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details that the following measures will be put in place and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of flood warnings, evacuation plans and ensuring public awareness of flood risks to people where they live and work; - Coordination of responses and discussion with relevant emergency services i.e. Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána through the SFRA; and - Awareness of risks and evacuation procedures and the need for family flood plans. <p>Access and egress during flood events</p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall include details of arrangements for access and egress during flood events. Such details shall specify that: flood escape routes have been kept to publicly accessible land; such routes will have signage and other flood awareness measures in place, to inform local communities what to do in case of flooding; and this information will be provided in a welcome pack to new occupants.</p> <p>Further information</p> <p>Further and more detailed guidance and advice can be found at http://www.flooding.ie and in the Building Regulations.</p>
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>P-BD-1 Protect, conserve, enhance and sustainably manage the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Sligo.</p> <p>P-BD-2 Protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011) as amended, Flora (Protection) Order 2015, the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, including all statutory instruments made under each act.</p> <p>P-BD-3 Ensure that the ecological impact of all development proposals on habitats and species are appropriately assessed by suitably qualified professionals, in accordance with best practice guidelines, taking full account of the precautionary principle where uncertainty exists.</p> <p>P-BD-4 Minimise adverse impacts of proposed developments on existing habitats (whether designated or not) by including mitigation and/or compensation measures as appropriate. This shall comprise the retention and enhancement of all possible existing habitats, vegetation and breeding sites in the early design stages of the development.</p> <p>P-BD-5 Raise public awareness of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the County and encourage increased public participation in biodiversity conservation by supporting community-led initiatives.</p> <p>P-BD-6 Support the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and any subsequent revisions.</p> <p>P-BD-7 Require development proposals on sites of 0.5 ha and over to demonstrate a site-specific biodiversity net gain (BNG), indicating how the approach to development will leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The same approach will be encouraged, although not required, on sites under 0.5 ha. The biodiversity net gain (BNG) shall consist of the enhancement and restoration of existing habitats or by the creation of new areas for wildlife, where the biodiversity value of the site is low or non-existent (e.g. certain brownfield sites).</p> <p>P-BD-8 Where buildings are proposed to be restored or demolished/replaced, the applicants/developers shall check for the presence of protected wildlife species and follow the protocols set out in the Heritage Council's guidelines "Wildlife in Buildings – Linking Our Built and Natural Heritage" (https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Wildlife-in-Buildings-linking-our-built-and-natural-heritage.pdf)</p> <p>O-BD-1 Implement, in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, relevant stakeholders and the community, the objectives and actions of both the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan as it relates to the remit and functions of Sligo County Council.</p> <p>O-BD-2 Prepare and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Sligo.</p> <p>P-DSNC-1 Protect and maintain the conservation status of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, as identified by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>In addition, the Council will identify, maintain and develop non-designated areas of high nature conservation value which serve as linkages or 'stepping stones' between protected sites in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-DSNC-2 Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of 'favourable conservation status' of habitats and species in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p> <p>P-DSNC-3 Carry out an appropriate level of assessment for all development plans, land-use plans and projects that the Council authorizes or proposes to undertake or adopt, to determine the potential for these plans or projects to impact on designated sites, proposed designated sites or associated ecological corridors and linkages in accordance with the Habitats Directive. All appropriate assessments shall be in compliance with the provisions of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>P-DSNC-4 Ensure that all development proposals are subject to the process of Screening for Appropriate Assessment and subsequent stages of Appropriate Assessment, as relevant, carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, as appropriate.</p> <p>O-DSNC-1 Identify any areas of high nature conservation value which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and which have not been previously identified.</p> <p>O-DSNC-2 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law, subject to available resources.</p> <p>P-PS-1 Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>P-PS-2 Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DHLGH) and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>P-PS-3 Provide guidance to developers and others in relation to species protected by law and their protection and management in the context of development.</p> <p>P-PS-4 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites, and require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professionals to accompany any development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>P-PS-5 Require all new developments to incorporate habitat facilities for wildlife species, including Swifts, in or on buildings or their facades, where appropriate.</p> <p>O-PS-1 Undertake surveys, as appropriate, to establish the location of protected flora and fauna in the Plan area through the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>P-NCODS-1 Minimise the impact of new development on habitats of natural value that are key features of the County's ecological network. Developments likely to have an adverse effect on recognised sites of local nature conservation importance will be required to demonstrate the impacts on the ecological value of the site and will not be approved unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the development that outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site.</p> <p>P-NCODS-2 Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-NCODS-3 Ensure that proposals for development protect and enhance biodiversity, wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate, which ensure that biodiversity is enhanced.</p> <p>P-NCODS-4 Applications for development that is likely to have significant impact on natural habitats or species shall be required to be accompanied by an ecological impact assessment (EcIA), to ensure that such proposed development will not affect the integrity and conservation value of important biodiversity sites.</p> <p>P-NCODS-5 Ensure that no ecological networks, or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity, are lost without remediation as a result of implementation of this Plan.</p> <p>P-NCODS-6 Provide guidance for developers and the general public in relation to nature conservation outside designated sites and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geological heritage in general.</p> <p>P-NCODS-7 Integrate biodiversity considerations into Local Authority plans, programmes and activities where appropriate.</p> <p>O-NCODS-1 Continue the County Habitat Mapping project, thereby generating the necessary information to identify landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna, flora and County Biodiversity Sites, as key features of the county's ecological network.</p> <p>O-NCODS-2 Identify and protect, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups, County Biodiversity Sites which are not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>O-NCODS-3 Ensure that the findings of the County Habitat Mapping project (when completed) are utilised to inform the development management process.</p> <p>P-WET-1 Have regard to the County Sligo Wetlands Surveys 2008-2011 and subsequent wetland surveys that may be published during the lifetime of this Plan. Protect surveyed wetland sites that have been rated of A (International), B (National) and C+ (County) importance.</p> <p>P-WET-2 Ensure that an ecological assessment at an appropriate level (including EIA, where appropriate) is undertaken in conjunction with proposals involving drainage, reclamation or infilling of wetland habitats.</p> <p>P-WHT-1 Protect woodlands, hedgerows and trees from development that would impact adversely upon them. Promote new tree and woodland planting and the enhancement of existing hedgerows by seeking increased coverage, in conjunction with new development using native species of local provenance, where possible.</p> <p>P-WHT-2 Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and, where appropriate make use of tree preservation orders to protect important trees and groups of trees which may be at risk or have an important amenity or historic value.</p> <p>P-WHT-3 Require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments and as part of Sligo County Council's own landscaping works.</p> <p>P-WTH-4 Encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas, and prevent loss and fragmentation where practically possible.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>If removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, reinstatement of the same type of boundary shall be required.</p> <p>P-WHT-5 Promote awareness and require the retention and protection of hedgerows which mark townland boundaries, in recognition of their historic value and archaeological importance.</p> <p>P-WHT-6 Protect native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual mature trees in line with best practice, and encourage their effective management and retention.</p> <p>Tree surgery rather than felling will be required, where possible, when undertaking, approving or authorising development.</p> <p>P-WHT-7 When undertaking, approving, or authorising development, ensure or require the protection of trees subject of Tree Preservation Orders, as well as Champion and Heritage Trees identified on the Tree Register of Ireland.</p> <p>P-WHT-8 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop, enhance and explore opportunities to develop woodland sites under the Native Woodland Scheme.</p> <p>P-INV-1 Prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species within the county.</p> <p>P-INV-2 Require all development proposals to address the presence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan, in compliance with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.</p> <p>P-INV-3 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species when carrying out statutory functions of the County Council in association with relevant bodies, including TII, the Department of Transport and the Department of Rural and Community Development.</p> <p>O-INV-1 Undertake studies through the County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan to quantify the extent of selected invasive species (Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam) within the Plan area, with recommendations of priority species for control or eradication, the degree of threat posed and the resources required for effective management.</p> <p>P-OR-6 Where feasible, develop walkways and cycleways between green spaces or green corridors in built-up areas and recreational areas located outside settlements, including coastal, upland, lakeland and forestry sites and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-OR-15 Preserve and improve access for the public to lakes, beaches, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Where feasible, apply or support the application of universal design principles, as recommended in Building for everyone – a Universal Design Approach (NDA, 2012).</p> <p>P-OR-16 Support the sustainable development of water-based leisure, tourism and related activities in County Sligo, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-OR-18 Protect existing known rights of way and seek the establishment of additional rights of way, by agreement with landowners, to extend existing walking trails or create new ones and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>O-TOU-1 Secure the establishment of a flagship visitor attraction in the County, subject to normal development control standards and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>O-A-2 Support proposals to upgrade facilities and improve the viability of Sligo Airport, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-ALAN-1 Ensure that artificial lighting of public buildings and car parking areas is used only when necessary, with dark-sky friendly lighting and design. New developments shall eliminate or mitigate for potential light pollution.</p> <p>P-ALAN-2 Where artificial lighting must be used, require developments to avoid glare and light trespass on adjacent natural areas such as hedgerows, road verges, tree lines, wetlands and river corridors, using shields and appropriate lighting design.</p> <p>P-ALAN-3 Require proposals for floodlighting of playing fields/pitches to include lighting schemes with measures to mitigate for light pollution through timing and the use of shielding. All schemes shall comply with the guidance within the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Note (GN01-2021) The Reduction of Obtrusive Light.</p>
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>SP-RGC-1 Support population, housing and employment growth in Sligo RGC to achieve the targets set in the RSES (2020) and subsequent reviews.</p> <p>SP-RGC-2 Assist the IDA in the development of a new Business Park at Oakfield.</p> <p>SP-RGC-3 Ensure that the required infrastructure is in place to support the transformation of Sligo into a Smart City as envisaged in the LECP/Sligo 2030 strategy.</p> <p>SO-RGC-1 Complete the Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads Scheme within the lifetime of this development plan.</p> <p>SO-RGC-2 Carry out a building height study targeting increased housing densities in Sligo Town Centre in conjunction with the preparation of a Local Area Plan for Sligo and Environs.</p> <p>SO-RGC-3 Complete the implementation of the Cranmore Regeneration Project.</p> <p>SO-RGC-4 Seek the development of new urban quarters at Caltragh and Ballinode, based on land assembly and comprehensive masterplanning with appropriate phasing.</p> <p>SO-RGC-5 Prepare a masterplan for the Docklands area, focusing on the provision of mixed residential, employment and recreational uses while retaining the</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>functions of a fully operational Port.</p> <p>SO-RGC-6 Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the masterplan for the Centre Block/Wine Street Car Park area, aiming to deliver a mixture of housing and employment uses through a high-quality urban design solution.</p> <p>SO-RGC-7 In conjunction with ATU Sligo, prepare and implement a masterplan for the City Campus site – Sligo’s Cultural and Learning Hub involving the regeneration of this block of the town incorporating new County Library and museum facilities, enterprise space, residential units and high quality public realm.</p> <p>SO-RGC-8 Pursue the refurbishment of Sligo’s town centre in line with the Public Realm Plan.</p> <p>SP-S-1 Pursue the accelerated and compact development of Sligo Town as a Regional Growth Centre and economic driver for the North-West region.</p> <p>SP-S-2 Promote consolidation and regeneration in the Support Towns of Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry.</p> <p>SP-S-3 Carefully manage development in the Satellite Villages of Ballysadare, Collooney, Coolaney, Grange and Strandhill, prioritising investment in social infrastructure and active travel infrastructure.</p> <p>SP-S-4 Support the Villages with Special Coastal Tourism Functions – Easky, Mullaghmore, Rosses Point – to achieve their full potential for sustainable tourism development.</p> <p>SP-S-5 Direct new small-scale rural development proposals into the designated Villages Sustaining Rural Communities, in the interest of their continued viability.</p> <p>SP-S-6 In unserviced villages, promote clustering of development within village development limits, to facilitate their future connection to service infrastructure.</p> <p>SP-ED-1 Ensure that sufficient, serviced and suitable land is reserved for new enterprise development at key locations in Sligo Town, Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone, and promote the Support Towns as secondary employment centres, after Sligo Town.</p> <p>SP-ED-2 Promote the integration of employment with other land uses and the transportation network and ensure that employment-intensive uses are located in proximity to existing and planned strategic routes, where public transport is most viable.</p> <p>SP-ED-3 Facilitate the development of small-scale enterprise space, including digital hubs and cluster centres in villages where good access, infrastructure and services are readily available or can be provided at a reasonable cost.</p> <p>SP-ED-4 Liaise with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the provision of necessary infrastructure and services to support enterprise and industrial development.</p>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>O-SGI-1 Protect from inappropriate development, and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest that are listed in this Plan or that may be proposed by the DHLGH and/or the GSI in the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>33.3.10 Soil protection and remediation of contamination</p> <p>Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works, where brownfield development is proposed. All undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment.</p> <p>All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant in remediation, incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques, including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>Treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>P-INW-1 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses and their associated Core Riparian Zones (CRZs) from inappropriate development and maintain them in an open state, capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora. Structures (e.g. bridges) crossing fisheries waters shall be clear-span and shall be designed and built in consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>P- INW-2 Protect and enhance biodiversity richness by protecting rivers, stream corridors and valleys by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors, maintaining them free from inappropriate development and discouraging culverting or realignment.</p> <p>P- INW-3 Ensure that all proposed greenfield residential and commercial developments use sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) in accordance with best current practice, ensuring protection of the integrity of wetland sites in the adjoining area, including their hydrological regime.</p> <p>P- INW-4 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands within the Plan area are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection value.</p> <p>P- INW-5 Ensure that proposed developments do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater-dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>O- INW-1 Consult with prescribed bodies prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development that may impact on rivers, streams and watercourses.</p> <p>O- INW-2 Require that runoff from a developed area does not result in deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats, and that pollution generated by a</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	events.	<p>development is treated within the development area prior to discharge to local watercourses.</p> <p>P-WQ-1 Support the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, National River Basin Management Plan and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure protection and improvement of all waters in the County.</p> <p>P-WQ-2 Applications for development must demonstrate that such proposed development would not adversely affect the ability of any water body to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually (as a result of the proposed development) or cumulatively (in combination with other developments). Evidence to this effect may include correspondence from Uisce Éireann.</p> <p>P-WQ-3 Protect the quality of estuarine and coastal waters by controlling land-based discharges to these areas.</p> <p>P-WQ-4 Prohibit any development which is likely to lead to the deterioration of the status of any water body (water quality).</p> <p>P-WQ-5 Ensure that all development proposals have regard to the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme, in order to protect groundwater resources and groundwater-dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>P-WQ-6 Strictly limit and control new development in or near the catchment areas of water bodies, particularly salmonid rivers and those that are the source of the following drinking water supplies: Lough; Lough Easky; Lough Arrow; Gortnaleck and Lyle streams; Kilsellagh Source catchment; Riverstown Source Catchment; Lough Talt; GWS source catchments.</p> <p>O-WQ-1 Continue to monitor, audit, and review the environmental status with regard to the water quality of rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters.</p> <p>O-WQ-2 Protect, maintain, or improve water quality to the status set out in the national RBMP. All discharges to water bodies shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Water pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990.</p> <p>O-WQ-3 Implement the Programme of Measures detailed in the national RBMP.</p> <p>O-WQ-4 Ensure compliance with the relevant objectives and measures that will be set out in the Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo.</p> <p>24.6.6 Groundwater quality</p> <p>Groundwater is an important natural resource which supplies water for drinking, for industry, for agriculture and helps maintain wetlands and river flows through dry periods.</p> <p>Discharges to groundwater are subject to the European Communities (EC) Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, which were transposed into Irish Law as Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010). Under Regulation 4 of the Groundwater Regulations, a duty is placed on public authorities to promote compliance with the requirements of the regulations and to take all reasonable steps to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</p> <p>A practical and effective means of protecting groundwater and preventing pollution is through the use of the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme which was prepared in 2009 by the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI). The scheme provides a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p> <p>In the most recent groundwater assessment issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, based on data recorded during the period 2013-2018, all groundwater within County Sligo is classified at good status, which must be protected and maintained by the Council.</p> <p>P-FRM-1 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains, wetlands and coastal areas subject to flooding and associated dunes, beach sand and gravel. These areas represent a vital green infrastructure, which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future.</p> <p>P-FRM-2 Zone land for development in areas with a high or moderate risk of flooding only where it can be clearly demonstrated, on a solid evidence base, that the zoning satisfies the justification test set out in chapter 4 of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>P-FRM-3 Contribute towards the general maintenance of a 20-metre-wide flood protection zone around lakes and along both sides of all rivers, and a 100-metre-wide flood protection zone from soft shorelines. Development proposals will be required to maintain these flood protection zones generally free from development. Exceptions may be considered for strategic road projects, water services infrastructure, river bank enhancement works, bridge and road repair works, in the case of brownfield sites, development on lands zoned subject to policy.</p> <p>P-FRM-2 and in cases where the maintenance of the flood protection zone is not practically achievable. Such cases will be assessed on an individual basis and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>P-FRM-4 Ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts preserve access for maintenance and do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>Where developments are proposed in the vicinity of Flood Relief Schemes, drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW is responsible, the Planning Authority will consult with the OPW and, where appropriate, will require the retention of a strip on either side of such channels, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p> <p>P-FRM-5 Restrict development in areas at elevated risk of flooding unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – it is demonstrated that there are wider sustainability grounds for appropriate development; – the flood risk can be managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere;

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>– the overall flood risk is reduced, where possible.</p> <p>Developments considered necessary in order to meet the objectives of this Plan, or required on wider sustainability grounds, will be subject to the development management justification test outlined in chapter 5 of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>Measures such as flood compensation storage works or new hard-engineered flood defences alone will not be acceptable as justification for development in flood risk areas. Such measures will be subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and will only be considered as part of a proposal if the development is warranted by the development management justification test set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>P-FRM-6 Require development proposals, where appropriate, to be accompanied by a detailed flood risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of the DoEHLG's and OPW's Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and to address flood risk management in the detailed design of development, as set out in Appendix B of the Guidelines. The following provisions apply:</p> <p>The following provisions shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Extensions of existing uses or minor development within flood risk areas may be permitted, provided that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do not obstruct important flow paths; - do not introduce a number of people into flood risk areas; - do not entail the storage of hazardous substances; - do not have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities; - do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. B. Applications for development within Flood Zones A or B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works, shall be subject to site-specific flood risk assessment and shall provide details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events (for more detail refer to Chapter 33 "Development Management Standards" subsection 33.2.6 "Flood risk assessment"). <p>Site-specific flood risk assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures, shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in the Guidelines, and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management (refer to the OPW's 2019 Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Where a 'Justification Test' applies, it must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the flood risk can be adequately managed, and that the use and the development of the lands will not cause unacceptable impacts elsewhere. D. In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%), site-specific flood risk assessment may be required, and the developers should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. <p>Prospective applicants shall consult the SFRA datasets accompanying this Development Plan and the most up-to-date Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme climate scenario mapping.</p> <p>Applications for development on sites identified as "benefitting lands' may be prone to flooding, and site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Groundwater and pluvial flood risks shall be considered by any site-specific flood risk assessment undertaken at project level, in compliance with the Planning Systems and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DEHLG, 2009). <p><i>Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the OPW's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment indicative pluvial maps (2012) are NOT considered to be reliable for assessing pluvial risk.</i></p> <p>P-FRM-7 Support and facilitate the implementation of CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans, and support the OPW in the development and implementation of sustainable flood risk management actions, including the delivery of Flood Relief Schemes.</p> <p>P-FRM-8 Protect the integrity of any formal flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new defence infrastructure.</p> <p>P-FRM-9 Consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans.</p> <p>30.3 Surface water management</p> <p>Stormwater flows can have a significant detrimental impact on the available capacity of combined sewer networks and at treatment plants. Climate change is exacerbating the impact by way of more frequent and intense rainfall. This brings challenges in terms of drainage and capacity, traditionally addressed by hard engineering options (concrete gullies, pipes, drains etc.).</p> <p>Sustainable (urban) Drainage Systems, commonly known as SuDS, seek to manage surface water as close as possible to its origin by various nature-based or</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>engineering solutions that replicate natural drainage processes. SuDS and nature-based solutions provide many benefits, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling the quantity of run-off to support the management of flood risk and maintain and protect the natural water cycle; • Improving water quality by preventing pollution; • Supporting biodiversity; • Contributing to the visual amenity of surrounding areas; • building resilience to climate change through micro-cooling and carbon sequestration. <p>The application of SuDS techniques and nature-based solutions allows surface water to be either infiltrated or conveyed more slowly to water courses, using porous surface treatments such as bioretention areas, ponds, swales, basins, rain gardens, wetlands, filter drains, green roofs etc. These are often less expensive to construct and easier to maintain than underground solutions.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will require the application of SuDS and nature-based solutions in new development proposals, in the redevelopment of existing brownfield sites and proposals to extend existing developments. The use of soakaways is deemed suitable for single dwelling houses and extensions to single dwellings, but not suitable for urban areas.</p> <p>While traditionally the application of SDS techniques is site-specific and depends on the site's characteristics, the Council will work with designers and developers to deliver an integrated and area-based approach where possible, so that the approach works like a mini-catchment.</p> <p>Surface water drainage policies</p> <p>P-SWD-1 Require all new developments, redevelopment of brownfield sites and extensions to existing developments (where appropriate) to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems, where feasible.</p> <p>Such developments shall connect to existing surface water drainage systems (where available) which, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, have adequate capacity to accommodate additional loading (refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA, "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy").</p> <p>P-SWD-2 Require that planning applications are accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment that addresses run-off quantity, run-off quality and its impact on the existing habitat and water quality.</p> <p>In the case of one-off rural dwellings or extensions to dwellings without access to existing surface water drainage systems, surface water shall be disposed of, in its entirety, within the curtilage of the development by way of suitably-sized soakaways.</p> <p>In all instances the use of nature-based solutions is preferred to engineering solutions. Developers will be required to apply the provisions of 'Nature-Based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas' (water sensitive urban design) Best Practice Interim Guidance Document (DHLGH, 2001) and any subsequent review.</p> <p>P-SWD-3 Seek to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving in all development proposals.</p> <p>P-SWD-4 Ensure that adequately designed oil interceptors are installed in all commercial developments that include car-parks or other oil- and petrol-related activities.</p> <p>P-SWD-5 Prohibit the alteration of natural and existing drainage systems, in order to preserve and protect historic drainage channels/paths and flow characteristics of existing catchments. In the case of development works, require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality (including run-off, erosion and sedimentation).</p> <p>P-SWD-6 Protect the drainage characteristics of river channels and streams that can facilitate surface water drainage, by ensuring that development is kept at an appropriate distance from stream banks and/or adequate protection measures are put in place.</p> <p>P-NR-4 Safeguard the capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes in County Sligo and ensure that private developments do not discharge surface water to national road drainage.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including 	<p>Also refer to Plan's various sustainable transport provisions and detailed measures for Climate Action to Section 8.6 of this SEA Environmental Report "Integration of Climate Action into the Plan".</p> <p>SP-CA-1 Support the implementation of the government's climate action policy in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, the national Climate Action Plan 2023, the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and all subsequent relevant updates.</p> <p>SP-CA-2 Ensure that Sligo County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy, Climate Action Plan and County Development Plan are fully aligned.</p> <p>SP-CA-3 Integrate appropriate climate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all relevant development management and development planning processes.</p> <p>SP-TRA-1 Strengthen the strategic transport links providing regional, national and international connectivity, in accordance with the NSO 2 of the NPF and the RSES Transport Investment Priorities.</p> <p>SP-TRA-2 Support the creation of an integrated and sustainable transport system, in particular with regard to accessibility and choice of transport, with a quality bus and rail service, alongside the promotion of cycle and pedestrian facilities.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>those from cars, and air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>SP-TRA-3 Encourage the shift from car use to sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking.</p> <p>SP-TRA-4 Reduce the demand for travel by integrating land use with transport planning, ensuring that new development takes place in a compact form at locations with the highest levels of accessibility for public transport and active travel (walking and cycling).</p> <p>SP-TRA-5 Plan for the future traffic and transportation needs in Sligo and ensure that new development does not compromise the expansion of rail, road and cycling corridors in the County. Proposed road realignment/improvement lines, road corridors and national cycle route corridors shall be preserved free from development that would prejudice the implementation of the schemes.</p> <p>SO-TRA-1 Implement the relevant national transportation policies set out in the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) and National Sustainable Mobility Policy, in partnership with funding agencies.</p> <p>SO-TRA-2 Progress the development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor through County Sligo by upgrading sections of the national roads N-17 and N-15, in conjunction with the TII.</p> <p>SO-TRA-3 Extend and improve the cycle network in the County in accordance with the National Cycle Network plan.</p> <p>SO-TRA-4 Implement a programme of measures to support active travel in the county with the support of funding from the Active Travel Investment Programme of the NTA and pursue the implementation of the sustainable transport targets set out in Table 9.1 (Performance indicators and target aspirations for assessing progress of the LTP).</p> <p>SO-TRA-5 Implement the principles and objectives of the Local Transport Plan for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the convenience and attractiveness of bus, rail and park-and-ride facilities. Enhancing integration between existing and proposed land-uses and the transport network. Improving accessibility to Sligo Town from the settlements located in the LTP Study Area. Developing an enhanced pedestrian network, improving permeability and creating a 'sense of place' within Sligo Town. Extending and enhancing the cycle network throughout the LTP Study Area. <p>SO-TRA-6 Facilitate the roll-out of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, in line with the NDP Strategic Investment Priority for Transport target of nearly one million electric vehicles on the road by 2030, and with the Implementation Plan associated with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 (and subsequent reviews).</p> <p>Chapter 29. Transport infrastructure</p> <p>Development Plan policy aims to promote sustainable transport systems through the integration of land use and transportation, the promotion of compact development to minimise journey length and maximise opportunities to use sustainable modes.</p> <p>The requirements of the Climate Action Plan, the technological progress in the transport industry and the public attitude towards sustainable travel (e.g. the move towards electricity and other fuel sources, digital connectivity, autonomous vehicles, car and bike sharing etc) have obvious consequences for development plan policy.</p> <p>Sligo County Council must respond in a pro-active and collaborative manner to ensure that the county is prepared for such changes and that all local communities will benefit from them.</p> <p>The identification of transport infrastructure proposals in this Plan (including locations/routes and any associated mapping), that is not already permitted or provided for by other existing plans or programmes, is non-binding and indicative.</p> <p>New transport infrastructure will be considered subject to environmental constraints, including those related to potential impacts on habitats. This will include minimising river crossings, avoiding sensitive habitats and disturbance from lighting, not increasing barriers to flood waters, and sustainable design and construction techniques.</p> <p>Applications for transport infrastructure projects, including greenways and blueways that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes or are not already permitted, shall demonstrate that they have been subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities and objectives relating to sustainable mobility.</p> <p>Where feasibility is established, and where appropriate, applications for transport infrastructure projects shall demonstrate that they have been subject to a Corridor and Route Selection Process undertaken in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>By promoting sustainable mobility initiatives, the Development Plan will contribute towards a reduction in exposure to pollution from emissions to air, including unacceptable noise levels from traffic. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements, including those relating emissions to air and noise.</p> <p>P-CW -1 Promote cycling and walking as a sustainable and viable commuting mode of transport by making provision for the safe and efficient movement of cyclists and pedestrians at public transportation nodes and village/town centres, public car parks and Institutions.</p> <p>P-CW-2 Ensure that adequate cycle facilities are provided in all new institutions, employment centres, sports complexes and leisure facilities, in the form of</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>sheltered bicycle parking and locker rooms with shower facilities.</p> <p>P-CW-3 Require that all new developments are designed to integrate into a cycling network linking with adjoining development areas and schools, and provide cycle and pedestrian-friendly development layouts, infrastructure and facilities.</p> <p>P-CW-4 Consider the use of off-road routes, such as disused railway lines and bridle paths, for both walking and cycling to improve access to rural tourist attractions. Where feasible, provide separate trails for walkers and cyclists in the interests of safety and convenience, with appropriate surfaces for each type of user and subject to compliance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>P-CW-5 Provide, improve and extend cycle and pedestrian routes on existing roads, proposed roads, roads being upgraded and green corridors (including river corridors), and make provision for filtered permeability where feasible and practical, and subject to compliance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>P-CW-6 Support the development of the cycling routes identified in the final NTA document CycleConnects and facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric bikes throughout the County.</p> <p>O-CW-1 Complete the development of the N-4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel Scheme using the infrastructure (combined cycle and footway) already constructed from Toberbride Td to Doorly Td.</p> <p>O-CW-2 Seek the development of a greenway from Collooney to Bellaghy (Sligo/Mayo county boundary).</p> <p>O-CW-3 Support the development of a greenway from Collooney to Enniskillen, with a connection from Collooney to Sligo Town, which can also serve as a Smarter Travel commuter route.</p> <p>O-CW-4 Develop the Inter-Urban Cycle Network routes listed in Table 29.5, as part of the implementation of the Sligo Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>P-PT-1 Strengthen Sligo's function as a transportation node in the North-West and facilitate an easy interchange between different transportation modes.</p> <p>P-PT-2 Promote the consolidation of settlements on existing public transport routes.</p> <p>P-PT-3 Support the provision of public transport services by reserving land in suitable locations for public transport infrastructure and ancillary facilities, such as park-and-ride.</p> <p>P-PT-4 Support the provision of a local commuter rail service on the existing Sligo-Dublin railway line, in conjunction with the upgrading of services to one train per two hours, as recommended in the (Draft) All-Island Strategic Rail Review.</p> <p>P-PT-5 Protect the route of the Western Rail Corridor as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo to Co. Mayo, for potential future transport-related uses.</p> <p>P-PT-6 Continue to work with the service providers, such as Iarnrod Eireann and Bus Eireann, to encourage the reduction in the need for car trips by improving the availability, reliability and quality of public transport.</p> <p>P-PT-7 Ensure that the design and layout of new developments facilitates circulation by public transport.</p> <p>P-EN-1 Support the sustainable development, upgrading and maintenance of energy generation, transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure, to ensure the security of energy supply and provide for future needs, as well as protection of the landscape, natural, archaeological and built heritage, and residential amenity.</p> <p>P-EN-2 Facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources and secure the maximum potential from wind energy resources within County Sligo, including the augmentation, upgrading and improvements to existing wind farms, subject to strict location, siting and design criteria.</p> <p>P-EN-3 Support the development of energy from biomass, such as solid fuels (e.g. wood pellets), liquid fuels or biogas (e.g. biomethane), including the cultivation, processing and conversion of energy crops.</p> <p>P-EN-4 Support existing and new enterprises that wish to use renewable energy to serve their own needs by on-site energy production, as well as farm diversification into solar energy production for own use or selling to the grid, subject to normal planning considerations.</p> <p>P-EN-5 Collaborate with urban and rural communities in the development of community-level energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including solar energy developments where suitable, subject to visual, landscape, heritage, environmental and amenity considerations.</p> <p>O-REN-1 Prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Sligo within one year of the publication of the Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy (NWRA) or the revised Methodology for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies (SEAI), as provided for in the Climate Action Plan 2024, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>O-REN-2 Seek the progression of the Sligo Local Gas Network project in co-operation with ATU, Sligo Sustainable Energy Communities, the SEAI and all other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>P-ENE-1 Encourage the use of renewable energy sources in buildings and the retrofitting of buildings for higher energy efficiency in line with national retrofitting goals.</p> <p>The retrofitting of protected structures and buildings located within ACAs or in historic streetscapes will be facilitated where it is shown that the proposed works will not negatively impact upon the character of the structure or streetscape.</p> <p>P-ENE-2 Promote the incorporation of energy-efficiency measures in the design of new buildings, such as passive solar design, natural ventilation, and vegetation (e.g. green roofs), as well as other design solutions that make effective and sustainable use of water, aggregates and other resources.</p> <p>The proposed energy-efficiency measures or design solutions should be included as part of the documentation submitted at planning application stage.</p> <p>33.2.9 Air and noise</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Sligo County Council supports the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and will seek to minimise noise disturbance by implementing the Sligo Noise Action Plan 2018 (and all updates thereafter), including provisions relating to the design and operation of developments and associated relevant noise management standards and guidance.</p> <p>The Council promotes the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and will ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>P-WS -1 Co-operate with Uisce Éireann to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure, in order to support population and economic growth as set out in the Core Strategy of this Plan.</p> <p>P-WS -2 Liaise with Uisce Éireann in seeking to establish source management and protection zones around drinking water supply sources (ground and surface water) and develop appropriate management and maintenance measures for these sources.</p> <p>P-WS-3 Support the implementation of the Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Programmes (CIP) and Minor Works Programmes (MWP).</p> <p>P-WS-4 Promote the use of water conservation measures such as rainwater harvesting and grey water use in all new developments, in order to minimise water wastage and as viable alternative to attenuation.</p> <p>P-WS-5 Where connection to a public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be permitted only where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health and would not have a significant negative impact on the source or yield of an existing supply.</p> <p>P-WS-6 Proposals relating to water abstractions shall be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>P-WWT-1</p> <p>A. Co-operate with Uisce Éireann in the provision of adequate wastewater infrastructure to support the growth of County Sligo's settlements in accordance with the Core Strategy, and to realize the objectives and policies of the Plan, including projects and programmes identified in Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Plan and any superseding investment plans in relation to Cliffony, Mullaghmore, Castlebaldwin, Geevagh and Ballintogher</p> <p>B. Pursue the provision of WWTPs in the unserved settlements of Ballygawley and Rathcormac under Measure A8 of the DHLGH Circular L1-22, 'Wastewater Collection and Treatment needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Services' or any superseding circulars.</p> <p>P-WWT-2 Require sustainable collection, treatment and discharge of wastewater effluent generated within the County and ensure that effluent/sludge is treated and reused in accordance with the required EU standards and UÉ's National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (and any superseding plans).</p> <p>P-WWT-3 Maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water by prohibiting the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers.</p> <p>P-WWT-4 Require all new developments to connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, subject a connection agreement with UÉ.</p> <p>In cases where a settlement is not served by a public wastewater treatment plant, or where no spare capacity exists in the relevant wastewater treatment plants, proposals for single houses using on-site wastewater treatment will be considered subject to appropriate scale, site assessment, design and ground conditions, taking groundwater vulnerability into account and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Any such permitted development shall be subject to legally binding maintenance arrangements agreed with the Planning Authority and shall be required to connect to the public wastewater treatment plant when adequate capacity becomes available.</p> <p>However, communal on-site wastewater treatment systems for multiple housing developments (i.e. systems servicing more than one residential unit) will not be permitted.</p> <p>P-WWT-5 All proposals for on-site treatment systems shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's 2021 Code of Practice: Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤10) and/or Treatment Systems for Small Communities, business, Leisure Centres and Hotels, (EPA, 1999) as amended, and any guidance documents issued by the County Council.</p> <p>33.2.8 Waste management</p> <p>Sligo County Council supports the sustainable management of waste and seeks to enable a significant reduction in the production of waste in County Sligo, in line with the principles of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (DECC, 2021).</p> <p>The identification and provision of facilities for the reception of C&D waste should be integrated into the project planning and design processes. In order to ensure that this occurs, conditions will be included in the permissions granted to particular developments, requiring resource and waste management plans be drawn up prior to the commencement of the development.</p> <p>These plans will be subject to approval by the Planning Authority and will include site inspections to ensure that all wastes generated during development are being</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<p>handled in an environmentally-sound and sustainable manner.</p> <p>The plans must be prepared and carried out in accordance with the EPA's Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects (2021).</p> <p>The Council will continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology¹⁰¹ and protected architecture¹⁰² arising from construction and operation activities. 	<p>P-AH-1 Protect, manage, and enhance archaeological sites, monuments and landscapes, underwater archaeology (including protected wrecks), historic burial grounds (including their setting, appreciation and visual amenity) listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Register of Historic Monuments, and any additional newly discovered archaeological sites and/or sub-surface archaeological remains.</p> <p>This shall be done in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.</p> <p>P-AH-2 Require Archaeological Impact Assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring, as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual assessment may be required.</p> <p>P-AH-3 Require the preservation of the context, amenity, visual integrity and connection of archaeological monuments to their setting. Views to and from archaeological monuments shall not be obscured by inappropriate development. Where appropriate, Archaeological Visual Impact Assessments will be required to demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monument's siting and context.</p> <p>P-AH-4 Require Archaeological Impact Assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring, as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than 0.5 ha, for linear developments over 1 km in length, and for developments in proximity to areas of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery, as identified by suitably qualified archaeologists.</p> <p>P-AH-5 Secure the preservation in situ or by record of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994; - any sites and features of historical and archaeological interest; - any subsurface archaeological features that may be discovered during the course of infrastructural/development works in the operational area of the Plan. <p>Preservation relates to archaeological sites or objects and their settings. Preservation in situ is most effectively achieved by the refurbishment of existing buildings, in situations where it is possible to retain the greater part of existing structures without the need for new foundations.</p> <p>P-AH-6 Protect historic burial grounds that are National and/or Recorded Monuments and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles. Development may be restricted or conditions requiring substantial excavation may be imposed in and adjacent to former burial grounds.</p> <p>P-AH-7 Where possible, facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage and disseminate archaeological information and advice to prospective developers and the general public.</p> <p>P-AH-8 Require that all development proposals for industrial buildings and sites of industrial archaeological importance be accompanied by an Industrial Archaeology Assessment of the surrounding environment. The preservation in situ of significant examples of industrial or military heritage will be required. New development should be designed in sympathy with existing features and structures.</p> <p>P-AH-9 Protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated features. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments.</p> <p>P-AH-10 Refer to the National Monuments Section (DHLGH) all development proposals within the archaeological and historic landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill) as identified in Fig.25.A.</p> <p>P-AH-11 Ensure that Archaeological Impact Assessments are requested at pre-planning and planning application stage for all development proposals within the archaeological and historic landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill).</p> <p>P-AH-12 Implement the County Sligo Heritage Plan and all its revisions, in partnership with the County Sligo Heritage Forum and all relevant stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>O-AH-1 Identify and protect internationally important archaeological landscapes such as the Carrowkeel, Inishmurray and the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill), in co-operation with landowners and relevant stakeholders and statutory agencies.</p>

¹⁰¹ Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and underwater archaeology. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

¹⁰² Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Records of Protected Structures. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>O-AH-2 Identify appropriate archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided and work to secure public access, where appropriate, in consultation with the landowners.</p> <p>O-AH-3 Prepare and implement conservation plans, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, for key heritage sites in County Sligo, including Sligo Gaol, the Green Fort (Sligo), Drumcliffe Monastic Site and Inishmurray.</p> <p>P-ARH-1 Preserve, protect and enhance the architectural heritage of County Sligo for future generations by seeking to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of protected structures and their settings.</p> <p>P-ARH-2 Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a protected structure, an adjoining structure or a structure within an ACA is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character of the structure, to its setting or the general character of the ACA.</p> <p>P-ARH-3 Exempt a development proposal from the normal requirement for the payment of a development contribution if the proposal involves restoration/refurbishment of a protected structure to a high architectural standard.</p> <p>P-ARH-4 Facilitate 'enabling development' to be carried out in conjunction with works to protected structures.</p> <p>P-ARH-5 Protect important non-habitable structures such as historic bridges, harbours, railways or non-structural elements such as roadside features (e.g. historic milestones, cast-iron pumps and post-boxes), street furniture, historic gardens, stone walls, landscapes, demesnes and curtilage features, in cases where these are not already included in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>P-ARH-6 Encourage the re-use of industrial heritage structures, provided that change of use does not impact on the intrinsic character of the structure, and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.</p> <p>P-ARH-7 Protect and enhance the built heritage of the Sligo-Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) and Great Southern & Western Railway (GS&WR / Limerick & Sligo Branch) and associated structures.</p> <p>In as far as practically possible, development which may impact on the character and setting of these structures shall be sensitively designed.</p> <p>P-ARH-8 Require an Architectural/Archaeological Heritage Assessment, as appropriate, which references the Sligo Industrial Heritage Survey and other relevant sources, for all proposed developments relating to industrial heritage structures or sites.</p> <p>Designed landscapes, gardens and demesnes</p> <p>P-ARH-9 Require the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and support the provision of public access to these sites in consultation with landowners.</p> <p>P-ARH-10 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>P-ARH-11 Require an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, to accompany proposals for development in designed landscapes and demesnes, in order to inform site-appropriate design</p> <p>O-ARH-1 Carry out Phase 2 of the Sligo Industrial Heritage Survey comprising field surveys and assessments. Where appropriate, propose the addition of surviving sites and structures to the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>P-ACA-1 Conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas in this plan. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, shop fronts, landscape and setting.</p> <p>P-ACA-2 Protect all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all features considered to be intrinsic elements to the special character of the ACA from demolition, removal and non-sympathetic alterations.</p> <p>Any proposal for demolition or alteration within an ACA shall be accompanied by a measured and photographic survey, a Condition Report and an Architectural Heritage Assessment.</p> <p>P-ACA-3 Promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and sites within ACAs.</p> <p>P-ACA-4 Require the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings, chimneys, rainwater goods and other significant features of structures of architectural heritage merit, whether protected or not.</p> <p>P-ACA-5 Seek the repair and reuse of traditional shopfronts and where appropriate, encourage new shopfronts of a high-quality architectural design.</p> <p>P-ACA-6 Ensure that new development within or adjacent to an ACA respects the established character of the area, contributes positively in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes to the ACA.</p> <p>Such development shall be appropriately sited and designed, having regard to advice given in the Statement of Character for the respective ACA, where available.</p> <p>P-ACA-7 Promote high quality architectural design within ACAs, including redevelopment in the traditional or historicist manner, where appropriate.</p> <p>P-ACA-8 Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities on buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed, and located in such a manner that they do not detract from the character of the ACA.</p> <p>P-ACA-9 Protect and enhance the quality of open spaces within ACAs and ensure the protection and where necessary reuse of street furniture and use of appropriate materials during the course of public infrastructure schemes within ACAs.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>O-ACA-1 Identify places of special character in the County, with a view to designating them as Architectural Conservation Areas or to modify existing ACAs, where necessary.</p> <p>O-ACA-2 Prepare and review, where necessary, a detailed Character Statement and planning guidance for each ACA.</p> <p>P-VH-1 Generally require the retention, sensitive restoration and sustainable re-use of historic building, structures and features in the County, including vernacular dwellings, farm buildings, paving, historic boundary treatments or layouts.</p> <p>There will be a presumption against the demolition of older buildings where restoration and adaptation are feasible.</p> <p>P-VH-2 Ensure that conversions or extensions to vernacular buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building. Demolition or removal will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>P-VH-3 Encourage the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings and promote available grant schemes to assist owners with such works.</p> <p>P-VH-4 Seek the retention of original or historic fabric such as windows, doors, wall renders, roof coverings, shopfronts, pub fronts and other significant features of older or historic buildings, whether protected or not.</p> <p>P-VH-5 Promote the retention and re-use of the vernacular built heritage through increasing public awareness of its potential and adaptability to change.</p> <p>P-VH-6 When considering proposals to adapt vernacular buildings to meet contemporary living standards and needs, require applicants to apply the conservation principles and guidelines set out in the ICOMOS Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (Mexico 1999) – refer to Appendix XX of this Plan.</p> <p>P-VH-7 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of Sligo, and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into any re-developments.</p> <p>O-VH-1 Update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County.</p> <p>P-HS-1 Seek the retention of surviving street layout, historic building lines, traditional plot sizes/widths in the villages and towns of Sligo where these derive from medieval or earlier origins, and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into any re-developments.</p> <p>P-HS-2 Require the preservation in-situ of significant medieval masonry remains found during the course of development works and, where practicable, support the presentation of such remains as part of the completed development.</p> <p>P-HS-3 Secure the preservation in-situ of surviving above-ground urban medieval and 16th/17th century structures, by ensuring that any permitted development does not result in the loss of such remains which may survive within buildings which are, or appear to be, of later date.</p> <p>P-HS-4 Consider excluding basement developments in archaeologically sensitive areas, particularly in urban Zones of Archaeological Potential and where there are buried waterlogged deposits.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>WHS-1 To support the State in the nomination process of 'The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo' to UNESCO World Heritage status, in co-operation with relevant State agencies and key stakeholders.</p> <p>P-LCP-1 Protect the physical landscape, visual and scenic character of County Sligo and seek to preserve the County's landscape character.</p> <p>Planning applications for developments that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character, especially in Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and along Scenic routes, may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods for the assessment.</p> <p>P-LCP-2 Discourage any developments that would be detrimental to the unique visual character of designated Visually Vulnerable Areas.</p> <p>P-LCP-3 Preserve the scenic views listed in Appendix X and the distinctive visual character of designated Scenic Routes by controlling development along such Routes and other roads, while facilitating developments that may be tied to a specific location or, in the case of individual houses, to the demonstrated needs of applicants to reside in a particular area.</p> <p>In all cases, strict location, siting and design criteria shall apply, as set out in Section 33.4 Housing in rural areas (development management standards).</p> <p>P-LCP-4 Strictly control new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, while considering exceptions that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned.</p> <p>Ensure that any new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area; • does not detract from the scenic value of the area; • meets high standards of siting and design; • satisfies all other criteria with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and prevention of pollution. <p>P-LCP-5 Protect the County's Sensitive Rural Landscapes from the visual intrusion of large-scale energy and telecommunications infrastructure.</p> <p>P-LCP-6 Protect the archaeological heritage, rural character, setting and amenity of the Cuil Irra Peninsula, Carrowkeel and Inishmurray.</p> <p>P-LCP-7 Preserve the status of traditionally open/unfenced landscapes. Fencing in upland or amenity areas will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm and conforms to best agricultural practice. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence and, in the case of a</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>wire fence, the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Barbed-wire shall not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required.</p> <p>P-LCP-8 Where possible, preserve the open character of commonage and other hill land and secure access thereto.</p> <p>O-LCP-1 Seek the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area, pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), for the Cuil Irra Peninsula and Carrowkeel.</p> <p>O-LCP-2 Seek the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area, pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), for Inishmurray.</p> <p>O-LCP-3 Prepare an updated Landscape Character Assessment for County Sligo in conjunction with the forthcoming Renewable Energy Strategy (refer to objective O-REN-1 in Chapter 31).</p> <p>O-LCP-4 Investigate the feasibility and potential of North Sligo (Ben Bulbin and its hinterland) and Lough Arrow as National Parks / National Recreation Areas in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other relevant stakeholders.</p>

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Plan, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Plan and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Plan.

10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 1 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Northern and Western RSES, the measures identified in the RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 10.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets.

The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

10.3 Sources

The Plan forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant. In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring. Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

10.4 Reporting

The Council shall, in conjunction with the Regional Assembly and other sources as relevant, implement the monitoring programme as set out on Table 10.1. This will include the preparation of stand-alone SEA Monitoring Reports:

1. To accompany the report required of the manager under Section 15(2) of the Act, including information in relation to progress on, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan, as required by Article 13J(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
2. On the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in advance of the beginning of the review of the next Plan.

Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Sligo Local Biodiversity Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)¹⁰³ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)¹⁰⁴ Consultations with the NPWS¹⁰⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Sligo Local Biodiversity Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 24 "Natural Heritage" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 24 "Natural Heritage" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	PHH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 7 "Economic Strategy" and Chapter 28 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 7 "Economic Strategy" and Chapter 28 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

¹⁰³ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

¹⁰⁴ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

¹⁰⁵ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH AA/Screening for AA for each application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance¹⁰⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.

¹⁰⁶ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Material Assets	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Uisce Éireann DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors¹⁰⁷	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development) Act 2015, as amended, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of 		

¹⁰⁷ Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.6 and Appendix I.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
			renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan	• Consultations with DECC	
		• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating	• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating		
		• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels	• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels	• CSO data • Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	• Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	• CSO data • Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	• Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	CH	• Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission	• Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.
		• Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	• Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	• Consultation with DHLGH.	
Landscape	L	• Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission	• Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.	<p>EU Member States must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred. Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions. Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes. Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		<p>stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive's implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes. Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate. Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate. <p>The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received.</p>	
EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) (2008/105/EC)	<p>It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)'s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).</p> <p>It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.</p>	<p>The directive sets EQSs for priority substances and eight other pollutants. These substances include: the metals cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, and their compounds; benzene; polyaromatic hydrocarbons; and several pesticides. Several of these priority substances are classed as hazardous.</p> <p>The EQSs in Directive 2008/105/EC are limits on the concentration of the priority substances and eight other pollutants in water (or biota), i.e. thresholds which must not be exceeded if a good chemical status is to be met. There are two types of water standard.</p> <p>A threshold for the average concentration of the substance concerned calculated from measurements over a 1-year period. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against long-term exposure to pollutants in the aquatic environment. A maximum allowable concentration of the substance concerned, i.e. the maximum for any single measurement. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against short-term exposure, i.e. pollution peaks.</p> <p>The EQSs are different for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inland surface waters (rivers and lakes); other surface waters (transitional, coastal and territorial waters). EU Member States must ensure compliance with the EQSs. They must also take measures to ensure that the concentrations of substances that tend to accumulate in sediment and/or biota do not increase significantly. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU)	<p>It is aimed at achieving significant benefits to the environment and human health by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil); best available techniques; flexibility; inspections; public participation. <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions:</p> <p>With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry; Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste; Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste; Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds; Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive); Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive); <p>With effect from 1st January 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IED aspires to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate pollution arising from industrial activities. It seeks to achieve this by providing a general framework for the control of the industries with the highest pollution potential in order to prevent the shifting of pollution from one environmental medium (or industry) to another. The overall intention is to provide an integrated approach to the prevention and control of emissions into the various environmental media such as, air, water and soil while striking a commercial balance for businesses. The IED aims to increase the effectiveness of the legislation by supporting Member States in implementing BAT-based permitting. The IED aims to improve and clarify the concept and use of BAT and increases transparency by requiring that the use of flexibility must be justified and documented leading to a more coherent and EU-wide application of BAT. The IED also strengthens existing minimum requirements in certain sectors (such as large combustion plants, waste incineration, etc.) so as to ensure the achievement of objectives of the Commission's Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution. The IED aims to further increase the effectiveness of the legislation by strengthening provisions on environmental improvement and enforcement, while stimulating innovation. The IED introduces minimum requirements as regards the environmental inspections of installations, the review and update of permits, and reporting on compliance. It also provides incentives for the development and promotion of environment-friendly technologies. The IED aims to cut all identified unnecessary administrative burdens and simplify current legislation. The IED tackles the shortcomings of current EU legislation on industrial emissions by overhauling the seven existing pieces of legislation on industrial emissions. This has improved the clarity and coherence of the legislation and should reduce the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<p>The Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</p>	<p>This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.	other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/2413 - amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652	The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.	The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) - (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU)	<p>The regulation sets mandatory national targets for European Union Member States to deploy publicly accessible alternative fuels infrastructure (in particular for electricity and hydrogen) for road vehicles, vessels moored at the quayside and stationary aircraft, with a specific focus on the trans-European networks. The regulation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> common rules for user information, data provision and payment requirements; a mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure interoperability of infrastructure by mandating technical specifications on the basis of European standards; and planning and reporting requirements for Member States. 	<p>Recharging infrastructure for electric cars and vans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States must ensure that publicly accessible recharging stations are set up in proportion to the number of registered vehicles, as follows: for each registered electric vehicle, a total power output of at least 1.3 kilowatts (kW); for each registered plug-in hybrid vehicle, a total power output of at least 0.80 kW. Member States must also ensure the deployment of publicly accessible recharging stations along the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) road network. <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric heavy-duty vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States must ensure a minimum coverage of recharging points for heavy-duty electric vehicles. <p>Hydrogen infrastructure for road vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 December 2030, Member States must ensure that publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling stations with a total capacity of at least 1 tonne per day are deployed at least every 200 km along the TEN-T core network. At least one refuelling station must be deployed in each urban node. <p>Liquefied methane for road transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until 31 December 2024, Member States must ensure that an appropriate number of publicly accessible refuelling points for liquefied methane are set up, at least along the TEN-T core network, where there is demand, unless the costs are disproportionate to the benefits, including environmental benefits. <p>Electricity supply in maritime ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 December 2029, there must be sufficient shoreside electricity for ships moored at the quayside at TEN-T core and TEN-T comprehensive maritime ports to serve at least 90% of all container and passenger vessels above 5,000 gross tonnage. <p>Electricity for stationary aircraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 December 2024, all airports of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network must provide electricity to stationary aircraft used for commercial air transport operations at aircraft contact stands, and by 31 December 2029 at all remote stands. <p>Railway infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States must assess the development of alternative fuel technologies and propulsion systems (including hydrogen and battery power) for rail infrastructure that cannot be fully electrified for technical or cost-efficiency reasons. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		Payment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users of electric and hydrogen vehicles must be able to pay easily at recharging and hydrogen refuelling points (with payment cards and without subscriptions). Prices, including all of their components and specific to the recharging session, must be communicated clearly to end users before the start of a recharging session. 	
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023)	The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement.	The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019)	<p>The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved.</p> <p>The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021–2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy.</p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries. A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers. Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth. Climate action, decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy. Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness. <p>Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	<p>with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants	It aims to reduce the health risks and environmental impact of air pollution by establishing national emission reduction commitments. The Directive also aligns emission reduction commitments under EU law with international commitments (following the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012). The legislation was proposed as part of the EU's 2013 Clean Air Policy Package, which included a Clean Air Programme for Europe.	<p>The Directive covers 5 air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sulphur dioxide; nitrogen oxides; non-methane volatile organic compounds; ammonia; and fine particulate matter. <p>The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)	Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.	This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), nitrogen oxides (NO _x) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)	The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.	<p>The revised Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020; more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport; puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty, it aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency; it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners; introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres; expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold; mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		<p>performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional, and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets. 	
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve "good status" for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	Implementation of the Framework needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	<p>water from certain industrial sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	<p>cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	<p>The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sewage Sludge Directive (Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture)	<p>The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I A and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge.</p> <p>The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture 	<p>The Directive also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sets limits for the concentration of seven heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils (cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury, chromium) bans the use of sewage sludge that results in concentrations of these heavy metals in soil exceeding these limit values 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Bathing Waters Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC)	<p>With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.</p> <p>The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive 	<p>The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962) CAP 2023-2027	<p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food; safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living; help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources; maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU; keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors. 	<p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle.</p> <p>The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
UN Sustainable Development Goals	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership.</p>	<p>Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements.</p> <p>SDGs with a specific importance to transport sector are:</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG Target 3.6 – By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. SDG 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. 	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Commission's "Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change" (2021)	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Environment Agency's European Climate Risk Assessment (2024)	This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe.	The risks are evaluated in the contexts of risk severity, policy horizon (lead time and decision horizon), policy readiness and risk ownership. It further identifies priorities for EU policy action, based on a structured risk assessment united with qualitative aspects, such as considering social justice.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. <p>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Green Deal (2019) and "Fit for 55" legislation (2021)	The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The "Fit for 55" legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal.	<p>The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>The 'Fit for 55' package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the REPowerEU plan to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe's energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Europe 2020: European 2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment	The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that the economic revival of the European Union following the economic and financial crisis is supported by a series of reforms in order to build solid foundations for growth and job creation by 2020. While addressing the structural weaknesses of the EU's economy and economic and social issues, the strategy also takes account of the longer-term challenges of globalisation, pressure on resources and ageing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Europe 2020 Strategy should enable the EU to achieve growth that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> smart, through the development of knowledge and innovation; sustainable, based on a greener, more resource efficient and more competitive economy; inclusive, aimed at strengthening employment and social and territorial cohesion. The EU has set itself five major targets for this ambition to be achieved by 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75 %; investing 3 % of gross domestic product in research and development; reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 %, increasing the share of renewable energies to 20 % and increasing energy efficiency by 20 %; reducing the school drop-out rate to less than 10 % and increasing the proportion of tertiary degrees to at least 40 %; reducing the number of people threatened by poverty or social exclusion by 20 million. The Europe 2020 Strategy targets are also supported by 7 flagship initiatives at European level and in EU countries: the Innovation Union; Youth on the move; the Digital Agenda for Europe; a Resource-efficient Europe; an industrial policy for the globalisation era; the agenda for new skills and jobs; and the European Platform against Poverty. At European level, the single market, the EU budget and the European external policy are additional levers in achieving the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.</p> <p>Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea; Launching an EU nature restoration plan; Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)	The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979)	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision.	The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010, which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<p>Among the many decisions taken, governments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020. Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)	The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention (1971)	The Convention's mission is <i>"the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"</i> .	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention (1992)	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy Eutrophication Strategy Hazardous Substances Strategy Offshore Industry Strategy Radioactive Substances Strategy Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. 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.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. <p>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. <p>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007) Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013) Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013) Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017) Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Uisce Éireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc. (No. 39 of 2022)	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024	<p>Ireland.</p> <p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p>	<p>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is made up of investment in individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants and upgrading existing networks, and national programmes where activities are being delivered in a consistent and efficient manner across the country. Some examples of these programmes are the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027	<p>The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2050. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.</p>	<p>The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 was created in alignment with Ireland's Forest Strategy and is designed to provide lasting benefits for many key areas including climate change, biodiversity, wood production, and employment alongside enhancing societal benefits. The Forestry Programme will provide incentives for farmers and other landowners and will provide farm families with the opportunity to increase and diversify their income streams.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024)	<p>The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.</p>	<p>The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthening the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for 'targeting the right measures in the right place' and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027	<p>The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.</p>	<p>The programme is comprised of 2,899 surface and groundwater bodies representing 60% of the total number of national water bodies, covering 2,429 river water bodies, 224 lakes, 80 transitional water bodies, 45 coastal waters, 16 canals and 121 groundwater bodies. The programme is operated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021)	<p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP Framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW) Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW) Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE) <p>Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM)</p>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water <p>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030	<p>The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by</p>	<p>The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024)	The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040. The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.	The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> set a clear direction for managing our seas clarify objectives and priorities direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027	Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities"	The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors; Increase the contribution to the national GDP; Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework; Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; Implement and comply with environmental legislation; Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity; Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and Engagement and participation by all. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network	The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.	The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. 	framework for environmental protection and management. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022)	The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.	Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure pits, silage pits or silage clamps arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle. Part 3 concerns nutrient management. Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied. Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters. Part 6 is functions of the public authorities: certificates, exemptions, etc.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014)	These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna. The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030	Ireland's 4 th National Biodiversity Action Plan sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity	Implementation of the Framework needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly; • Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; • Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; • Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and • Collecting evidence to track change and measure success. 	<p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)	<p>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</p>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, • The policy of the Government on climate change, • Climate justice, • Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and • The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Climate Action Plan 2023 and Climate Action Plan 2024	<p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland 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>The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	<p>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. • Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. • Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. • Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017	<p>The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.</p>	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport • An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans	<p>The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments.</p>	<p>To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project . The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines' publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022)	<p>It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and green mobility; • People focussed mobility; and 	<p>The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022-2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and DART+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	Better integrated mobility.	Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country.	framework for environmental protection and management
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated implementation plan	It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery.	The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025	The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy, 2023 – 2025 sets out a pathway to incentivise the supply of renewable transport fuel through annual increases in the renewable transport fuel obligation rate to 2030.	The policy will underpin the shift to the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) biofuel targets of at least B20 (biodiesel equivalent) in diesel and E10 (Ethanol) in petrol by 2030 (with an interim B12/E10 by 2025 target).	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Security Framework (2022)	National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (published in 2024)	National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years, this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union: - Decarbonisation - Energy Efficiency - Energy Security - Internal Energy Market - Research, Innovation and Competitiveness The NECP brings together the policies, targets, tools and associated material relating to our climate and energy obligations under various EU Regulations and Directives from across government bodies and departments into one document. It reflects our ambitions and provides certainty to investors and policymakers that we are committed to EU-wide targets and ambitions to move towards becoming a carbon-neutral society.	It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024	It is the second National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals reviews the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.	The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes. Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040	The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	The PLUTO seeks to: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
		investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) (2021)	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Implementation of the Framework needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	• This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 ("Energy Security Package")	It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050.	The Energy Security Package includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising: • Reduced and Responsive Demand • A Renewables-Led System • More Resilient Systems • Robust Risk Governance	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges. It aims at improving synergies and identifying and tackling policy gaps, policy conflicts and trade-offs as part of a coherent, joined-up approach to policy making on sustainable development. Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.	The objectives of the Framework are to: • Identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable progress towards the strategy aims. • Highlight and promote existing sustainable practices that, with the correct support, can underpin sustainable development more generally. • Strengthen policy integration, coherence and co-ordination and bring a long term perspective to decision making. • Set out governance mechanisms which ensure effective participation within government and across all stakeholders. • Set out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan. • Set out how progress is to be measured and reported on through the use of indicators. • Incorporate adequate and effective monitoring, learning and improvement into the Framework process.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020	Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: ○ To reduce overall travel demand. ○ To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. ○ To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. ○ To reduce transport emissions. ○ To improve accessibility to transport.	Others lower level aims include: ○ reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ○ ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking ○ improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies ○ strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 – 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan vision: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high-level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017-2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020. Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	Implementation of the Framework needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010)	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. National Renewable Energy Action Plan.	The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020)	Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.	It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
National Broadband Plan (2012)	The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to update the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all greenways users. <p>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies; and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. <p>The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</p>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and <p>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. <p>Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i></p>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; <p>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: 1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste; 2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts; 3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste. 4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities; 5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024)	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025	The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.	It is based around four key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life to reduce health inequalities to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), nitrogen oxides (NO _x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH ₃), and fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5}), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy 2023	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. <p>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.</p>	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Agri-Food Strategy 2030	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level “Missions” for the sector to work toward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector • Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being • Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad • An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agricultural Schemes, including: Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP)	Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended)	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas.	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025	The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.	A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country. The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020	The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways. The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations".</i>	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. • Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. • Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023	10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways. Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation Development & Governance Sustainable Funding Model Asset Portfolio Management Participation and Reputation Sustainable Development Climate Action, Environment and Heritage 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998	The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.	This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1998, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DHLGH, 2024)	The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.	The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)	The Guidelines have five key policy objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that retail development is plan-led; Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development; Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations; Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and Delivering quality urban design outcomes. 	The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)	Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.	Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027	The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.	This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Derelict Sites Act (1990)	An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable Local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to	Under the Act, local authorities can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served Make compulsory land purchases Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost All local authorities must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a derelict sites register 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site. 	framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended)	An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for a vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.	This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland	<p>The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to purchase or rent at an affordable price built to a high standard and in the right place offering a high quality of life 	<p>The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting home ownership and increasing affordability eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion increasing new housing supply addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Town Centre First Policy (2022)	The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and cultural.	The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UK Marine Policy Statement and the Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland. UK Marine Policy Statement and the Draft Marine Plan for Northern provide the policy framework for both planning and marine licensing authorities in making their decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving a sustainable marine economy Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society Living within environmental limits Promoting good governance Using sound science responsibly 	<p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high-level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable economic development; Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (UK)	Aims to provide the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	<p>The Marine Act comprises eight key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Strategic Marine Planning System Streamlined Marine Licensing System Marine Nature Conservation Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries Coastal Access Coastal and Estuarine Management 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013	Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes.	<p>The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Planning Nature Conservation Marine Licensing 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) NI	The SPPS consolidates some twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development.	The overall objective of the planning system is to further sustainable development and improve well-being for the people of the North.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended)	The aim of the Act is to create a planning system which is quicker, clearer and more accessible, with resources better matched to priorities. The Act also gives effect to local government reform changes which	The enactment of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 provided the legislative basis for the most significant reforms of the Northern Ireland planning system in a generation. These reforms impacted on every aspect of planning, including how development plans are drawn up, how	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	transferred the majority of planning functions and decision-making responsibilities for local development plans, development management plus planning enforcement to locally accountable councils	development proposals and applications are managed and the way in which these functions are delivered. The key reforms set out to deliver the complete overhaul and redesign of the development plan and development management systems with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness. Significant changes were also made in relation to planning appeals and enforcement.	other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995	The Order is one of the primary pieces of legislation used to protect archaeological sites and built heritage.	State Care sites and monuments are those in the ownership of NIEA. The Order (Article 13) provides the statutory remit for NIEA to acquire historic monuments to secure their protection and manage them for the benefit of present and future generations, by providing public access. The Order (Article 3) allows NIEA to schedule monuments for protection. These monuments remain in their existing ownership, but give NIEA powers to control works through Scheduled Monument consent, help to look after sites through Management Agreements or pursue prosecution where damage has been caused.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 (NI)	An Act to secure the protection of wrecks in territorial waters and the sites of such wrecks, from interference by unauthorised persons; and for connected purposes.	Section 1 of the act provides for wrecks to be designated because of historical, archaeological or artistic value. Section 2 provides for designation of dangerous sites. Wreck sites must have a known location in order to be designated.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 - Spatial Strategy for Northern Ireland	The RDS provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. It does not redefine other Departments' strategies but complements them with a spatial perspective.	The aims of the RDS are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland; • Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West; • Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential; • Promote development which improves the health and well-being of communities; • Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places; • Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake; • Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change; and • Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland (2020)	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy.	The Strategy sets out how Northern Ireland plans to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy. It builds upon the first Biodiversity Strategy published in 2002 but adopts the modern and internationally agreed approach that emphasises the management of biological systems to deliver the materials and services upon which people depend – the ecosystem services approach.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environment Strategy (NI) (2022)	The Environment Strategy is an overarching document setting out Northern Ireland's environmental priorities for the coming decades and will form part of the Green Growth agenda.	The Environment Strategy covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air and water quality • A healthy environment we can enjoy • Nature and wildlife • Using our environment to make things without damaging it • Waste and recycling • Changing climate 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040	The Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040 provides an outline of the policy drivers for the development of this strategy, the ecosystem services that semi-natural peatlands in Northern Ireland provide, details the current factors affecting our semi-natural peatlands and sets out the objectives and actions which we consider necessary to ensure that our semi-natural peatlands are conserved and restored to functioning ecosystems. The Strategy is expected to be published by the end of 2024.	The Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy provides information on a series of Strategic Objectives and Actions that the Department and its partner organisations intend to take forward. The UK Peatland Strategy was published in 2018 and identifies a common way forward and sets the context for the devolved administrations strategic peatland action plans.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050	The long-term vision of the Energy Strategy is to have net zero and affordable energy, compatible with the 2015 Paris Agreement, and one which makes a fair contribution to the UK Government's legally binding target of "net zero" emissions by 2050.	The Energy Strategy sets out a pathway for energy to 2030 that will mobilise the skills, technologies and behaviours needed to take us towards our vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy by 2050. It outlines a roadmap to 2030 aiming to deliver a 56% reduction in our energy-related emissions.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS)	The UK Marine Policy Statement provides the policy framework for the marine planning system and taking decisions affecting the marine environment.	The Marine Policy Statement will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom marine area. It has been prepared and adopted for the purposes of section 44 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Guidance to the UK Marine Policy Statement from 1 January 2020 explains how references to EU law in the UK MPS should be interpreted from 1 January 2021 following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.	management. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010	The UK Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 require the UK to take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) through the development of a UK Marine Strategy.	The UK Marine Strategy, made up of Parts One, Two and Three, sets out a comprehensive framework for assessing, monitoring and taking action across our seas to achieve the UK's shared vision for 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse ocean and seas'. In October 2019, the updated UK Marine Strategy Part One: UK updated assessment and Good Environmental Status was published. In March 2021 the updated UK Marine Strategy Part Two: UK updated monitoring programmes was published and the UK Marine Strategy Part 3: Programme for Measures is being reviewed after being out for consultation (6/09/21-29/11/21).	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland informs and guides the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area. It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region.	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA) and the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (The Marine Act), require the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) as the Marine Plan Authority (MPA), to prepare marine plans. The Marine Plan has been developed within the framework of the UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS). This will facilitate the sustainable development of the marine area.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment.	ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022	The Act sets targets for the years 2050, 2040 and 2030 for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland.	The Act commits Northern Ireland to a target of 48% reduction in emissions and 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and carbon net zero by 2050.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order (2002)	Aims to prevent and control pollution in Northern Ireland.	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution prevention and control • Air pollution prevention and control • Pollution prevention and control in areas of special scientific interest (ASSI) 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity.	The Act defines the functions of Northern Irish public bodies in relation to the conservation of biodiversity as well as containing provisions for the conservation of flora, fauna and habitats.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Northern Ireland Environment Act 2021	<p><i>"An Act to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes."</i></p> <p>The main aims of the Act are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishment of the Office for Environmental Protection 	The Environment Act 2021 is organised in 8 Parts and 21 Schedules and sets out various provisions for environmental governance, protection of water, air, nature and biodiversity.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (OEP); publication of a policy statement on environmental principles; and annual reporting on implementation of the Environmental Improvement Plan. 		
Northern Ireland's River Basin Management Plans	River Basin Management Plans are the key tools for implementing the Water Framework Directive and to achieving its objectives.	DAERA has published the Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle period which runs from 2021-2027. The draft plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland (2024)	<p>An Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) for NI is a statutory requirement of the Environment Act 2021. The EIP will provide the focus for protecting and enhancing our natural environment for the coming decades. The strategic objectives of the EIP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent air, water and land quality; A healthy and accessible environment and landscapes everyone can connect with and enjoy; Thriving, resilient and connected nature and wildlife; Sustainable production and consumption on land and at sea; Zero waste and a highly developed circular economy, and Net zero greenhouse gas emissions and improved climate resilience and adaptability. 	The Environmental Improvement Plan aims to link each set of proposed actions and targets to improve Northern Ireland environment to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020-2032	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council; Leitrim County Council; Cavan County Council; Monaghan County Council; Roscommon County Council; Mayo County Council; Sligo County Council; Galway City Council; Galway County Council.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus; Light Rail; Heavy Rail; Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; Integrated Service Plan; and Integration and Accessibility. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Transport Strategies for Cities and Metropolitan Areas (National Transport Authority, Various)	These Strategies sets out how transport will be developed across the various areas.	These Strategies typically contribute towards sustainable mobility, high-quality public transport services and compact urban form.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained. Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.	<p>Aims to identify and determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level. The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports. The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest To describe the site and its management To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site 	Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
	To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives		
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Plans in force within County Sligo and in other adjoining planning authorities. This includes Development Plans and Local Area Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning objectives for land use development. Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. Protect and enhances amenities and environment. Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. Aim to promote sustainable development. Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Authorities Biodiversity and Heritage Action Plans (various), including Sligo Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2023-2030	Aim to protect, conserve, enhance and restore heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem services.	The Biodiversity and Heritage Action Plans support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gathering information on the biodiversity resource managing the resource education and awareness cooperation to achieve objectives 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Sligo LECP 2023-2030	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Authorities Landscape Character Assessments (various), including County Sligo Landscape Character Appraisal	Characterise the geographical dimension of the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guide strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Authorities Noise Action Plans (various), including Sligo County Council's	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The Noise Action Plans seek to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems. Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects. Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Authorities Climate Action Plans (various), including Sligo County Council's	Climate Action Plans sets out how the relevant local authority can promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the national climate obligations and the Government's overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.	Responding to the continuing challenges presented by climate change, the Climate Action Plans lay out the relevant local authority's course of action over the five-year lifetime of the plan. The Plans are typically centred around actions relating to issues including energy efficiency by 2030, greenhouse gas and climate resilience.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NI Regional Development Strategy 2035	Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.	Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
NI Regional Seascape Character Assessment	The aim of this study is to provide a strategic understanding of different areas of regional seascape character along the entire Northern Ireland coast, complementing similar assessments undertaken elsewhere in the UK. This will contribute to the aims of the European Landscape Convention through promoting the protection, management and planning of the seascape, and to support the European cooperation in landscape issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and map the different regional seascape character areas. Describe the key features and characteristics of each seascape character area. Relate the description of each seascape character area to its neighbouring terrestrial landscape character areas (as described in the NI Landscape Character Assessment, 2000) and take account of boundaries identified in relation to neighbouring seascape areas for the British and Irish coastline. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Homeless Action Plan for the North-West Region 2023-2028	There are 4 key Strategic Aims in this Plan: 1. To Prevent Homelessness – early intervention to people at risk of homelessness; 2. To Protect those experiencing homelessness through emergency accommodation and targeted support; 3. Progression – to identify pathways to long-term housing solutions; 4. Ensure Proper Governance, Financial Oversight and Funding to deliver homeless services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amongst the pathways contained in Housing for All is the Pathway to Eradicating Homelessness, increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion. This pathway is underpinned by a range of actions to address homelessness with an ultimate goal of working to end homelessness by 2030. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sligo Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2026	The Age Friendly Programme is built around the following key outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead healthier and active lives for longer Stay living in our own homes and communities Get to where we want to go, when we want Have the information we need to lead full lives Feel and be safe at home and out and about Be enabled by the build and social environment Continue to learn, develop and work Participate in social, economic and public life Be truly valued and respected 	The Age Friendly Programme is part of a worldwide, World Health Organisation inspired movement which aims to make sure that as we age, we can continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a real say in what happens in our own lives and what happens in the areas in which we live, Enjoy good health, access to high quality services, and a secure and enabling environment Be engaged and have opportunities to participate fully in everything that is going on in our cities and counties. 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sligo Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 - 2024	Sligo County Council, under the provisions of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, is required to prepare and adopt a new Traveller Accommodation Programme.	Under the 1998 Act, Sligo County Council has certain obligations in relation to the preparation, adoption and implementation of a Traveller Accommodation Programme. In summary, Sligo County Council is required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and adopt an Accommodation Programme to meet the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers in County Sligo. Allow for public input to the preparation and amendment of the Programme. Take appropriate steps to secure implementation of the Programme 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sligo County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026	This Plan sets out housing targets and the methods of delivery for both social and affordable housing.	The Government have issued social housing targets for the term of the strategy to each Local Authority, a target of 517 dwellings in the case of Sligo County Council. Local authorities have been requested to submit a Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) for the period 2022-2026, setting out details on the delivery of housing in their LA over the next five years including locations and types of housing in addition to information on delivery and the delivery partners who will work with the local authorities to meet this target.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Sligo Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability 2021-2025	The vision of the Co. Sligo Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability (2021-2025) is to facilitate access to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living for people with a disability.	The core goal of the Strategy is to meet the identified housing needs of people with disabilities locally whether they are currently living in the community and/or in a congregated setting.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sligo PEACEPLUS Action 2023- 2027	The overall objective of the PEACEPLUS Programme will be to build Peace and Prosperity and ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The Programme's strategy is to continue to take the opportunities and address the needs arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration and secondly, to promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life.	The Programme will help to address many long-standing social and economic challenges which have, and continue to impact on communities, particularly those in rural border areas, as well as ongoing challenges that exist in urban settings.	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Sligo Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027	The aim of the Strategy is to champion the importance and value of Sligo's unique creativity and culture as a catalyst to empower communities and foster new ideas and ways of thinking to achieve Sligo's ambition to be a sustainable place to live, work, visit and invest in for the benefit of all citizens.	The values for the Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration and Partnership Leadership Innovation Teamwork Sustainability Monitoring and Evaluation 	Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Strategy
Sligo Digital Strategy 2020-2023	<p>The primary vision of this digital strategy is to place County Sligo at the forefront of a digital transition. In doing so it will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the climate action agenda, • Promote increased economic activity in the region and within the city centre, and, • Deliver improved social inclusion. 	<p>To place Sligo at the forefront of digital innovation, a series of short to medium term objectives have been developed for the life of this strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate the deployment of digital infrastructure to enable Sligo achieve its Smart City Sligo 2025 ambitions, • Activate a rich ecosystem of public, private, academic and civic partners in a collaborative process to make the digital vision an enduring reality, • Establish an appropriate governance structure to manage the ongoing digital initiatives and deliver value to all stakeholders. 	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sligo Libraries Development Plan 2019 - 2023	<p>Five strategies are the key to the successful delivery of this plan five year development plan. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placing Literacy and Reading at the centre of Service. 2. The Library as a Centre of Learning and Information 3. Creative Libraries – The Library as an active space leading and facilitating culture and creativity in communities. 4. Collections Policy: Update and development of printed and digital collections. 5. Placing Literature at the centre of Service. 	<p>Sligo Library Services will continue to be at the heart of the community, providing free library service for all, in a safe and inclusive space. The successful delivery of this Plan will double current membership figures and see a significant increase in numbers at programmes and activities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sligo Arts Plan 2020 - 2025	<p>The Plan aims to renew Sligo County Council's role as a leading development agency and strategic partner in arts development. Through a range of responsive and new programmes, the local authority will invigorate the artistic and creative life of Sligo with additional resources including new funding streams, connection and co-ordination and deepened relationships among artists and communities.</p>	<p>County Sligo Arts Service works in partnership with key stakeholders to deliver a high-quality arts service for the people of Sligo and to promote greater public involvement in the arts in a wide range of social and community settings. The Arts Service also works with the arts community to promote culture and creativity as an expression of contemporary Sligo at national and international level.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' and 'Wild Atlantic Way' Brands, Regional Tourism Development Strategies and Destination Experience such as the Sligo DEDP	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the Plan area and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Appendix II Further Environmental Baseline Detail

European Sites (SACs and SPAs) within/partially within County Sligo		
Site Code	Site Name	Sensitive Features
000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	Sensitive features include: estuaries; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; annual vegetation of drift lines; vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; embryonic shifting dunes; shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation; humid dune slacks; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; sea lamprey; and harbour seal.
000492	Doocastle Turlough SAC	Sensitive features include: turloughs.
000497	Flughany Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> .
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	Sensitive features include: estuaries; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; embryonic shifting dunes; shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ; fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation; humid dune slacks; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; and harbour seal.
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff And Glenade Complex SAC	Sensitive features include: water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas; <i>Hydrophilous</i> tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels; blanket bogs; transition mires and quaking bogs; petrifying springs with tufa formation; alkaline fens; siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels; calcareous and calcschist screes of the montane to alpine levels; calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; geyser's whorl snail; and otter.
000625	Bunduff Lough And Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC	Sensitive features include: mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; shifting dune along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ; fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation; humid dune slacks; machairs; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; alkaline fens; marsh fritillary; and petalwort.
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Sensitive features include: estuaries; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; embryonic shifting dunes; shifting dunes with herbaceous vegetation; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; petrifying springs with tufa formation; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; sea lamprey; river lamprey; and harbour seal.
000633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains; blanket bogs; geyser's whorl snail; and white-clawed crayfish.
000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: blanket bogs.
000636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC	Sensitive features include: hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i> ; and water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation.
000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC	Sensitive features include: turloughs.
000638	Union Wood SAC	Sensitive features include: old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles.
001656	Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC	Sensitive features include: turloughs; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; lowland hay meadows; calcareous and calcschist screes of the montane to alpine levels; marsh fritillary; and white-clawed crayfish.
001669	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC	Sensitive features include: Killarney Fern.
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	Sensitive features include: hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i>
001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	Sensitive features include: mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ; fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation; and narrow-mouthed whorl snail.
001898	Unshin River SAC	Sensitive features include: water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ; salmon; and otter.
001976	Lough Gill SAC	Sensitive features include: Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; salmon; and otter.
002006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains; natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; blanket bogs; transition mires and quaking bogs; depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ; geyser's whorl snail; and marsh saxifrage.
002298	River Moy SAC	Sensitive features include: lowland hay meadows; active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ; alkaline fens; old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; salmon; and otter.
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	Sensitive features include: sanderling; bar-tailed godwit; and wetland and waterbirds.
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; oystercatcher; redshank; and wetland and waterbirds.
004036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	Sensitive features include: ringed plover; golden plover; grey plover; sanderling; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; and wetland and waterbirds.
004048	Lough Gara SPA	Sensitive features include: whooper swan; and Greenland white-fronted goose.
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	Sensitive features include: little grebe; tufted duck; and wetland and waterbirds.
004068	Inishmurray SPA	Sensitive features include: shag; barnacle goose; herring gull; and Arctic tern.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; grey plover; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; redshank; and wetland and waterbirds.
004133	Aughris Head SPA	Sensitive features include: kittiwake.
004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	Sensitive features include: cormorant; and barnacle goose.
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	Sensitive features include: peregrine; and choux.
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	Sensitive features include: barnacle goose.

Other European Sites (SACs and SPAs) within 15km of County Sligo

Site Code	Site Name	Sensitive Features
000191	St. John's Point SAC	Sensitive features include: large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; alkaline fens; limestone pavements; submerged or partially submerged sea caves; and marsh fritillary.
000428	Lough Melvin SAC	Sensitive features include: oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> ; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; salmon; and otter.
000516	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC	Sensitive features include: <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ; and fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation.
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	Sensitive features include: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains; natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas; blanket bogs; transition mires and quaking bogs; petrifying springs with tufa formation; siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels; siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; and slender green feather-moss.
000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> .
000595	Callow Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> .
000604	Derrinea Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> .
000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ; and bog woodland.
001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	Sensitive features include: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; blanket bogs; petrifying springs with tufa formation; calcareous and calcschist scree of the montane to alpine levels; and calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.
001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	Sensitive features include: hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i>
001899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC	Sensitive features include: transition mires and quaking bogs.
001919	Glenade Lough SAC	Sensitive features include: natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation; white-clawed crayfish; and slender naiad.
002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	Sensitive features include: natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; and blanket bogs.
002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	Sensitive features include: turloughs.
002338	Drumalough Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> .
002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs; degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> .
004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	Sensitive features include: Greenland white-fronted goose.
004115	Inishduff SPA	Sensitive features include: shag.
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Sensitive features include: great northern diver; light-bellied brent goose; common scoter; sanderling; and wetland and waterbirds.
004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA	Sensitive features include: tufted duck; common scoter; common gull; Greenland white-fronted goose; and wetland and waterbirds.

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Other European sites (SACs and SPAs) connected to County Sligo via hydrological links but beyond 15 km buffer

Site Code	Site Name
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC
000440	Lough Ree SAC
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC
002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA
004064	Lough Ree SPA
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA
004101	Ballykenney-Fisherstown Bog SPA

NHAs and pNHAs within/partially within County Sligo

Site Code	Site Name
001902	Slieveward Bog NHA
002415	Carrane Hill Bog NHA
002435	Crockauns/Keelogyboy Bogs NHA
000617	Kilronan Mountain Bog NHA
002321	Corry Mountain Bog NHA
000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary pNHA
000492	Dooastle Turlough pNHA
000497	Flughany Bog pNHA
000587	Lough Gara pNHA
000620	Aughris Head pNHA
000622	Ballysadare Bay pNHA
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff And Glenade Complex pNHA
000625	Bunduff Lough And Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore pNHA
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) pNHA
000630	Inishmurray pNHA
000633	Lough Hoe Bog pNHA
000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog pNHA
000636	Templehouse And Cloonacleigha Loughs pNHA
000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) pNHA
000638	Union Wood pNHA
001656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran pNHA
001657	Cloongoonagh Bog pNHA
001658	Colgagh Lough pNHA
001664	Dunneill River pNHA
001665	Easky River pNHA
001669	Knockalongy And Knockachree Cliffs pNHA
001670	Knocknarea Mountain And Glen pNHA
001673	Lough Arrow pNHA
001677	Moylough Turlough pNHA
001680	Streedagh Point Dunes pNHA
001898	Unshin River pNHA
001900	Meharth Lough pNHA
001901	Quarryfield West Turlough pNHA
001904	Knockmullin Fen pNHA
001905	Feenagh And Bunnamuck Loughs pNHA
001906	Lough Dargan pNHA
001907	Fin And Riskeen Loughs pNHA
001909	Ballygawley Lough pNHA
001976	Lough Gill pNHA
002006	Ox Mountain Bogs pNHA

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

NHAs and pNHAs within 15km of County Sligo	
Site Code	Site Name
000151	Inishduff NHA
000591	Bella Bridge Bog NHA
000603	Cornaveagh Bog NHA
001652	Tullaghan Bog (Roscommon) NHA
002420	Cunnagher More Bog NHA
002430	Aghavoghil Bog NHA
000139	Erne Estuary/Finner Dunes pNHA
000191	St. John's Point pNHA
000426	Kilgarriiff Marsh pNHA
000427	Lough Allen, South End and Parts pNHA
000428	Lough Melvin pNHA
000457	Derrynabrock Bog pNHA
000482	Creevagh Head pNHA
000502	Gowlaun Bog pNHA
000510	Kilgarriiff Bog pNHA
000511	Killaturly Turlough pNHA
000516	Lackan Saltmarsh And Kilcummin Head pNHA
000519	Lough Conn And Lough Cullin pNHA
000523	Lough Gower pNHA
000547	Tawnaghbeg Bog pNHA
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands pNHA
000592	Bellanagare Bog pNHA
000596	Corrigeenroe Marsh pNHA
000604	Derrinea Bog pNHA
000614	Cloonshanville Bog pNHA
001222	Ardagh Bog pNHA
001403	Arroo Mountain pNHA
001404	Bonet River pNHA
001412	Drumhierny Wood pNHA
001415	Kinlough Wood pNHA
001418	O'Donnell's Rock Wood pNHA
001419	Owengar Wood pNHA
001421	Sheemore Wood pNHA
001485	Cloonagh Lough (Mayo) pNHA
001517	Killala Esker pNHA
001527	Lough Alick pNHA
001571	Urlaur Lakes pNHA
001631	Drum Bridge (Lough Key) pNHA
001632	Drumalough Bog pNHA
001633	Drumman's Island (Lough Key) pNHA
001636	Fin Lough (Roscommon) pNHA
001638	Hog's Island (Lough Key) pNHA
001643	Lough Drumharlow pNHA
001644	Lough Glinn pNHA
001651	Tawnyskin Wood (Lough Key) pNHA
001899	Cloonakillina Lough pNHA
001919	Glenade Lough pNHA
001920	Carrickaport Lough pNHA
002013	Tullaghanrock Bog pNHA
002032	Boleybrack Mountain pNHA
002078	Moy Valley pNHA

National Monuments in State Care			
Name	Description	Townland	Status
Inishmurray Island	Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Site	Inishmurray	Ownership
Creivykeel Court Tomb	Megalithic Court Tomb	Creivykeel	Guardianship
Gortnaleck Court Tomb	Megalithic Court Tomb	Gortnaleck	Ownership
Drumcliffe High Crosses & Round Tower	High Cross and Round Tower	Drumcliffe South	Ownership
Court Cairns	Megalithic Court Tomb	Cummeen	Ownership
Dominican Friary	Religious House – Dominican Friars	Abbeyquarter	Ownership
Knocknarea Passage Tomb & Cairns	Passage Tomb and Cairns	Knocknarea South	Ownership
Queen Maeve's Tomb	Passage Tomb and Cairns	Knocknarea South	Ownership

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Carrowmore Passage Tomb Cemetery	Stone circle, Ring barrow, Passage tomb, Ringfort, Megalithic structure, Cashel	Carrowmore (Carbury By.), Graigue, Tobernaveen	Ownership
Cairn	Megalithic Court Tomb	Carns (Carbury By.)	Ownership
Court Tomb	Megalithic Court Tomb	Magheraghanrush or Deer Park	Ownership
Church Island Church	Church	Church Island	Ownership
Cabragh Wedge Tomb	Boundary Cairn	Cabragh (Leyny By.), Gortakeeran	Ownership
Gortlownan	Castle - Motte	Gortlownan	Ownership
Cashel	Ringfort - Cashel	Castleore	Ownership
Carricknagat Megalithic Tombs	Megalithic Tombs	Carricknagat (Tirerrill By.)	Ownership
Ballymote Castle	Castle	Carrownanty	Ownership
Cairn	Megalithic Tomb	Heapstown	Ownership
Castlebaldwin Castle	Castle	Bellanagarrigeeny or Castlebaldwin	Ownership
Moytirra East Court Tomb	Megalithic Tomb	Moytirra East	Ownership
Carrowreagh Court Tomb	Megalithic Tomb	Carrowreagh	Guardianship
Carrowkeel Passage Tomb Cemetery	Passage Tomb Cemetery	Carrowkeel (Tirerrill By., Ballynakill ED), Cloghoge Lower, Doonaveeragh, Carricknahorna East, Tully (Corran By.)	Guardianship
Ballinafad Castle	Castle	Ballinafad	Guardianship
Cashelmore	Ringfort - Cashel	Clogher	Ownership

Scenic Routes in County Sligo	
Route	Views
National Primary Roads	
N-15 from Bunduff Bridge (Leitrim County boundary) to Sligo	Views of Atlantic Ocean, Ben Bulbin, Kings Mountain and Benwiskin
N-16 from Leitrim County boundary to Sligo	Views of Glencar Lake, Ben Bulbin and Atlantic Ocean
N-4 Castlebaldwin to Ballinafad	Views of Bricklieve Mountains, Lough Arrow and Curlew Mountains
N-4 Collooney By-Pass from northern roundabout at Collooney to Carrowroe	Views of Ballysadare Bay, Knocknarea, Union Wood, Slieve Daeane, Slieve Dargan
N-4 Curlew By-Pass from Roscommon County boundary to Ballinafad	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Curlew Mountains
National Secondary Roads	
N-59 Beltra to Ballysadare	Views of Ballysadare Bay, Slieveard and Knocknarea
N-59 Dromore West to Beltra	Views of Atlantic Ocean and Ox Mountains
Regional Roads	
R-279 Mullaghmore to Cliffony	Views of Atlantic Ocean, Donegal Bay and Benwiskin
R-291 from Sligo to Rosses Point	Views of Sligo Bay and Harbour, Coney Island, Knocknarea and Coolera Peninsula, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Killery Mountain and Ox Mountains
12. R-284 from Carrowroe to junction with road L-3605 north of Ballygawley	Views of Ballygawley Lough, Slieve Dargan and Slieve Daeane
R-286 from Sligo to Leitrim County boundary	Views of Lough Gill and Colgagh Lough
R-287 from Carrowroe to junction with road L-3605 at Correagh	Views of Lough Gill, Slieve Wood, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane and Killery Mountain
R-292 from Ransboro to Cullenamore House	Views of Knocknarea, Ballysadare Bay, Sligo Bay, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane and Ben Bulbin
R-292 at Larass, Strandhill, immediately north of St. Anne's Church and Rectory, to junction with road L-3502 at Scardan	Views of Sligo Harbour, Sligo Bay and Ben Bulbin
R-292 at Larass, Strandhill, between St Anne's Church and Sligo Rugby Club (south side)	Views of Knocknarea
R-292 at Carrowdough and Cullenamore, between the southern development limit and the Plan limit of Strandhill Local Area Plan at Cullenamore House	Views of Sligo Bay, Ballysadare Bay and Knocknarea
R-294 from The Gap (Mayo County boundary) to Mullany's Cross	Views of Lough Talt and Ox Mountains
R-295 from Carrowmacleanany Crossroads to Carrowcroy Crossroads	Views of Kesh Corran and the Bricklieve Mountains
R-297 from Scurmure to Dromore West	Views of Killala Bay and Atlantic Ocean
R-278 from Calry (Doonally road junction) to Leitrim County boundary at Carrickoneileen.	Views of Keelogyboy Mountain
Local Roads	
L-7101 around Mullaghmore Head	Views of Atlantic Ocean and Donegal Bay
'The Hill' (L-7103) from junction with L-7101 on northside of Mullaghmore Head, onto L-7102 as far as junction with L-7101 on south side of Head	Views of Atlantic Ocean, Donegal Bay, the Dartry Range (Ben Bulbin, Benwiskin, Truskmore) and Knocknarea
L-3104 from junction with R-279 (Mullaghmore/Cliffony road) turning east onto Lower Bunduff road (L-3101) to junction with N15 at Castlegal	Views of Bunduff Lake, the Dartry Range and Mullaghmore Harbour
Loop road (L-7121) between N-15 and coast at Mountemple, and south-east from N-15 to junction with Derrylehan road (L-3205)	Views of Atlantic Ocean, Donegal Bay, Derrish Island, Conors Island, Inishmurray, Milk Harbour and the Dartry Range
Upperwood road (L-7202) from junction with N-15 down to sea shore	Views of the Dartry Range, Streedagh Point, Conors Island and Inishmurray
Grange to Streedagh Point (L-3203 turning west onto L-3202 and north onto L-32022)	Views of Atlantic Ocean and Ben Bulbin
Benwiskin Horseshoe (L-7130)	Views of Benwiskin, Ben Bulbin and Donegal Bay
Ballaghnastrillick Bridge northwards to Leitrim County boundary (L-7126 & L-3102) and southwards to N-15 at Mullaghnaneane (L-3105, L-3205 & L-7216)	Views of Benwiskin, Ben Bulbin and Donegal Bay
Glencar Lake to Carney (L-3404, L-3403 & L-3402)	Views of Glencar Lake, Kings Mountain and Ben Bulbin
Kintogher road (L-3306) from junction with N-15, at Tully (Rathcormack) down to Lower Rosses road (L-7311) via L-7309 and Cregg road (L-3307)	Views of Drumcliff Bay, the coast Ben Bulbin, Kings Mountain, Sligo Bay, Knocknarea, Killery Mountain, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Cope's Mountain and Glencar Valley
L-3311 as far as junction at Yeats County Hotel turning south onto Rosses Point Promenade Road (R-291) to mini-plan development limit	Views of Sligo Bay and Harbour, Coney Island, Knocknarea and Coolera Peninsula, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Killery Mountain and Ox Mountains
Glencar Lake to N-16 (L-3404)	Views of Glencar Lake and Kings Mountain

SEA Environmental Report for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

L-3602 along Garvoge River and Lough Gill from Sligo to junction with R-287	Views of Garavoge River and Lough Gill
From junction of L-3409 and R-286 at Ballynamona, northwards through Loughanelteen to Keelogyboy (L-3409 & L-7418), then south to R-278 via Fermoy (L-7420 & L-3407)	Views of Keelogyboy Mountain, Cope's Mountain, Lough Anelteen, Killery Mountain, Lough Gill, Ox Mountains, Slieve Daeane, Slieve Dargan, Kings Mountain, Ben Bulbin, Knocknarea, the coast, Sligo Bay and Atlantic Ocean
L-7417 from junction with L-7418 north to junction with L-7416 at Glackbaun and along L-7416 from its eastern extremity near Leitrim County boundary to junction with N-16 at Drumkilsellagh	Views of Cope's Mountain, Keelogyboy Mountain, Lough Gill, Slieve Dargan, Kings Mountain, Knocknarea, Ox Mountains, Sligo Bay and Atlantic Ocean
L-3502 from junction with R-292 at Scardán to Ransboro.	Views of Knocknarea
Ransboro road (L-3503) at Larass, Strandhill, between St Anne's Church and the eastern Plan limit of Strandhill Local Area Plan	Views of Sligo Bay and Knocknarea
Airport Road, Strandhill (L-35052), between southern boundary of Business and Enterprise Park and northern boundary of new Village Centre	Views of Knocknarea
Road network to east and south of Knocknarea, between junctions of R292 and L-3502: specifically, the Glen Road (L-3507) and L-3506	Views of Knocknarea, Kings Mountain, Ben Bulbin, Cope's Mountain, Killery Mountain, Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane, Keelogyboy Mountain, Ox Mountains, Ballysadare Bay, Atlantic Ocean, Culleenamore Strand, Sligo Bay, Drumcliff Bay, the coast and Coney Island
L-6101 from junction with N-59 at Corhawnagh Church extending westward to Streamstown and south to N-59 via Lisduff	Views of Ballysadare Bay, Knocknarea and Slieveveard (Little Ox Mountains)
L-6101 between junction with N-59 at Corhawnagh Church and junction with R-290 (old N-4) south of Ballysadare	Views of Slieveveard (Little Ox Mountains)
Easkey coastal scenic road (L-2401) between junctions with Dromore West - Easkey road (R297)	Views of Sligo Bay, the coast, Ox Mountains and Donegal Bay.
Coast road from R-297 at Dromore West to N-59 at Beltra (L-2302 & L-2204)	Views of Atlantic Ocean, Sligo Bay, Ballysadare Bay, Ox Mountains, Knocknarea and Ben Bulbin.
Aughris Head (L-2301 turning onto L-6301) between junctions with Beltra – Dromore West coastal road (L-2302)	Views of Knocknarea, Ben Bulbin, the coast and Sligo & Donegal Bays
Derk road (L-6215) from junction with Beltra - Dromore West coastal road (L-2204) to sea shore	Views of Ballysadare Bay, Knocknarea, Coolera Peninsula, Coney Island, Rosses Point, Sligo Bay and Ben Bulbin
Dromore West to Mullany's Cross (L-2702, L-4701 & L-4702)	Views of Lough Easkey, Ox Mountains and Atlantic Ocean
L-8701 & L-8702 from junction with L-4701 at Masshill to junction with R-294 at Largin	Views of Lough Talt and Ox Mountains
Ladies Brae road from Carroweden (L-4602 & L-2205) leading to N-59 via L-2304 and L-2303 and continuing northwards to Beltra – Dromore West coastal road (L-2302) via L-6205	Views of Ox Mountains and Atlantic Ocean
Carroweden to Coolaney and continuing to junction with N59 at Lugnadeffa (L-8601, L-6804 & L-2801)	Views of Ox Mountains and Atlantic Ocean
Coast road from Mayo County boundary at Rathmurphy northwards to its junction with R-297 at Scurmore	Views of Killala Bay
L-6102 from junction with N-59 west of of Cooney Lough, continuing on L-2101 to junction with L-2801 south of Tullaghan Hill	Views of Ox Mountains, Atlantic Ocean and Cooney Lough
L-3605, south of Slieve Daeane and Slieve Dargan, between junctions with R-284 and R-287	Views of Slieve Dargan, Slieve Daeane and Lough Dargan
Lakeshore drive around Lough Arrow from Castlebaldwin to Roscommon County boundary (L-1404, L-1403 & L-1905)	Views of Lough Arrow and Bricklieve Mountains
Old N-4 along western shore of Lough Arrow from Aghanagh through Ballinafad village to junction with new N-4 south of Ballinafad	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Curlew Mountains
Carrowcroy crossroads to Ballinafad (L-1806)	Views of Bricklieve Mountains, Curlew Mountains and Lough Arrow
Ladies Brae to Beltra via Chapel Street (L-6213)	Views of Ox Mountains, Coolera peninsula and Ballysadare Bay
From Castlebaldwin southwards to junction with R-295, southwest of Templevanny Lough (L-1404 & L-5801)	Views of Bricklieve Mountains, Kesh Corran and Lough Arrow
Heapstown Crossroads to Killadoon Crossroads (L-1901)	Views of Lough Arrow and Bricklieve Mountains
Ballindoon Crossroads to Killadoon Crossroads (L-1904)	Views of Lough Arrow and Bricklieve Mountains
Highwood road (L-1904) from Ballindoon Crossroads to junction with L-5902 & L-59021 north of Kilmactranny	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Kesh Corran
L-18011 south of Lough Arrow and L-18012 through Lecarrow (Aghanagh ED) to junction with Curlew Bypass (N-4)	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Carran Hill (north-east of Lough Arrow)
Killadoon Crossroads to junction with L-1101 north of Conways Cross (L-1901)	Views of Lough Arrow, Lough Nasool and Lough Bo
L-1101 from north of Conways Cross extending along southside of Carran Hill to Roscommon County boundary	Views of Carran Hill
From Monasteraden eastward to Roscommon County boundary (L-4105)	Views of Lough Gara
Road west of St Aidan's church (L-8107 & L-4103) from junction at Monasteraden village, to Gorteen-Boyle road (R-294) at Mullaghroe	Views of Lough Gara
Derringhnan loop – from junction off R-294 west of Cloonloogh onto L-5707, turning north onto L-5708, then east onto L-5705, and proceeding south on L-5706 to join up again with L-5707	Views of Lough Gara
L-1906 from junction with L-1905 to junction with L-5904, north of Kilmactranny	Views of Lough Arrow, Bricklieve Mountains and Kesh Corran