

SEA SCOPING REPORT OF DRAFT COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

Prepared under SI 435 of 2004, and SI 200 of 2011
for the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine



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Acronyms

<i>cSAC</i>	<i>Candidate Special Area of Conservation</i>
<i>DAFM</i>	<i>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</i>
<i>DECC</i>	<i>Department of Environment, Climate Change and Communications</i>
<i>DHLGH</i>	<i>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</i>
<i>DRCD</i>	<i>Department of Rural and Community Development</i>
<i>DETT</i>	<i>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment</i>
<i>DT</i>	<i>Department of Transport</i>
<i>EIA</i>	<i>Environmental Impact Assessment</i>
<i>EIP</i>	<i>European Innovation Partnership Scheme</i>
<i>EPA</i>	<i>Environmental Protection Agency</i>
<i>ER</i>	<i>Environmental Report</i>
<i>EU</i>	<i>European Union</i>
<i>FI</i>	<i>Failte Ireland</i>
<i>GIS</i>	<i>Geographical Information Systems</i>
<i>GSI</i>	<i>Geological Survey of Ireland</i>
<i>HDA</i>	<i>Habitats Directive Assessment</i>
<i>LA</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>
<i>NHA</i>	<i>Natural Heritage Area</i>
<i>NIAH</i>	<i>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage</i>
<i>NPWS</i>	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>
<i>pNHA</i>	<i>Proposed Natural Heritage Area</i>
<i>MCPA</i>	<i>(2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid) -herbicide</i>
<i>RA</i>	<i>Regional Authority</i>
<i>RMP</i>	<i>Record of Monuments and Places</i>
<i>RPS</i>	<i>Record of Protected Structures</i>
<i>S.I. No.</i>	<i>Statutory Instrument Number</i>
<i>SAC</i>	<i>Special Area of Conservation</i>
<i>SEA</i>	<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment</i>
<i>SEO</i>	<i>Strategic Environmental Objective</i>
<i>SFRA</i>	<i>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</i>

SPA	<i>Special Protection Area</i>
SWOT	<i>Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats</i>
WI	<i>Waterways Ireland</i>
WFD	<i>Water Framework Directive</i>
WSIP	<i>The Water Services Investment Programme</i>

Glossary of Terms

<i>Alternatives (Reasonable)</i>	<i>Alternatives should take into account the objectives and geographical scope of the Plan. The alternatives should be realistic, capable of implementation and should fall within the legal and geographical competence of the authority concerned.</i>
<i>Appropriate Assessment</i>	<i>An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites).</i>
<i>Baseline environment</i>	<i>A description of the present state of the environment of the plan area.</i>
<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Description of the existing environment against which future changes can be measured.</i>
<i>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</i>	<i>Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, in all its forms and all its interactions.. Flora is all of the plants found in a given area. Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.</i>
<i>Birds Directive</i>	<i>Council Directive of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC).</i>
<i>Built Environment</i>	<i>Refers to both architectural heritage and archaeological heritage.</i>
<i>Carrying capacity</i>	<i>The capacity of an environmental receptor to absorb proposed change.</i>
<i>Cumulative Effects</i>	<i>Result from a combination of two or more individual effects on a receptor. Such effects can occur as a result of plans, programmes, projects and other actions in the past, present and the reasonably foreseeable future. They can result from impacts that may be individually insignificant, but collectively significant.</i>
<i>Data</i>	<i>Includes environmental data, proxy data, any other relevant statistical data.</i>
<i>Ecology</i>	<i>The study of relationships between living organisms and between organisms and their environment (especially animal and plant communities), their energy flows and their interactions with their surroundings.</i>
<i>Environmental Characteristics</i>	<i>Environmental resources, issues and trends in the area affected by the plan or programme.</i>
<i>Environmental indicator</i>	<i>An environmental indicator is a measure of an environmental variable over time, used to measure achievement of environmental objectives and targets.</i>

<i>Environmental objective</i>	<i>Environmental objectives are broad, overarching principles which should specify a desired direction of environmental change.</i>
<i>Environmental Problems</i>	<i>Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament 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. where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.</i>
<i>Environmental Receptors</i>	<i>These are resources that are affected by impacts/effects. They water, air, soil, the climate, ecosystems/biodiversity, landscapes and local communities, cultural heritage, material assets. Other receptors can be added to the assessment and the above list is not exhaustive.</i>
<i>Environmental Report (ER)</i>	<i>A document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.</i>
<i>Ex-ante evaluation</i>	<i>The purpose of the Ex-Ante Evaluation is to improve the quality of the design of a plan or programme, in this instance the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027</i>
<i>Geographical Information System (GIS)</i>	<i>A computer system that collects, stores, views and analyses geographical (spatial) information and commonly creates maps as an output. It can be used to analyse relationships between different spatial and environmental datasets.</i>
<i>Geology</i>	<i>Science of the earth, including the composition, structure and origin of its rocks</i>
<i>Habitat</i>	<i>Area in which an organism or group of organisms live.</i>
<i>Habitats Directive</i>	<i>Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</i>
<i>Habitats Directive Assessment</i>	<i>An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites)</i>
<i>Hierarchy of Plans</i>	<i>Both higher and lower-level plans relevant to the plan being assessed.</i>
<i>Indirect effect</i>	<i>Any aspect of a plan that may have an impact (positive or negative) on the environment, but that is not a direct result of the proposed plan or programme. May also be referred to as a secondary effect</i>
<i>Interrelationships</i>	<i>Associations or linkages related to environmental impact of the proposed plan or programme usually on environmental receptors.</i>
<i>Key environmental issues</i>	<i>Significant environmental issues, relevant to the plan area or within the zone of influence of the plan.</i>
<i>Key environmental receptors</i>	<i>Aspects of the environment likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed plan</i>

<i>Material Assets</i>	<i>Critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment transportation etc.</i>
<i>Member States</i>	<i>Those countries that belong to the European Union.</i>
<i>Mitigate</i>	<i>To make or become less severe or harsh</i>
<i>Mitigation Measures</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Monitoring</i>	<i>A continuing assessment of environmental conditions at, and surrounding, the plan or programme. The primary purpose of monitoring is to identify significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.</i>
<i>Monitoring Programme</i>	<i>A detailed description of the monitoring arrangements to be put in place to carry out the monitoring of the impact of the proposed plan or programme on the environment including frequency of monitoring, who has responsibility for monitoring, and responses if monitoring identifies significant negative impacts.</i>
<i>Natura 2000 Site</i>	<i>Designated European Site. In combination Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas will constitute Natura 2000 network of protected sites for habitats and species across the EU.</i>
<i>Natural Heritage</i>	<i>Refers to habitats and species of flora and fauna.</i>
<i>Non-technical summary</i>	<i>A summary of the findings of the ER, summarized under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive that can be readily understood by decision-makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the ER.</i>
<i>Plan or Programme</i>	<p><i>Including those co-financed by the European Community, as well as any modifications to them:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and</i> <i>- which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.</i> <p><i>In accordance with the SEA Directive, plan or programme that require SEA are those that fulfil the conditions listed in Article 2(a) and Article 3 of the SEA Directive.</i></p>
<i>Post-mitigation residual impacts</i>	<i>Environmental effects that remain after mitigation measures have been employed.</i>
<i>Public</i>	<i>One or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.</i>
<i>Scoping</i>	<i>The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.</i>

Screening	<i>The determination of whether implementation of a plan or programme would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a plan or programme requires SEA.</i>
SEA Directive	<i>Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.</i>
Secondary effect	<i>Effects that are not a direct result of the plan or programme, same as indirect effect.</i>
Sensitivity	<i>Potential for significant change to any element in the environment that is subject to impacts.</i>
Short-term effects	<i>These are typical of those effects that may occur during construction stage of a development, for example, the increased traffic going to and from a site during construction, or, the noise associated with construction activities.</i>
Significant effects	<i>Effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.</i>
SPA	<i>Special Protection Area under Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), designated for bird species listed in Annex I of the Directive, in particular internationally important concentrations of migratory and wetland birds. Designation is focused on habitats of these species.</i>
Statutory Authority	<i>The authority by which or on whose behalf the plan or programme is prepared.</i>
Statutory Instrument	<i>Any order, regulation, rule, scheme or bye-law made in exercise of a power conferred by statute.</i>
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	<i>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.</i>
Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)	<i>Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national, and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the Plan or programme can be assessed.</i>
Synergistic effect	<i>Effects that, when totalled, result in a greater or lesser effect than the sum of the individual effects.</i>
Threshold	<i>Thresholds, capacities or limits are key to Cumulative environmental assessment. Many standards for environmental protection and land-use planning are based on the concept of carrying capacity, the capacity of an environmental receptor to accommodate change.</i>
Zone of Influence	<i>The area over which a plan can impact on the environment.</i>

1 SEA Scoping Report

1.1 Introduction

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is currently preparing the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy for Ireland, 2023-2027. This report is the draft SEA Scoping report which forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process.

At the time of writing the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 for Ireland has not yet been finalised, although much work, consultation, and early drafting has taken place in respect of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) and needs analysis.

As the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 for Ireland is still in preparation, it and the SEA will continue to evolve and will be expanded upon as part of the iterative SEA and plan making processes. Current proposals are for member states to submit their plan to the EU Commission on 1st January 2022. Negotiations on the draft CAP regulations are ongoing, and should significant changes be proposed to the content of the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and draft Regulation (COM 2018) 392¹, prior to that, this will be reflected in the Environmental Report.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment and purpose of this Scoping Report.

Under Directive 2001/42/EC - Assessment of Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, certain plans and programmes require an environmental assessment. This is known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Article 1 of this Directive states that its objective is:

‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.’

A SEA Screening taking into account the criteria in Schedule 1f the SEA Regulations (S.I. No.435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No 200 of 2011) was prepared and it was determined that the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (the plan) will require SEA. Therefore, the purpose of this Scoping Report is to ensure that the relevant environmental issues are identified so that they can be addressed appropriately in the Environmental Report, which will inform the plan.

The Environmental Report is required to include information that may be reasonably required, considering the following:

- Current knowledge and methods of assessment;
- Content and level of detail in the draft CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027;
- Stage of the plan in the decision-making process and
- The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.

¹ [EUR-Lex - 52018PC0392 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

1.3 Scale and content of Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The plan area covers the whole of the Republic of Ireland and is national in scale. Agriculture landuse is the dominant landuse in the country, covering 67.6% of national land cover. Given the shared border with Northern Ireland, there are shared environmental resources including sea loughs, rivers, lakes, landscapes, and ecological corridors. The potential therefore for transboundary effects exists.

Figure 1 below presents a satellite image of the island of Ireland.

Figure 1 Satellite Image of Ireland



SEA of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
Satellite Image

0 25 50 km
www.minogue.ie

1.3.1 Overview of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

Policy Background

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) dates from the 1950s and has gone through numerous substantial reforms since then, the most recent of which entered force in 2015. Nevertheless, a further set of reforms was proposed in 2017. These further reforms were introduced to address what had been found to be overly complex and bureaucratic administration of core elements of the policy. These were identified as contributing to ineffective outcomes as well as the need to respond to the following:

- a range of new and growing challenges including food safety, food quality, environmental standards, climate change and animal welfare,
- pressure to implement the policy within an EU budgetary framework under substantial pressure to address wider priorities,
- adapting to the loss of UK financial contributions,
- and political pressures to limit the overall EU budget within certain ceilings.

Following a consultation process, the Commission issued "*The Future of Food and Farming*" in December 2017, setting out the broad pillars of reform it was proposing for the next phase of the CAP.

Regulatory Context

As typifies the channelling of EU financial assistance in individual Member States, EU financial support for agriculture and rural development under the CAP over the period 2023-2027², must be planned and programmed within an EU-wide policy and legislative framework. The core legislative proposals were published by the EU Commission in June 2018, of which draft Regulation (COM 2018) 392³ sets out the principal proposals for mainstream CAP financial support of agriculture, farming and rural development.

The draft Regulation establishes that for the period to 2027, "***support from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) shall aim to further improve the sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas and shall contribute to achieving the following general objectives:***

- 1. to foster a smart, resilient, and diversified agricultural sector ensuring food security.***
- 2. to bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union, and***
- 3. to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas".***

In addition, such support shall have the cross-cutting general objective of "*modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas, and encouraging their uptake*".

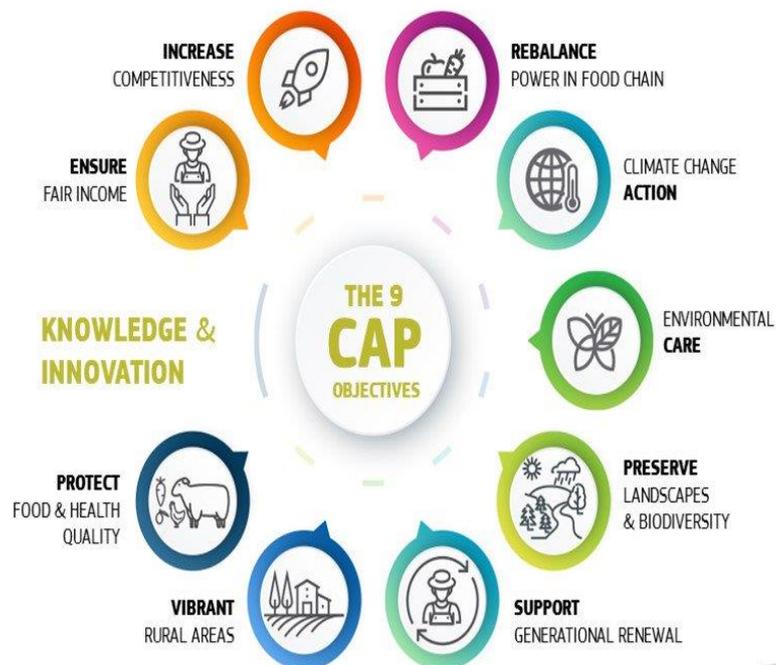
² The multi-annual period was initially intended to operate from 2021-2027, however the commencement date has been pushed back two years due to ongoing negotiations between the EU Commission, Council and Parliament.

³ [EUR-Lex - 52018PC0392 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

A set of nine further specific objectives are established through which the general objectives are to be achieved are listed below and shown in **Figure 2**.

1. **Support viable farm income and resilience across the EU territory to enhance food security;**
2. **Enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;**
3. **Improve farmers' position in the value chain;**
4. **Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy;**
5. **Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air;**
6. **Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;**
7. **Attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas;**
8. **Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;**
9. **Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, as well as animal welfare.**

Figure 2 the 9 CAP Objectives (EU Commission)



#EUBudget #FutureofCAP



1.4 The content of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027

The draft Regulation provides that each Member State prepares a CAP Strategic Plan for the period 2023-2027 which will establish how, in accordance with the EU Regulations and the objectives of such support for which they provide, EU financial support will be implemented over the period.

The draft Regulation requires that each Member State's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 contain:

- an assessment of needs;
- an intervention strategy;
- a description of elements common to several interventions;
- a description of the direct payments, sectoral and rural development interventions specified in the strategy;
- target and financial plans;
- a description of the governance and coordination system;
- a description of the elements that ensure modernisation of the CAP;
- a description of the elements related to simplification and reduced administrative burden for final beneficiaries.

As stated above, the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 will apply to the entire national territory (including offshore islands), although Member States are intended to have autonomy to define specific eligibility requirements across its breadth of schemes and programmes. The draft EU Regulation provides that EU funding may support interventions involving direct payments, those targeting specific sectors, and those in the area of rural development. National CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027 will therefore involve combinations of interventions as prescribed in the draft Regulation as shown below in **Table 1**:

Table 1 CAP Interventions in National Strategic Plans

Interventions involving Direct Payments	Sectoral Interventions
<p>Basic income Support for Sustainability</p> <p>Complementary Redistribution of Income Support for Sustainability</p> <p>Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers</p> <p>Coupled/decoupled income support;</p> <p>Eco schemes for the climate and the environment;</p>	<p>Interventions in prescribed sectors (e.g. Fruit and vegetables, apiculture, wine, hops, olives and olive oil, and others).</p>
<p>Rural Development Interventions</p>	

Environmental, climate and other management commitments (e.g. Agri-environmental schemes);

Interventions for farmers in areas of natural or other area-specific constraints;

Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements (e.g. Relating to the Habitats, Birds and Water Framework Directives);

Investments;

Installation of young farmers and rural business start-up;

Risk management tools;

Cooperation (e.g. European Innovation Partnerships and LEADER); and

Knowledge exchange and information.

1.5 Structure of the remainder of this draft SEA Scoping report:

Chapter Two: Approach to the SEA

Chapter Three: Scoping of Environmental Issues in the SEA

Chapter Four: Preliminary Environmental Overview-

Chapter Five: Consideration of Alternatives

Chapter Six Next Steps and Consultation

Annex A: List of proposed plans and programmes

2 Approach to the SEA

2.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the SEA methodology and the steps required for SEA. The methodology used to carry out the SEA of the plan reflects the requirements of the SEA Directive, regulations, and available guidance on undertaking SEA in Ireland, including:

- SEA Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland – Synthesis Report Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003;
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities - published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004;
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 and SI 435 of 2004);
- Planning and Development (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (S.I No 200 of 2011);
- SEA Process Checklist Consultation Draft 2008, EPA 2008;
- Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011 Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment European Union 2013;
- SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Authorities, Draft Version, 2013;
- Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland – A Guidance Note, EPA, 2015;
- Developing and assessing alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA, 2015;
- SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources 2020.
- Good practice guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA, EPA, 2020
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring, EPA, 2020.
- GISEA Manual: Improving the evidence base in SEA, EPA, 2017
- Integrated Biodiversity Assessment -Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes-Practitioners Manual, EPA Strive Report, 2013.

2.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment process

The steps involved in SEA are as follows:

- Screening (determining whether or not SEA is required). This has been completed and determined full SEA is required

- Scoping (determining the range of environmental issues to be covered by the SEA). **This is the current stage of the SEA process and the purpose of this draft Scoping Report.**
- Consideration of alternatives
- The preparation of an Environmental Report
- Integration of SEA (and AA) findings into the Draft Plan
- The carrying out of consultations on the draft Environmental Report and draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan or Programme.
- The publication of information on the decision (SEA Statement).
- Plan Implementation and Monitoring

In addition to the SEA and AA of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027, an ex- ante evaluation is also required to be prepared as part of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 preparation. The purpose of the Ex-Ante Evaluation is to improve the quality of the design of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Its scope is wide, and covers the following:

- appraisal of the plan's needs identification,
- SWOT analysis,
- coherence,
- budgetary consistency,
- intervention logic,
- management,
- monitoring and other elements and proposals.

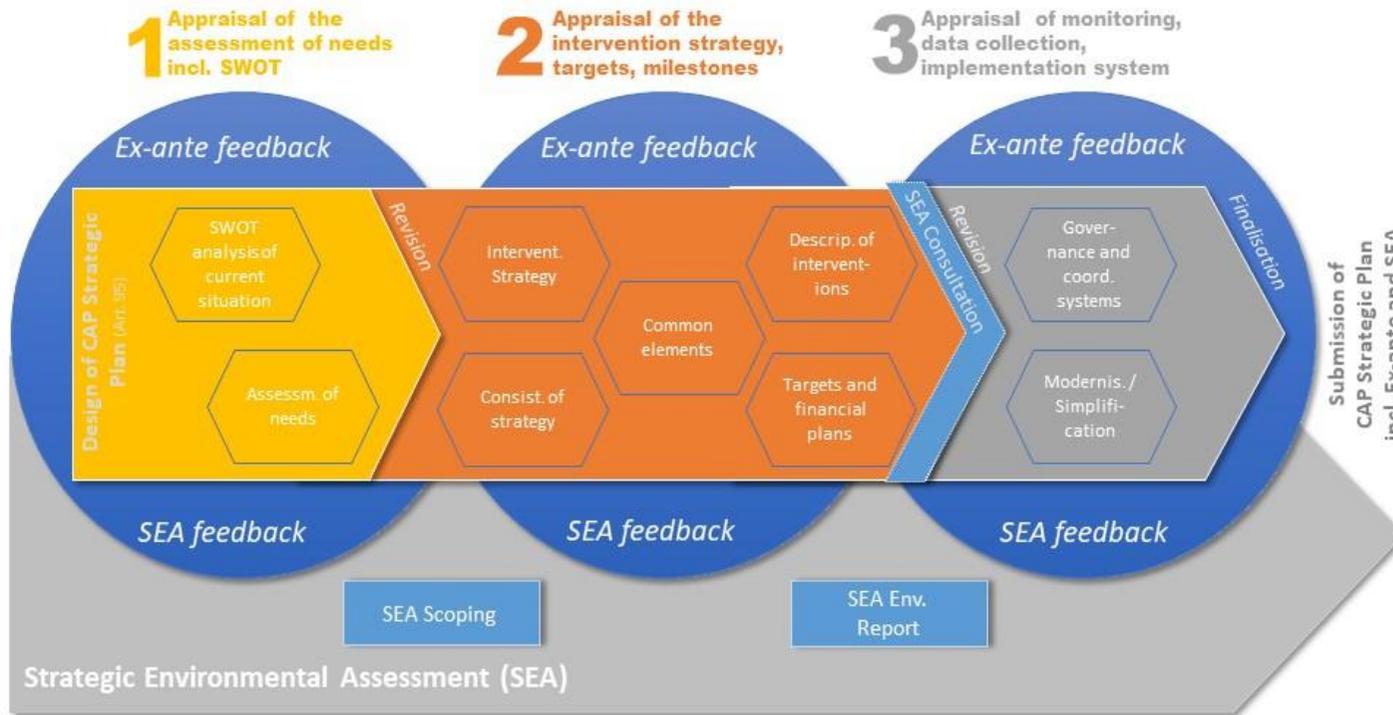
The Ex-Ante Evaluation will recommend ways in which the quality of the Plan could be improved.

The SEA, AA (see Section 2.3 below) and ex ante processes take place concurrently and during the plan's preparation and inform its finalisation. The completed CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 must contain a summary of the main results of both the Ex-Ante Evaluation and SEA, and how they have been addressed, or a justification of why they have not been taken into account. **Figure 3** below presents the relationship and process between the SEA and ex-ante evaluation process.

Figure 3 SEA and Ex Ante Evaluation of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (EU Commission)

SEA and Ex-ante evaluation of CAP Strategic Plan

Based on COM (2018)392 final and Directive 2001/42/EC



2.3 Links to Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive requires, *inter alia*, that plans, and programmes undergo AA screening to establish the likely or potential effects arising from implementation of the plan. If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain then the plan must undergo Stage 2 AA. Currently, the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 for Ireland, SEA and AA Screening are taking place concurrently and the findings of the Appropriate Assessment will inform both the SEA and the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 itself. The SEA will apply the methodology for Integrated Biodiversity Assessment (EPA, 2013). A Screening Statement in support of Appropriate Assessment has been prepared and is available as part of this SEA Scoping process and should be read in conjunction with this SEA Scoping Report.

2.4 Links to Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is a significant and important EU Framework Directive that applies to rivers, lakes, groundwater, transitional and coastal waters (up to one nautical mile). A key requirement of the WFD is that good ecological status is achieved by 2015 in all waters, or by 2027 at the latest.

The Government has published the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 with a new draft Plan and SEA in preparation. The Plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to protect and improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027.

Therefore, the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and WFD target of good ecological status is aligned with 2027 timeframe and targets. The links between the SEA, WFD and plan preparation will be a key strand throughout this SEA process.

2.5 Relationships to other plans and programmes

Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and other relevant plans and programmes must be taken into account. The preparation of the draft CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027 must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of policies, plans and strategies which include international, national, regional and local level policy documents. A full review of the relevant plans and programmes will be prepared as part of the SEA Environmental Report. These documents set the policy framework within which the draft CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027 will operate. A preliminary list of the plans and programmes are provided below and a summary of these plans and programmes are provided in Annex A of this draft Scoping Report.

2.5.1 International:

- European Green Deal
- EU Farm to Fork Strategy
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030
- 8th Environmental Action Programme
- SEA Directive - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment, (2001/42/EC) 2001
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC) (97/11/EC), 1985

- EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, (2009/147/EC) 1979. Known as the Birds Directive
- EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, (92/43/EEC), 1992 known as the Habitats Directive
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (EU 2013)
- The Stockholm Convention
- EU Soil Thematic Strategy (currently new thematic strategy out for public consultation)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as amended
- Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
- The Drinking Water Directive (DWD), (98/83/EC) 1998
- Groundwater Directive, (2006/118/EC) 2006
- EC Bathing Water Quality Directive, (2006/7/EC) 2006
- Kyoto Protocol
- The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive
- EU Directive on Waste, (2006/12/EC), 2006
- EU Directive on Waste (2008/98/EC), 2008
- EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), 1991
- Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
- The World Heritage Convention
- European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992 (The Valletta Convention)
- Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, 1985 (Granada Convention)
- The European Landscape Convention 2000
- The Aarhus Convention
- Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC
-

2.5.2 National

- National Planning Framework (DHLGH)
- Rural Development Programme (DAFM)
- National CFRAMS Programme (OPW)
- National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHLGH)

- National Renewable Electricity Policy Framework (in preparation DECC)
- Grid 25 Implementation Strategy (Eirgrid)
- Draft National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA, in preparation)
- FoodWise 2025 / Agri Food Strategy 2030 (in preparation)(DAFM)
- National Forestry Programme / Forestry Policy Review (DAFM)
- Draft National Marine Planning Framework (DAFM)
- Seafood Operation Programme / Strategic Aquaculture Programme (DAFM)
- Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth (DAFM)
- Draft Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 Sites (NPWS)
- National Broadband Plan (DECC)
- National Landscape Strategy (DHLGH)
- Heritage Ireland 2030 (in preparation, DHLGH)
- National Peatland Strategy, SAC Raised Bog Management Plan (DHLGH)
- National Biodiversity Plan (DHLGH)
- Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme / Draft Water Resources Management Plan (Irish Water)
- National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (Irish Water)
- National Waste Prevention Programme (EPA)
- Climate Action Plan 2019 (DECC)
- Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps (DECC)
- Ag Climatise A roadmap towards climate neutrality (DAFM)
- Smarter Transport / Strategic Framework for Integrated Land Transport (DT)
- Framework for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure in Transport (DTTAS)
- State of the Environment Report 2020 (EPA,2020)
- National Mitigation Plan (DECC)
- National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (DECC)
- Action Plan on Rural Development (DRCE)
- Making Remote Work. National Remote Work Strategy (DETE)
- 10 Year Tourism Strategy (Fáilte Ireland)
- National Greenway Strategy (DT)
- Regional Action Plans for Jobs – 8 plans (DETE)

- National Air Pollution plan 2019 (DECC)*Updated 2020 version of this plan is currently out for public consultation
- Nitrates action plan (DHLGH)
- Programme for Government
- National Action Plan on Anti Microbial Resistance 2017-2020 (DAFM)
- 2019 Organic sector strategy (DAFM)
- Plant Health Biosecurity Strategy (DAFM)
- The National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (DECC)
- National Investment Framework for Transport Investment (DT)

2.5.3 Regional

- Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies (RA)
- Relevant CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plans (OPW)
- Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters (DHLGH)
- Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan (DAFM, in preparation)
- Regional Waste Management Plans
- Wild Atlantic Way (FI)
- Irelands Hidden Heartlands (FI)
- Ireland's Ancient East (FI)
- Shannon Tourism Masterplan, 2020 (IW)
- County Renewable Energy / Wind Energy Strategies (LA s)
- County Tourism Strategies, County Development Plans, County Biodiversity Plans (LA s)

3 Scoping

3.1 Spatial and Temporal scope of this SEA

As stated previously the CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027 encompasses the Republic of Ireland. In line with the SEA Directive, transboundary impacts are considered and given the potential for the implementation of the CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027 to give rise to effects in Northern Ireland, this will be included in the spatial element of the SEA. Consultation (see Section 5) including at scoping stage will also be undertaken with relevant statutory authorities in Northern Ireland.

3.1.1 Spatial scope

The recent EPA State of Ireland's Environment (2020) Chapter 13 Environment and Agriculture provides the following recommendation in relation to agriculture and environmental issues:

BOX 1 EPA STATE OF IRELAND'S ENVIRONMENT (2020) RECOMMENDATION

A more holistic farm-and-catchment-level approach encompassing all environmental pressures will be fundamental for making progress towards more environmentally sustainable and low-carbon food production.

The implementation of mitigation measures will also require monitoring and verification to gain recognition as part of both EU and international reporting mechanisms, for example being able to prove that land is a net sink for carbon.

A network of integrated catchment/ land use management plans informed by farm and nutrient management plans, catchment assessments and associated Areas for Action could form the basis of a more joined-up collaborative and cooperative approach to environmental management of our farms.

This could provide the mechanism to reduce the cumulative environmental footprint of agricultural systems in Ireland, in an integrated way, covering areas such as biodiversity, greenhouse gases, climate change, air quality and water quality. Such an integrated approach could also identify and highlight the assimilative capacity of agricultural/ catchment landscapes to process nutrient loads associated with intensification. It would also contribute significantly to the branding and marketing of Irish agricultural produce at home and abroad.

This approach is being explored as part of the SEA process. Currently data on water, biodiversity, soil, geology, cultural heritage are available at catchment scale. However, data gaps remain for landscape, air quality emissions and greenhouse gas emissions. The CSP is a national programme and should any regional proposals emerge from the SWOT / needs assessment these can be considered in the SEA Environmental Report whilst future iterations of the CSP and forthcoming national plans and SEAs may be able to fill in these data gaps and advance this approach further.

3.1.2 Temporal Scope of the SEA

In line with the SEA Directive, short, medium and long-term impacts (including secondary, cumulative, synergistic, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects) will be considered during the assessment. Whilst the CAP Strategic Plan runs from 2023-2027, the potential longer-term effects associated with landuse changes and patterns will likely extend beyond the plan timeframe. The following are proposed when quantifying the extent of effects:

- Short term -2 years (up to 2025)
- Medium term (up to 2030)

- Long term – this is considered a longer term that will extend beyond the plan

3.3 Scoping of Environmental Assessment Topics

Likely significant environmental effects are identified for the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. In preparing this SEA Environmental Report, the SEA will continue to review the SWOT analysis, public submissions as well as key chapters in Ireland's Environment 2020 (EPA). Together, these have informed the following table which scopes environmental topics in or out of the SEA process and identifies at a **preliminary stage likely significant effects** which need to be considered.

Please note the effects identified are not to be taken as an indicative list of interventions in the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

This section concludes with a sample of maps that will be used and applied during the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report. Where environmental spatial data is available in relation to Northern Ireland, these datasets will be used in the SEA Environmental Report (Figures 4 and 5)

Table 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Topics – scoping and potential significant environmental effects

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	In	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural intensification effects biodiversity • land abandonment effects biodiversity • 85% of Irelands’ habitats designated under the EU Habitats Directive are assessed as ‘unfavourable’ condition • Unfavourable condition of habitats and species in protected sites due to unsustainable agricultural, and fishing practices; • Greenhouse gases and other pollutants impact on biodiversity • Negative effects on habitats, species affecting for examples serious decline in farmland bird species, freshwater pearl mussel • Decline in insects and pollinator species • Effects of ammonia on European sites (Article 17 report) • Invasive species, pests and disease • Antimicrobial resistance • Water quality issues associated with increased nutrient load and sedimentation and effects on water dependant habitats and species <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance ecological connectivity • Reduce habitat fragmentation

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase ecological stepping stones • Enhance and improve farmland and wetland habitats under agricultural landuse • Improve surface and groundwater bodies • Increase in ecological farming practices • Improve plant, stock and seed diversity • Awareness, training and education around ecology, wildlife and wider co-benefits
Climatic Factors (Climate Change & Air Quality)	in	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing weather patterns affecting agricultural production • Increasing extreme weather events, emergence of diseases associated with changing weather • On farm agricultural practices accounted for 35.3% of national greenhouse gas emissions (EPA 2019 data). Primarily consisting of methane from livestock and nitrous oxide. • Application of urea and lime to soils contribute to carbon dioxide emissions • Emissions associated with ammonia • Drainage of peaty/organic soils in grasslands <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building in greater climate resilience through nature-based solutions • Landscape scale measures for climate adaptation • Appropriate hedgerow, tree planting and agro forestry

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in ecological farming practices • Increasing soil carbon sequestration through agricultural practices • Reduced use of chemical fertiliser through nutrient management planning, liming, low emission slurry spreading, precision agriculture and a greater use of clover and mixed species • Potential of ongoing research projects on feed additives with potential to significantly reduce methane emissions from ruminant food systems
Water Resources	in	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrient pollution is a key water quality issue • Agriculture is the main pressure on water quality • Sedimentation associated with agricultural practices • Drainage of wetlands and hydro morphological changes to watercourses • Effects of chemical and organic fertiliser use remains a primary source of diffuse pollution • Microbial and chemical, including contamination of drinking water supplies <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving water quality for surface, ground and transitional waters • Addressing point and diffuse pollution sources to water • Recognising and promoting natural water storage features • Improving herbicide and pesticide management

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving manure management
Population and human health	in	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air and water quality impacts on human health and well being Social isolation and mental health High risk levels associated with operation of farm machinery Exposure to herbicides and pesticides Uneven income distribution and viability of farm incomes <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer to peer support and engagement Social/care farming Education and awareness around environmental issues Delivery of eco-systems services - carbon sequestration and storage, air, water quality, habitats. Provision of high quality, nutritious food Protection and preservation of landscape, culture and heritage enhancing health and wellbeing Sustaining rural populations, rural regeneration National broadband scheme, opportunities to reduce commuting through home working and potential reduction in emissions to air quality. Diversification of agricultural and rural development activities

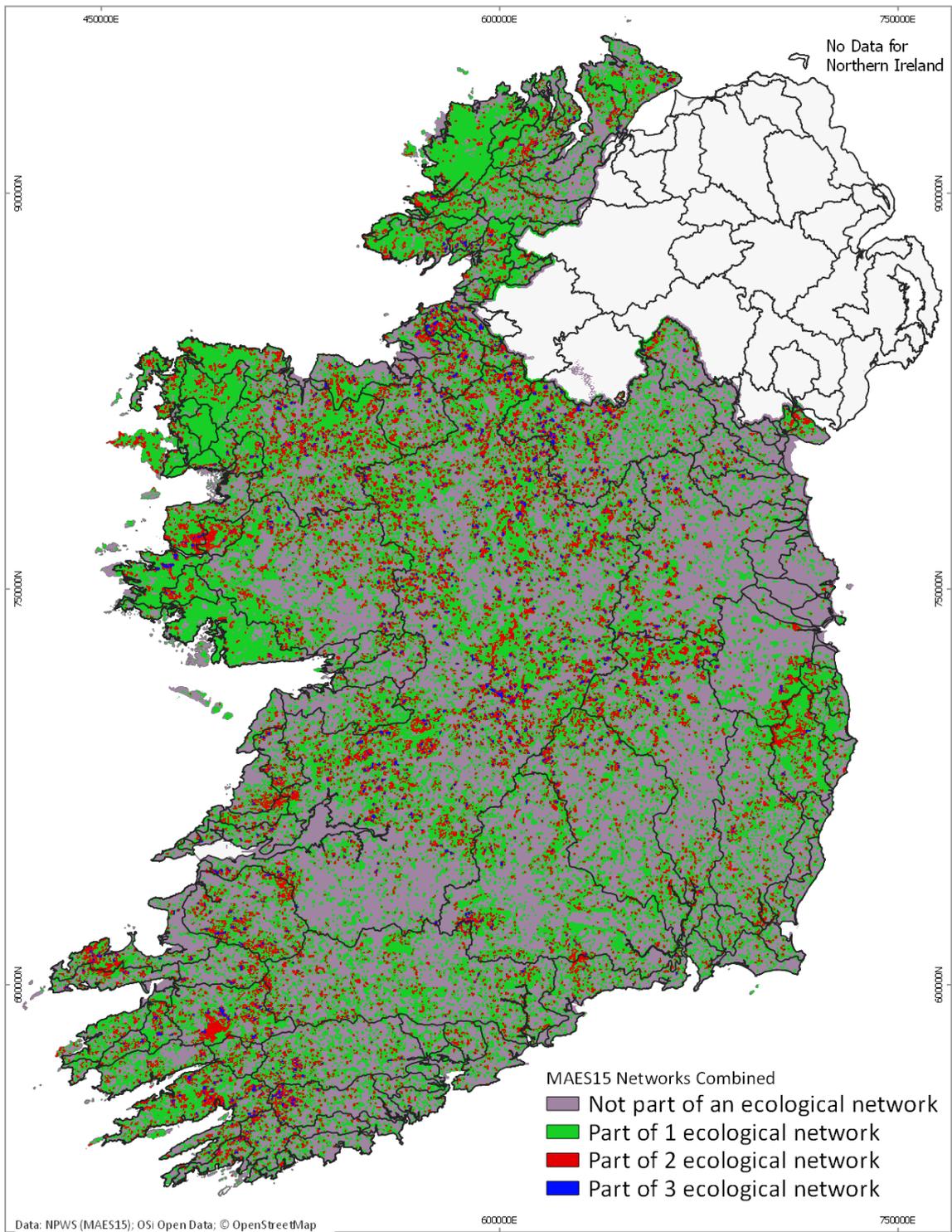
SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental training and knowledge transfer
Soil and Geology	in	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil loss associated with climate change (run off through intense weather events or drought conditions) • Soil compaction through cattle (poaching) or farm machinery • Loss of soil diversity • Overgrazing • Changes to peaty soils and drainage of peatlands • Deterioration in soil health • Links between geology, agricultural landuse and groundwater <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of soils, improving soil fertility and microbial health of soils • Management of pesticides and herbicides • Reducing compaction and/poaching of soils • Carbon sequestration in soils • Development pressure
Landscape	in	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of local landscape features such as traditional farm gates, pillars, loss of hedgerow/treelines/stone walls

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amalgamation of fields with accompanying landscape, biodiversity, soil impacts • Loss of older farm buildings and sheds • Concrete/post and wire fencing replacement • Wider farm roads and access entrances for farm machinery • Changing farm practices (intensification of agriculture or abandonment/different landuse activity) affecting landscape character over time <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape scale responses • Improving landscape connectivity • Diversification of landscapes through agricultural practices • Local landscape enhancement • Supporting multi-functional role of agricultural landscapes
Cultural Heritage		<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss or alteration of older farm features • Intentional or accidental damage to archaeological features • Traditional farming practices and loss of older farming knowledge and practices <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of the cultural role of agricultural landscapes

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of reuse, protection and restoring farm buildings • Upskilling/reskilling in traditional farm practices • Increasing climate adaptation for cultural heritage (particularly around coastal and river locations) • Cultural tourism, folklore, traditional farming opportunities • Enhancement and understanding of farm archaeological features
Material Assets	In	<p>Negative effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for landuse conflicts regarding renewable energy infrastructure(including grid connection) and agricultural landuse • Effects of water quality and drinking water supplies • Transporting agricultural produce and potential carbon increases with longer transportation (Brexit and potential for new markets further away, sourcing of feed internationally) <p>Potential positive effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving energy efficiencies on farm • Embedding and maximising the circular economy of agriculture • Bioenergy potential through the provision of agricultural feedstocks such as biomass materials and agricultural by-products,
Ecosystem services/ and Natural capital	In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the diversity and spatial differences, tailor farm planning and supports accordingly. • Communicating the role of ecosystem services

SEA Topic	Scoped in or out	Potential Significant Environmental effects for SEA Environmental Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising variety of ecosystem services under agricultural landuse • Enhancing ecosystem functions and services at landscape scale • CAP support multiple and co benefits to farmers

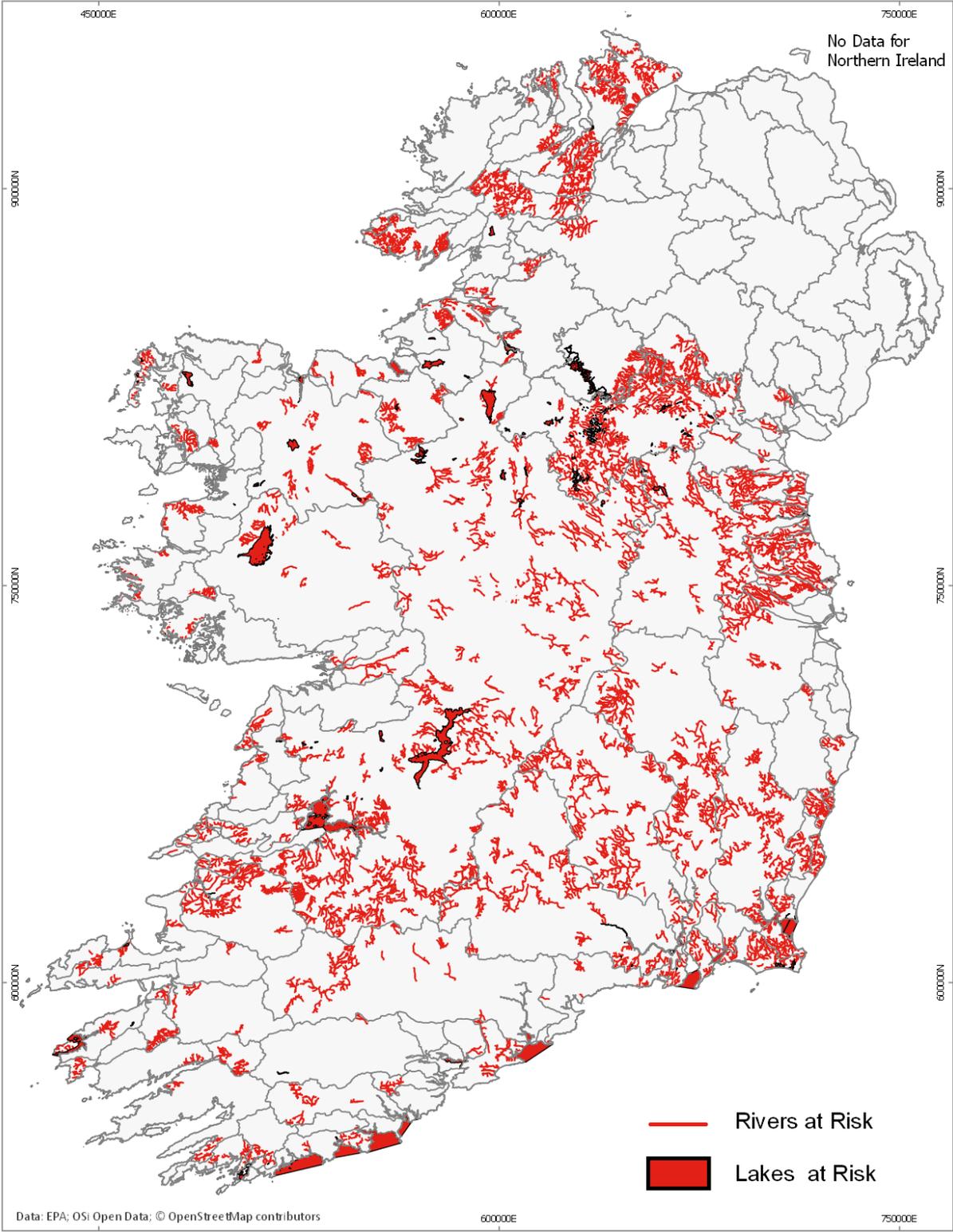
Figure 4 Potential Contribution to Ecological Network (NPWS)



SEA of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
Potential Contributions to Ecological Networks

0 25 50 km
www.minogue.ie

Figure 5 Rivers and Lakes at risk of not meeting Water Framework Directive Objectives 2027 (EPA)



SEA of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
Rivers and Lakes at Risk - Agriculture Pressures (WFD)

- Nutrient pollution (caused by too much nitrogen and phosphorus in our waters) is the key water quality issue impacting on our rivers, lakes and estuaries.
- Protecting drinking water sources from the pesticide MCPA and slurry spreading are important public health issues in Ireland.
- There have been significant improvements in soil pH status in recent years, reversing past trends. Continued emphasis on lime application is required to improve nutrient use efficiency.

Chapter 16 Conclusions of the same report identifies key messages for Ireland’s environment, and these are presented below in **Table 3**, accompanied by a comment as to their relevance to the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and SEA.

Table 3 Key Messages for Ireland’s Environment and relevance to CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and SEA

Key messages	Relevance to CAP Strategic Plan for Ireland and SEA
We Need Vision and Implementation to Protect Ireland’s Environment and our Health and Wellbeing	
<p>SOE 1: Environmental Policy Position</p> <p>A national policy position for Ireland’s environment.</p> <p>There are many interlinkages and dependencies between environmental policies and legislation. These links could be better connected and reinforced through an integrated national policy position on protecting Ireland’s environment</p>	<p>Whilst this policy position is outside the scope of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027, the recognition of interlinkages and dependencies across agriculture, rural development and environmental receptors is now well recognised. A key element of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 offers Member States a means to tailor measures to local conditions. The SEA through its integrated and holistic approach to environmental assessment including cumulative effects can offer a means to support this approach through the plan making process.</p>
<p>SOE 2: Full Implementation</p> <p>Full implementation of existing environmental legislation and a review of the governance around the coordination on environmental protection across public bodies.</p>	<p>This is of relevance to the SEA and to meeting Ireland’s legal commitments where certain environmental receptors are at risk of not meeting thresholds or are showing declining trends.</p>
<p>SOE 3: Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Protecting the Environment is an Investment in Our Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>The links between environmental quality and health and wellbeing are clearly demonstrated and the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and SEA should aim to promote, reinforce and support measures that can achieve these co benefits.</p>
Step Up to Protect the Environment Around Us as it is Under Increasing Threat	
<p>SOE 4: Climate</p> <p>Systemic change is required for Ireland to become the climate-neutral and climate resilient society and economy that it aspires to be.</p>	<p>The new CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and the SEA offers a significant opportunity to promote, encourage and direct systemic change in the area of agriculture and rural development. For example, Teagasc Research on</p>

Key messages	Relevance to CAP Strategic Plan for Ireland and SEA
	Methane and Nitrous Oxide and University College Dublin research on carbon footprint of Irish livestock systems.
SOE 5: Air Quality Adoption of measures to meet the World Health Organization air quality guideline values should be the target to aim for in the Clean Air Strategy.	Air Quality particularly ammonia emissions and Greenhouse gases are significant challenges and issues for the CAP and Ireland's environment. Ireland has already exceeded its threshold for ammonia and the SEA will focus on this environmental topic as well as the potential for cumulative effects associated with ammonia and other environmental resources and receptors.
SOE 6: Nature Safeguard nature and wild places as a national priority and to leave a legacy for future generations.	Agricultural practices have contributed to biodiversity including farmland bird declines and have been identified in Article 17 reporting as the main pressure on biodiversity, however, they also offer the means to improve and enhance biodiversity and nature, particularly with the opportunity for landscape scale measures.
SOE 7: Water Quality Improve the water environment and tackle water pollution locally at a water catchment level.	Again, this is a key challenge arising from agricultural practices and the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. EIPs and measures already implemented are achieving local improvements but given the scope and scale of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 the SEA will include this as a key objective.
SOE 8: Marine Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment	Agricultural emissions to water quality and transitional and estuarine waters are a further consideration of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and to be addressed within the scope of the SEA.
System Change – Delivery on Sectoral and Societal Outcomes Needs to be Accelerated	
SOE 9: Clean Energy Ireland needs to move rapidly away from the extensive use of fossil fuels to the use of clean energy systems.	This is relevant to the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and SEA in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the provision of biomass materials and agricultural by-products, as well as reducing energy use at farm level
SOE 10: Environmentally sustainable Agriculture An agriculture and food sector that demonstrates validated performance around producing food with a low environmental footprint	This is a core element of the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (Strategic Objectives 4, 5, 6 and 9) and is further supported through the EU Farm to Fork Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030
SOE 11: Water Services Drinking water and wastewater infrastructure must meet the needs of our society.	As outlined in chapter three, indirect effects relating to agricultural use of pesticide or fertiliser application can result in downstream or groundwater effects.

Key messages	Relevance to CAP Strategic Plan for Ireland and SEA
<p>SOE 12: Circular Economy</p> <p>Move to a less wasteful and circular economy where the priority is waste prevention, reuse, repair and recycling</p>	<p>Circular economy and agricultural waste can offer a means to further embed the circular economy concept for agricultural activities following the waste hierarchy principles. In addition to the circular economy, opportunities to link further with the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and proposals for collection of farm plastics and waste should be considered.</p>
<p>SOE 13: Land Use</p> <p>Promote integrated land-mapping approaches to support decision-making on sustainable land use.</p>	<p>The national land cover map in preparation will be a significant tool to facilitate sustainable land use. The SEA will use Geographical Information Systems and the WFD catchment data to help inform the SEA process.</p> <p>The new Land Parcel Identification System is currently being developed and rolled out by the Department which should also assist in more refined spatial and landuse data.</p>

4.3 Data Sets for SEA

The following datasets will be used in addition to the ongoing scientific literature review that the SEA team is preparing as part of the environmental baseline.

The SEA ER will consult the following datasets in line with the SEA Directive:

Table 4 Datasets for the SEA Environmental Report

Main SEA Topics	Data sources
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Flora and Fauna	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) database; National Biodiversity Data Centre; Irelands National Biodiversity Plan (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht); Invasive Species Ireland website; WFD Ireland website; MSFD Ireland website EPA SEA Webtool and Environmental Sensitivity Mapping Scientific literature review (ongoing) CAP4Nature DAFM Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS)
Population and Human Health	CSO Census Data Teagasc National Farm Survey Institute of Public Health EPA Health and Environment Research Series
Soil and geology	Corine Landcover and Land Use Database; Coillte Forestry Database; Landuse/cover area framework (LUCAS) database Teagasc Soil Information; Geological Survey of Ireland Online Mapping.
Water	EPA Environmental Mapping); WFD catchments data. EPA reports including Water Quality in Ireland, and Irelands Environment 2020. Water Quality Indicators Report 2019 Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) Prioritized Areas for Action National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021

	<p>Local Water Catchment Assessments</p> <p>Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advise Service</p> <p>CFRAM Office of Public Works (OPW);</p>
Air	<p>EPA database (air quality);</p> <p>Teagasc research on ammonia</p> <p>EPA Funded research projects</p> <p>Local Authority air quality monitoring network</p>
Climatic Factors and Climate Change	<p>EPA Geoportal;</p> <p>Irish Water;</p> <p>OPW flood data;</p> <p>DAFM datasets;</p> <p>DCCAE datasets</p> <p>Ag Climatise</p> <p>Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Plans</p> <p>Met Eireann</p> <p>EPA Report No. 339 – High Resolution Climate Projections for Ireland</p> <p>CSO</p> <p>EPA DATA Emissions Inventory/ GHG Emissions</p> <p>Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plan</p>
Landscape	<p>National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025</p> <p>GSI Landslides database</p> <p>County Landscape Character Assessments (as appropriate)</p> <p>Regional Seascape Character Assessment spatial data 2020</p> <p>National Landcover mapping (0.1 ha resolution) once finalised.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>National Monuments Service (Archaeological Survey Database);</p> <p>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage; and Discovery Ireland Programme</p> <p>Traditional Farm buildings scheme under current GLAS</p> <p>World Heritage List and tentative World Heritage List</p> <p>Intangible Cultural heritage List (living cultural heritage).</p>
Material Assets	<p>Irish Water (water and wastewater)</p>

	<p>OPW Flooding and CFRAMS</p> <p>Transport Infrastructure Ireland</p> <p>Energy – SEAI, Teagasc, EPA funded research</p>
Natural capital/ecosystem services	<p>Ecosystem services mapping by NPWS.</p> <p>Research projects including INCASE</p>
SEA topics	EPA'S SEA Spatial Datasets inventory- updated November 2020

5. Proposed Framework for Assessing Significant Environmental Effects

5.1 Introduction

This section outlines the framework upon which the SEA will assess the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 for Ireland. It presents the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives which are the key criteria against which the environmental assessment of the draft plan will occur.

5.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)

The purpose of the SEA Objectives (SEOs) is to ensure that the assessment process is transparent, robust and that the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 considers, identifies and addresses potential significant environmental effects. **Table 5** below presents the Draft SEA Objectives that are proposed to test the potential environmental effects of the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027. These are based on the understanding of existing environmental issues as outlined in the preceding chapters and where considered relevant are taken from national plans or the recent SEA Scoping of the Agri Food Strategy (DAFM 2020).

These SEOs will be used in the both the plan assessment matrix as well as the Consideration of Alternatives and reflect key environmental issues that will be considered during the assessment process.

Table 5 Draft Strategic Environmental Objectives and subheadings

SEA Topic	SEA Objectives	Sub heading: Will the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>Contribute to and maximise the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside⁴</p> <p>Contribute to the protection and restoration of European Sites and nationally designated sites (e.g NHAs/pNHAs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance internationally and nationally designated sites, specifically SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites and Natural Heritage Areas? • Maintain and restore habitats, species and sites? • Encourage uptake of biodiversity measures • Prevent, minimise or control the spread of invasive species? • Maintain and improve ecosystem services and ecological networks in the wider countryside? • Reverse the decline of pollinators?

⁴ source Biodiversity Action Plan for Ireland 2017-2023

SEA Topic	SEA Objectives	Sub heading: Will the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
Population and human health	<p>Maximise, support and promote sustainable agricultural landuse and support long term viability of farms</p> <p>Contribute to improving health and quality of life for farming communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and enhance sustainable agricultural practices in appropriate locations? • Result in nature rich green spaces – linked to improved health and wellbeing • Support sustainable farm incomes? • Encourage younger farmers participation? • Reduce health risks associated with farm activities?
Soil and Geology	<p>Maximise, protect and enhance soil quality whilst recognising the soil carbon function soils under agricultural landuse</p> <p>Contribute to the protection, conservation and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard and improve the highest quality soil and agricultural land? • Reduce soil pollution, degradation, and erosion? • Increased uptake of sustainable management of soil resources and fertility? • Increase agricultural practices that increase carbon capture in soils?
Water Resources	<p>Maximise the protection and enhancement of the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect water resources from pollution, particulate nitrate and phosphorous pollution with no further deterioration of water quality status associated with agricultural activities? • Support the Water Framework Directive achievement of good ecological status by 2027? • Protect and improve the quality of transitional waters? • Minimise exposure to flood risk in line with the EI Floods Directive, and exposure to droughts, whilst maximising preparedness to flood risk and droughts?
Climate Change	<p>Reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions from the agricultural sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the agricultural sector in reducing its absolute GHG emissions?

SEA Topic	SEA Objectives	Sub heading: Will the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
	in line with national commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the climate change resilience and adaption capacity of the sector? • Support land management practices that protect and capture carbon, particularly from peatlands and grasslands? • Support policies that maintain/increase the area of tillage land in line with Ag Climatise objectives? • Invest in research to provide new mitigation measures for Irish food systems? • Reduce the use of chemical nitrogen use in Irish Agriculture to reduce Green House Gas Emissions? • Reduce ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector in line with the Ag Climatise roadmap to meet the ceilings set down in EU legislation?
Air Quality	To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environmental resulting from emissions to air.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce ammonia (NH₃) emissions from agriculture to meet achieve EU Thresholds? • Support Ireland in its requirement to achieve the National Emissions Ceiling Directive Thresholds for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOC) • NO_x and PM levels under ambient air quality legislation.
Landscape	Contribute to the protection, enhancement and manage the character and quality of Ireland's distinctive landscape and seascape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and maintain key agricultural features of the landscape? • Recognise the local and regional diversity of landscape character and support retention of same? • Support the integration of new farm buildings into local landscapes and promote screening through appropriate vegetation?
Cultural Heritage	Contribute to the protection, enhancement, and management of Ireland's rich archaeological and cultural heritage as well as vernacular and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and maintain vernacular farm buildings? • Support the reuse and adaption of farm buildings? • Support the upskilling or retraining in traditional farm practices and skills?

SEA Topic	SEA Objectives	Sub heading: Will the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
	traditional farm buildings and features	
Material Assets	Conserve natural resources, reduce waste production through the circular economy and promote efficient use of transport, grid and energy network as applied to agriculture and the CAP SP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard natural resources and minimise unsustainable use? • Increase recycling rates and re-use of materials through circular economy measures?
Natural capital and ecosystem services	Recognise and maintain the ecosystems functions of habitats in and around the plan area and promote nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation through CAP measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for and support landscape scale responses to climate change adaptation? • Maintain and Enhance ecosystem services?

5.3 Impacts

In undertaking the assessment of likely significant effects on the environment of the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 the range of effects will include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects as well as the interrelationships between the environmental topics.

Where lack of data or technical issues arise in relation to the assessment of effects these will be acknowledged. Where significant data gaps are identified, proposals to address same on a phased basis as appropriate may be included. Recommendations for monitoring of the plan to help address data gaps may also be prepared.

5.3.1 Cumulative Effects

It is considered that the potential for cumulative effects is particularly relevant to the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 and the methodology will follow the Good Practice Guidance (EPA 2020).

Key cumulative effects identified for Ireland in the above publication are those environmental receptors at or near their threshold or capacity to assimilate more change. These are identified as climate change, water management including flood risk management, air quality, biodiversity including peatlands and wetlands. As the above guidance recommends:

“CEA in SEA should focus on the key cumulative issues of climate change, water quality, flood risk, air quality, biodiversity and landscape, plus any other locally significant cumulative effects.”

These SEA topics will form the principal focus on the SEA at national scale and the use of Geographical Information Systems will be used, both at various stages in the SEA process but also to assess potential significant cumulative effects.

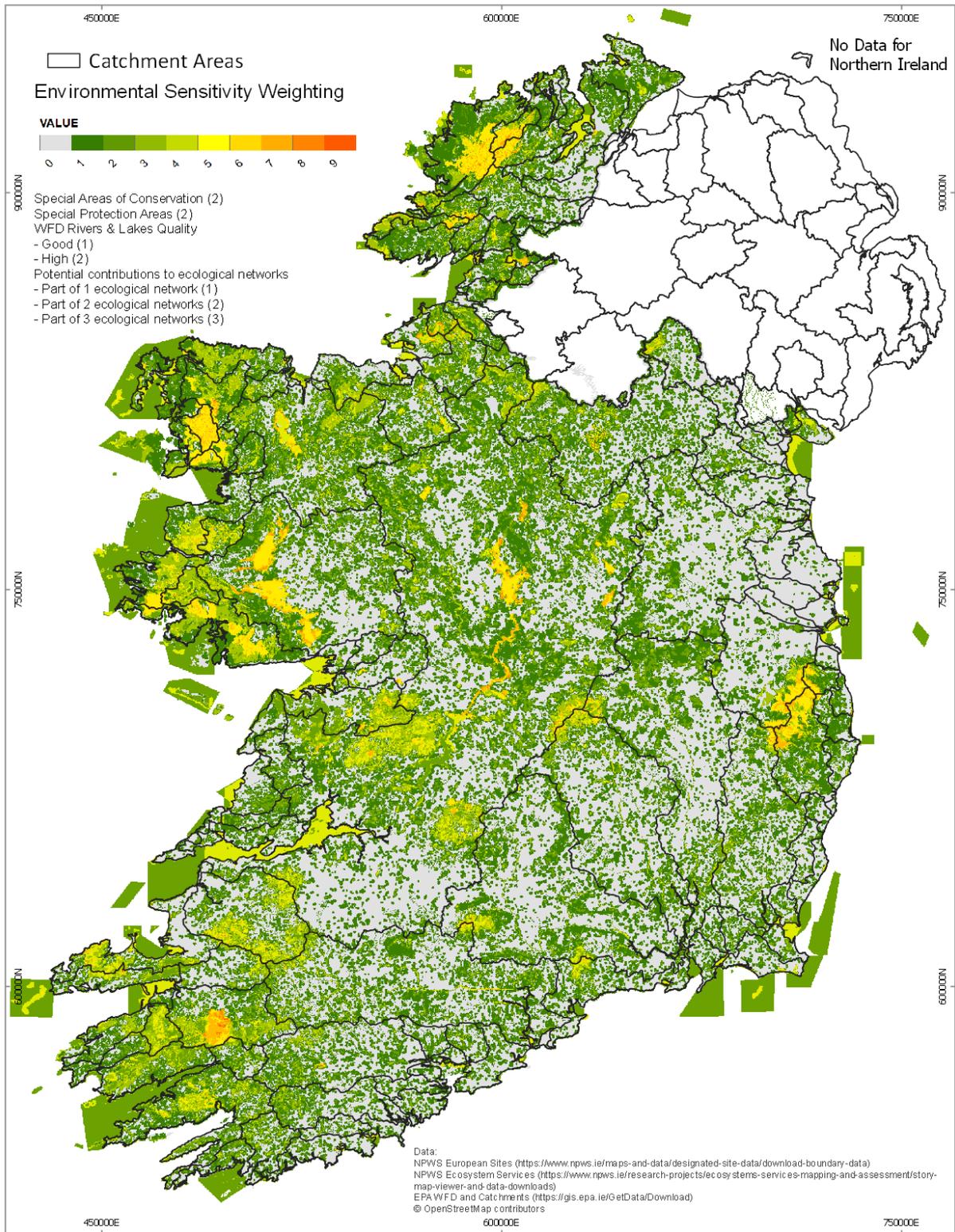
Assessing cumulative effects across WFD catchments may also offer a means to test environmental sensitivity modelling through the SEA to help assess potential cumulative effects. This will be explored further as part of the iterative SEA and plan preparation process.

Figure 6 below presents a preliminary environmental sensitivity map produced by identifying surface water bodies at good or high status, European Sites, and potential contribution to ecological networks. These used the ESM mapping (EPA) and ranked the following datasets

- Special Areas of Conservation (2)
- Special Protection Areas (2)
- WFD Rivers & Lakes Quality - Good (1) - High (2)
- Potential contributions to ecological networks
 - Part of 1 ecological network (1)
 - Part of 2 ecological networks (2)
 - Part of 3 ecological networks (3).

It is proposed to model a series of environmental sensitivity maps during the SEA process and Figure 6 overleaf is preliminary only, utilising a relatively small dataset.

Figure 6 Preliminary environmental sensitivity map



SEA of CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027
 Environmental Sensitivity Map

0 25 50 km

www.minogue.ie

5.4 Consideration of Alternatives

One of the critical roles of the SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative development scenarios, in this case the draft CAP strategic plan 2023-2027 for Ireland. These alternative development scenarios should meet the following considerations:

- Take into account the geographical scope, hierarchy and objectives of the plan –**be realistic**
- Be based on socio-economic and environmental evidence – **be reasonable**
- Be capable of being delivered within the plan timeframe and resources –**be implementable**
- Be technically and institutionally feasible – **be viable**

The reason for assessing alternatives to the draft plan is to determine if the significant adverse effects of the proposed plan can be reduced or avoided. Therefore, the alternatives should be “reasonable”. The term reasonable is not defined in the Directive. However, considering the EPA guidance, for an alternative to be considered reasonable for the purposes of this SEA, it must meet the objectives of the plan

A common approach to alternatives in SEA is to identify a ‘do-nothing’ scenario, an alternative with a more explicit market focus and an alternative with a clearer environmental approach. Given the significant challenges facing the environment of Ireland, the provision of public money to underpin the CAP and the not unreasonable expectation that public goods should arise from public money, this SEA proposes a different approach to the consideration of alternatives.

We propose to frame each alternative under the three headline objectives and nine specific objectives of the draft CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (See Chapter One) to ensure each alternative considered is reasonable, realistic, viable and implementable. The approach to alternatives will also be informed by the key environmental objectives identified for the draft CAP strategic plan 2023-2027, as well as the EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy as well as national commitments under the Water Framework Directive, and Ag Climatise for Agriculture.

The Consideration of alternatives will have a spatial dimension and be assessed against its potential to scale up to catchment/national level. This reflects an aim of this SEA to ensure the environmental assessment and recommendations can be practical and achievable.

The consideration and assessment of Alternative Scenarios will be developed and explored in the Environmental Report. As outlined above, the alternatives will be explored spatially and against the 9 Specific Objectives of the CAP Strategic plan 2023-2027. Further feedback from the steering group, consultees, and availability of data and information will further assist in this process.

6 Next Steps

6.1 Consultation

As part of this SEA Scoping process, the Department will also be undertaking statutory consultation with the appropriate environmental authorities in Ireland. In addition, transboundary consultation will be undertaken with Northern Ireland. As well as consulting with the environmental authorities, a wider non-statutory public consultation to encourage further participation by stakeholders and the public is being undertaken in parallel.

All submissions will be noted and considered in the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report.

Annex A Relationship to Plans and Programmes

International

Plan or programme	Summary
Ospar Convention (1992) The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic	The current instrument guiding international cooperation on the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Objectives include the protection of the marine environment.
SEA Protocol for the ESPOO Convention (2010)	The SEA Protocol augments the Espoo Convention by ensuring that individual Parties integrate environmental assessment into their plans and programmes at the earliest stages – so helping to lay the groundwork for sustainable development. The Protocol also provides for extensive public participation in the governmental decision-making process. The Protocol entered into force on 11 July 2010.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Objectives include the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity. Ensures fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.
The Ramsar Convention The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	Objectives include protection and conservation of wetlands, particularly those of importance to waterfowl as Waterfowl Habitat.
The MARPOL Convention International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78).	Objectives include for the protection of the marine environment.
The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

UN Kyoto Protocol The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol 1997	Objectives seek to alleviate the impacts of climate change and reduce global emissions of GHGs.
UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972	Objectives include protection of world cultural and natural heritage that is of outstanding universal value.
The Montreal Protocol 1987	Objectives include to regulate the production and consumption of substances that deplete the Ozone layer.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 1973	Objectives include regulation and monitoring of international trade in certain species of animals and plants.
Paris Agreement 2016	Objectives include to strengthen the global response to the threats of climate change by keeping this century's global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.

European and EU Plans, Policies and Programmes

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives
The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
The EU Birds Directive (as modified) (79/409/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
The EU REACH Initiative Registration and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH)	Objectives seek to limit the harmful effects to the environment and human health from certain chemicals through improved analysis and data collection.
The Plant Protection Products Directive (91/414/EEC)	Objectives seek to harmonise the overall arrangements for authorisation of plant protection products within the European Union. This is achieved by harmonising the process for considering the safety of active substances at a European Community level by establishing agreed criteria for considering the safety of those products. Product authorisation remains the responsibility of individual Member States.
The Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC as amended)	Objectives seek to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit their consequences for man and the environment, with a view to ensuring high levels of protection throughout the Community.
The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Objective is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
The EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EC	Objective is to require Environmental Impact Assessment of the environmental effects of those public and private projects, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.
Groundwater Directive	This directive establishes a regime, which sets underground

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives
(2006/118/EC)	water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	This Directive requires Member States of the European Union to put in place measures to achieve and maintain good environmental status of marine waters by 2020.
EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in coastal and river basin areas.
Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)	The overall objective of the revised Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing, but it also offers an opportunity to improve management practices at bathing waters and to standardize the information provided to bathers across Europe.
The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.
The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/15/EEC	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.
The Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Objective is to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man this end, it prohibits the use of untreated sludge on agricultural land unless it is injected or incorporated into the soil.
IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land. The Directive provides an integrated approach to

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives
	establish pollution prevention from stationary “installations”. This codified act includes all the previous amendments to the Directive 96/61/EC and introduces some linguistic changes and adaptations.
Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/83/EC Directive (EU) 2020/2184 recast	The primary objective is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure drinking water is wholesome and clean. Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast). On 16 December 2020 , the European Parliament formally adopted the revised Drinking Water Directive . The Directive will enter in force on 12 January 2021, and Member States will have two years to transpose it into national legislation
EU Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC)	The objective is to regulate potential aquatic pollution by thousands of chemicals produced in Europe. The Directive covers discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.
Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (revised) (Valletta 1992)	Objective is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985)	Objectives seek to provide a basis for protection of architectural heritage and are a means for proclaiming conservation principles, including a definition of what is meant by architectural heritage, such as monuments, groups of buildings and sites. The Convention also seeks to define a European standard of protection for architectural heritage and to create legal obligations that the signatories undertake to implement.
The World Heritage Convention United Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris 1972)	Objectives seek to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage and ensure that effective and active measures are taken for these.
The MARPOL Convention International	Objectives include for the protection of the marine environment.

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives
<p>Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78).</p>	
<p>World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987)</p>	<p>Objectives seek the elimination or minimization of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.</p>
<p>The Air Framework Directive on Air Quality Assessment and Management (Framework Directive) (1996/62/EC)</p>	<p>Objectives include the prevention and/or reduction of airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and environment.</p>
<p>Directive on National Emission Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)</p>	<p>Objectives seek to limit the national emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.</p>
<p>The EU Biodiversity Strategy Communication on a European Community Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of biodiversity loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.</p>
<p>Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005.</p>	<p>Objectives seek to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.</p>
<p>Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005.</p>	<p>Objectives seek to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.</p>
<p>Adapting to climate change in Europe –</p>	<p>Objective is to kick-start a Europe-wide public debate and</p>

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives
options for EU action {SEC (2007) 849}	consultation on how to take forward possible avenues for action in adapting to climate change at EU level.
The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010 (first period)	Objectives seek to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	Aims to provide farmers with a reasonable standard of living, consumers with quality food at fair prices and to preserve rural heritage.
The Gothenburg Strategy (2001) Communication from the Commission on “a Sustainable Europe for a Better World”	Objectives seek to make the future development of the EU more sustainable. Informs the 6 th EAP and the Irish sustainable development strategy.
The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)	The Landfill Directive sets targets to reduce landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste.
The Industrial Emissions Directive (10/75/EU)	The Industrial Emissions Directive which came into force on the 6th of January 2011 and came about as a result of a European Commission review of European legislation on industrial emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the competent authority for granting and enforcing Industrial Emissions (IE) licences for specified industrial and agriculture activities listed in the First Schedule to the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 as amended. Agricultural activities listed relate to intensive agriculture (poultry and pigs)

National Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna		
Actions for Biodiversity 2017 – 2021, Ireland’s 3rd National Biodiversity Plan	Objectives include the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity. Although such issues would be dealt with at local or site level, the Plan should have regard to these objectives and promote such objectives where possible.	
Interim Review of the Implementation of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021 (February 2020)	This report outlines progress and the status of the National Biodiversity Action Plan in relation to all the outlined Actions.	
The Wildlife Act 1976. The Wildlife (Amendment) act 2000	The purpose of the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2000 is to provide for the protection of Wildlife (both Flora and Fauna) and the control of activities, which may impact adversely on the conservation of Wildlife.	
European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997, as amended SI 233/1998, SI 378/2005 & SI 477 of 2011	These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and the Minister to designate special areas of conservation (endangered species and habitats of endangered species) as a contribution to an EU Community network to be known as Natura 2000.	
Flora Protection Order 1999	Objectives are to protect listed flora and their habitats from alteration, damage, or interference in any way. This protection applies wherever	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	the plants are found and is not confined to sites designated for nature conservation.	
Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations 1988 (SI 293 of 1988)	Prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Also, give effect to Council Directive No. 78/659/EEC on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement to support fish life.	
Water Quality		
Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011. Amended in 2016	Prescribe bathing water quality standards and the bathing areas to which they apply, together with the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Give effect to Council Directive No. 76/160/EEC concerning the quality of bathing water.	
Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (SI 268/2006)	Give effect to Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters and prescribe quality standards for shellfish waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with sampling and analysis procedures to be used to determine compliance with the standards.	
Interim Progress Report on the Implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive, 2019	This report is a progress update on Ireland's implementation of its Programme of Measures under the MSFD.	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan 2017	The plan is to tackle the impact of lead pipes on drinking water. As part of the plan, lead in drinking water is checked for at the tap as part of Ireland's first nationwide monitoring programme.	https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/our-plans/lead-mitigation-plan/SEA-Statement.pdf https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/our-plans/lead-mitigation-plan/Lead_AA-Determination.pdf
Agriculture		
Food Wise 2025 (2015)	The Strategy sets out an ambitious and challenging 10-year vision for the Irish agri-food industry. The on-going development of the agriculture sectors without damaging the environment upon which it depends is a significant challenge, given the ambitious nature of the targets set out in the strategy.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/SC/P150401.2%20FoodWise%202020%20Strategy%20Submission%20Issued%2027Aug2015.pdf
National Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 DAFM	It ensures the on-going competitiveness of the agriculture sector, the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action and the balanced territorial development of rural areas.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/SC/P130102%204%20EPA%20Submission%20Draft%20Rural%20Development%20Programme%2016%2006%202014.pdf
Agri-Food Strategy 2030	It sets out the EPA's overall recommendations to establish an environmentally sustainable agri-food sector, while also recognizing the need to achieve a balance between economic, social and environmental considerations.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/SC/P200802.1%20EPA%20Scoping%20Submission-AFS-2030-Combined.pdf
'Ag- Climatise' National Climate & Air Roadmap for the Agriculture Sector to 2030 and	This plan is a consultation document which sets out the unique climate and air challenges facing Irish agriculture, the opportunities that may arise from meeting our targets and ambitions, and how we are	http://www.gov.ie - Ag Climatise - A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality (www.gov.ie)

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
beyond DAFM 2020	<p>proposing to address the issues through this draft climate and air roadmap for the agriculture sector to 2030 and beyond. The document proposes a roadmap of three elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Changes Now: to ensure the actions necessary to protect the environment and address climate change are carried through to operational reality for farmers on the ground now. • Acting in Partnership: To succeed in the effort outlined in this roadmap, all stakeholders right along the food chain, from farm to fork, will have to contribute in a spirit of partnership. • Preparing for the Future: using best available science to inform policy development and to help stakeholders make strategic choices about the future. 	SEA and AA Screening available at this link
Origin Green Bord Bia 2016	Origin Green is Ireland's food and drink sustainability programme. It provides sustainability assessments and accreditation/verification for 53000 farms and 320 food/drink companies representing 90% of food/drink export and more than 70% of domestic retailers.	
Planning		
National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 and National Development Plan 2018-2027	Is a national document that will guide at a high-level strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20+ years, so that as the population grows, that growth is sustainable (in economic, social, and environmental terms).	https://npf.ie/project-ireland-2040-national-planning-framework/

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<p>Finalization of the NPF alongside the ten-year National Development Plan will put together one plan to guide strategic development and infrastructure investment at national level.</p> <p>The NPF with the National Development Plan will also set the context for each of Ireland's three regional assemblies to develop their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies taking account of and coordinating local authority County and City Development Plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional and local plans align</p>	
<p>Planning and Development Act 2000. Revised in 2016</p>	<p>Revised and consolidated the law relating to planning and development by repealing and re-enacting with amendments the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999; to provide, in the interests of the common good, for proper planning and sustainable development including the provision of housing; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the Roads Act 1993, the Waste Management Act 1996, and certain other enactments.</p>	
<p>Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020 (Unofficial Consolidation)</p>	<p>This document is an unofficial consolidation of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2020, comprising the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001), as amended. It has been prepared by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for ease of reference only and is not a legal document.</p>	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) (DoEHLG)	Objectives are to ensure that future development in Ireland occurs in a sustainable manner.	
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004). Amended in 2011	Objectives include protection of the environment and integration of plan making processes into the sustainable planning of the country as a whole. The EU SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law under S.I. 435 in 2004.	
The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992	Objectives include the better protection of the environment and the control of pollution through improved licensing and monitoring.	
The Protection of the Environment Act 2003	Objectives include for better protection of the environment and the control of pollution through improved licensing and monitoring.	
Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995	Deals with the improvement of lands by drainage and the preventing or sustainably reducing the flooding of lands. Sets up the process of Arterial Drainage Schemes and provides for the maintenance of these works. Also implements a number of drainage and flood reduction related measures such as approval procedures for bridges and weirs, and iterates reporting requirements for Drainage Districts.	
Forestry		

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
National Forestry Programme 2014-2020	It represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the suggested period. It also aims to address the constraints that have the potential to limit the development of forest sector in Ireland.	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/forestryprogramme2014-2020/ForestryProgramme20142020SEASTatement230215.pdf https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/forestryprogramme2014-2020/ForestryProgramme20142020NaturalImpactStatement230215.pdf
draft Forestry and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Plan 2018	<p>The objective of the Plan is to eliminate, reduce or mitigate diffuse and point sources</p> <p>of sediment and nutrients and the disruption of the natural hydrological regime, arising from forests and regulated forestry activities within the Plan's area, to ensure that these do not threaten the achievement of the conservation objectives for FPM set for each of the SACs involved.</p>	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publicconsultation/forestryfreshwaterpearlmussel/REvNATURALImpactStatementForestsFPM100718.pdf https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/publicconsultation/forestryfreshwaterpearlmussel/REvSEAEEnvironmentalReportForestsFPM100718.pdf
Water		
Drinking Water Regulations SI 439 of 2000	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	related matters. Give effect to provisions of EU Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.	
Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus) Regulations 1998 (SI 258 of 1998)	Provides for specified improvements in water quality conditions in rivers and lakes based on phosphorus concentrations or related water quality classifications and give effect to certain requirements arising under Council Directive 76/46/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.	
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (SI 722 of 2003)	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.	
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 378 of 2006)	Provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources. Give further effect to several EU Directives including Directives in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources (“the Nitrates Directive”), dangerous substances in water, waste management, protection of groundwater, public participation in policy development and water policy (the Water Framework Directive).	
River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021	The Plan sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve ‘good’ ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. Ireland is required to	https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plan-sea-statement

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).	https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plan-natura-impact-statement
Water Services Strategic Plan 2015	Integrated National Plan for the delivery of water services. Ensures availability of safe drinking water and protect the environment from the impacts of wastewater discharges.	https://www.water.ie/docs/WSSP_Final-SEA-Statement.pdf https://www.water.ie/docs/WSSP_Final-NIS.pdf
draft National Water Resources Plan 2017	Identifies ways to ensure provision of a sustainable, secure and reliable water supply to people whilst safeguarding the environment.	https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/our-plans/nwrp/321060AS-REP-016-0002-01-SEA-Scoping-Report- Dec17.pdf
National CFRAMS Programme 2015-2021	Provides a clear and comprehensive picture of flood risk in areas of potentially significant flood risk and to set out how to manage the flood risk effectively and sustainably.	
Nitrates Action Programme under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) 2017	Designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Due for review in 2021.	https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/nitrates/irelands-fourth-nitrates-action-programme-natura-impact-statement https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/nitrates/irelands-fourth-nitrates-action-programme-strategic-environmental

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Fisheries		
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development 2015	Intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. It also identifies 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.	https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/marineagenciesandprogrammes/nspa/NSPAAAppropriateAssessment181215.pdf https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/seafood/marineagenciesandprogrammes/nspa/NSPASEAEnvir181215.pdf
Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027	Aims to ensure the development of a new operational programme for the sustainable development of the seafood sector for the 2021-27 period.	
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) (2015):National Strategy for Angling Development (NSAD)	<p>The IFI report their mission as ensuring the valuable natural resources of Inland Fisheries and Sea Angling are protected, conserved, managed, developed and promoted to enable them to achieve their full potential. The plan includes a number of high-level objectives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish- To ensure that Ireland's fish populations are managed and protected to ensure their conservation status remains favourable. That they provide a basis for a sustainable world class recreational angling product, and that pristine aquatic habitats are also enjoyed for other recreational uses. 	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats- To develop and improve fish habitats and ensure that the conditions required for fish populations to thrive are sustained and protected. • Stakeholders- To grow the number of anglers and ensure the needs of IFI's other key stakeholders are being met • in a sustainable conservation focused manner. 	
IFI Corporate Plan 2016-2020	This plan sets out clearly the key priorities for the organisation over the next five years and more importantly provides a schedule of key performance indicators which allow progress to be measured and outcomes to be identified.	
Harnessing our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland DAFM 2012	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the vision, high level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. The Plan provides a momentum for growth in the marine area and seeks to ensure government departments work together more efficiently and effectively on the diverse issues related to the marine.	
Energy		
Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission & other Energy Infrastructure	The Government published a policy statement on the strategic importance of Transmission and other Energy Infrastructure on 17th July 2012. Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Government policy statement as and from the date of publication. The statement reaffirms 'the imperative need for development and renewal of our energy networks, in order to meet	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<p>both economic and social policy goals’ and recognises the need to achieve balance between that need and the human, environmental and landscape impacts, in delivering the best possible engineering solutions.</p>	
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – the Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 White Paper</p>	<p>The white paper set out the government’s energy policy framework to deliver a sustainable energy future for Ireland. It is set in the Global and European context that places energy security and climate change among the most pressing international challenges. The framework is closely aligned to the climate change strategy and sets out actions to achieve the strategic goals of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring security of energy supply: through reliable access to oil and gas supplies with the infrastructure to import, distribute and store gas and oil, allied to robust networks and electricity generating capacity. • promoting sustainability of energy supply & use: through actions including accelerating growth of renewable energy sources, delivering an integrated approach to sustainable development and use of bio-energy resources. enhancing the competitiveness of energy supply: through structural change in the energy market, enabling competition and delivering consumer choice. <p>The expansion in the economy and population has contributed to the 25% increase in Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions over the past 15 years.</p>	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	Currently over 90% of Irish energy requirements are imported. Combined with its peripheral location and small market scale, this current reality leaves Ireland vulnerable to supply disruption and imported price volatility.	
Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022 [Draft] 2018	Overview of how the early stages of Ireland’s Grid Development Strategy will be implemented. It identifies those parts of the transmission system that are likely to need development over the five-year period (2017 - 2022)	https://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/SEA-Statement-Grid-IP-2017-2022.pdf https://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/Natura-Impact-Statement-in-Support-of-the-Appropriate-Assessment-of-the-Grid25-Implementation-Plan.pdf
Reactivated Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework 2019	It is a key national plan for guiding and optimizing the opportunities for renewable electricity development on land in Ireland. Expansion of renewable electricity is a core element of Ireland’s national transition to progress towards meeting our various climate, energy, and air quality obligations.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/SC/P190202.1%20EPA%20Scoping%20Submission%20REPDF.pdf
Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan 2014	The OREDP identifies the opportunity for the sustainable development of Ireland’s abundant offshore renewable energy resources for increasing indigenous production of renewable electricity, thereby contributing to reductions in our greenhouse gas emissions, improving the security of our energy supply and creating jobs in the green economy. The ORED sets out key principles, policy actions and enablers	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e13f49-offshore-renewable-energy-development-plan/#:~:text=The%20Offshore%20Renewable%20Energy%20Development,the%20opportunity%20for%20the

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<p>for delivery of Ireland’s significant potential in this area. In this way, the OREDP will provide a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>%20following%3A&text=to%20increase%20indigenous%20production%20of,security%20of%20our%20energy%20supply</p>
<p>Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) Interim Review May 2018</p>	<p>This plan establishes a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy (ORE) potential and identifies opportunities.</p>	
<p>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) 2017-2020</p>	<p>Provides comprehensive overview of the implementation of measures and the progress made towards achieving the targets set to improve Ireland’s energy efficiency.</p>	
<p>National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2018</p>	<p>Article 4 of Directive 2009/28/EC on renewable energy requires each member state to adopt a National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) to be submitted to the European Commission. Ireland has a target of achieving 16% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. The NREAP sets out national targets for 2020 in respect of the share of energy from renewable sources, consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling including 40% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020. The Government is also looking beyond 2020 in terms of significant opportunities to develop Ireland’s abundant off-shore renewable energy resources including offshore wind, wave and tidal technology, recognising that these offer significant potential for coming decades.</p>	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<p>The Government acknowledges the need for a fully integrated approach to provide the economic, infrastructural and planning conditions conducive to the sustainable development of Ireland's renewable resource which offers the potential for Ireland to become a significant future exporter of renewable energy.</p>	
Climate Change		
<p>National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) 2007-2012</p>	<p>The national climate change strategy 2007-2012 sets target for the key sectors within the state and economy in order to achieve overall Kyoto targets. Energy policy is required to make a substantial contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emission through energy efficiency, changes in fuel mixes and the increased use of renewable energy. Renewable energy is identified</p> <p>as the most effective way to reduce the contribution of power generation to greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to a considerable natural resource in wind energy, Ireland also has the potential to be a world leader in ocean energy technology.</p>	
<p>National (Climate) Adaptation Framework 2012. Updated in 2020</p>	<p>It aimed to ensure that adaptation actions are taken across key sectors and also at local level to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to climate change.</p>	
<p>National (Climate) Mitigation Plan 2017. Updated in 2020.</p>	<p>Draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments and reflected the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/48d4e-national-mitigation-plan/</p>

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Global Ireland: Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025 DoT 2018	It is an initiative to double the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint in the period to 2025. It represents the most ambitious renewal and expansion of Ireland's international presence ever undertaken in terms of diplomacy, culture, business, overseas aid, tourism and trade.	
Climate Action Plan 2019	Climate disruption is already having diverse and wide-ranging impacts on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. The Climate Action Plan sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address this issue.	
Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework DAFM 2019	This Plan sets out the projected changes in climate focussing on those identified as most likely to impact the agriculture, forest and seafood sector. A list of priority risks and possible consequences have also been identified.	
Biodiversity Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework DCHG 2019	Aims at improving sustainable agriculture and fisheries, better soil, and land management and, most urgently, the restoration of natural systems. It also emphasizes the need to consider biodiversity as an adaptation tool for other sectors.	SEA and AA reports would be published separately on npws.ie website.
Built & Archaeological Heritage Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework DCHG 2019	This plan presents a number of case studies which illustrates the impacts of climate change on Ireland's heritage. A number of goals are also identified, with corresponding objectives and actions to meet those goals.	
Transport Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan under	The Plan sets out the priority climate concerns for the transport sector, presents the links between climate impacts and risks to infrastructure,	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
the National Adaptation Framework (DTTAS) 2019	outlines the next steps required to close our knowledge gaps and complete a robust assessment of sectoral adaptive capacity	
Electricity & Gas Networks Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework (DCCEA) 2019	This plan aims at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in the energy networks (electricity and gas)sector against impacts of climate change.	
Communications Sector Climate Change Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework (DCCAE) 2019	This plan aims at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in the communications sector against impacts of climate change.	
Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework (OPW) 2015. Reviewed in 2019.	This Plan sets out a long-term goal for adaptation in flood risk management, along with a set of objectives and adaptation actions aimed at achieving those objectives.	
Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan under the National Adaptation Framework (DHPLG)	This plan for the water quality and water services infrastructure sectors presents an assessment of key future climate risks to the sectors and describes a range of key potential adaptive measures.	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Health- Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019-2024 under the National Adaptation Framework (Department of Health)	The Plan sets out the main climate change-related risks and vulnerabilities expected in the health sector in the next five years and beyond and proposes concrete measures that can be taken to help reduce vulnerabilities.	
Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan DCCAE 2018 – 2020	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs • participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals • support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation • policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence 	
National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy (NPSB) DoT 2018	<p>The National Policy Statement is a further step towards the ambition of developing the bioeconomy. It has been prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach and is the outcome of extensive consultation.</p> <p>The policy outlines the major challenges in expanding the bioeconomy. Among these are:</p>	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/EP A%20Response%20to%20Consultatio n%20on%20National%20Policy%20St atement%20on%20the%20Bioecon... .pdf

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting greater coherence between the many sectors of the bioeconomy • strengthening the development of promising bio-based products and growing the relevant markets for them • accessing funding available at EU level as well as leveraging private investment 	
Government Policy Statement on Strategic Importance of Transmission & other Energy Infrastructure	<p>The Government published a policy statement on the strategic importance of Transmission and other Energy Infrastructure on 17th July 2012. Local Authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Government policy statement as and from the date of publication. The statement reaffirms ‘the imperative need for development and renewal of our energy networks, in order to meet both economic and social policy goals’ and recognizes the need to achieve balance between that need and the human, environmental and landscape impacts, in delivering the best possible engineering solutions.</p>	
Ireland’s National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030	<p>The draft NECP took into account energy and climate policies developed up to that point, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the Project 2040 process and included all of the climate and energy measures set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.</p>	
Transport		
National Ports	<p>The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services. The long-term</p>	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Policy 2013. Updated in 2019.	international trend in ports and shipping is toward increased consolidation of resources in order to achieve optimum efficiencies of scale. This has knock-on effects in terms of vessel size, the depths of water required at ports and the type and scale of port hinterland transport connections. National Ports Policy introduces clear categorization of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport 2017-2030 (DTAS, 2019)	This Policy aims to reduce overall travel demand and maximize the transport network efficiency. The objectives include reduction of fossil fuel reliance, transport emissions and improvement in transport accessibility.	https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9886d0-draft-national-policy-framework-on-alternative-fuels-infrastructure/
Land-Use		
Draft National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025	Integrates environmental protection policies and actions across a number of sectors including for example forestry, agriculture, land use planning, energy, transport, and telecommunications. The Strategy can contribute to managing the various elements of landscape as well as contributing to the understanding of the processes and interconnection of these elements. This will facilitate the delivery of a range of sustainable environmental outputs including biodiversity gain, good water status, flood risk management, sustainable soils management, and climate change mitigation.	https://www.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/07/N-Landscape-Strategy-english-Web.pdf

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Planning Land-Use and Transport – Outlook 2040	Priorities of PLUTO 2040 includes realizing a low-carbon, sustainable transport system in Ireland. It will set the long-term framework for transport investment over the next two decades	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/SC_P190105%20EPA%20Scoping%20Submission%20PLUTO%202040.pdf
Draft National Peatlands Strategy 2014	The Strategy clearly and objectively sets out what we need to do in order to achieve the overall Vision for Ireland’s peatlands. It is clear from the outset that the Strategy is based on a commitment to the responsible and environmentally sustainable management of our peatlands for this and future generations.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/Draft%20National%20Peatlands%20Strategy%20-%20EPA%20Submission%2017%2004%2014%20.pdf
Air Quality		
Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 S.I. No. 271 of 2002)	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	
Ozone in Ambient Air Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 53 of 2004).	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	
National Clean Air Strategy 2018	The overall objective of the Strategy to integrate air quality considerations into policy making across government departments has the potential to be a significant driver to improve Ireland’s ambient air quality and as a result reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health and the environment.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/180301.1%20EPA%20Screening%20Submission_NationalCleanAirStrategy_06%2004%202018.pdf
National Air Pollution Control	The NAPCP report incorporates elements from a number of connected National strategies and plans, primarily the Clean Air Strategy and the National Energy and Climate Plan, all of which influence any	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Programme (draft NAPCP report) 2019. Updated in 2020	recommendations related to pollutant specific quantitative reduction commitments.	
The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.	
Cultural Heritage Archaeology and Architectural		
National Heritage Plan (2002)	Core objective is to protect Ireland’s heritage. Plan uses the “polluter pays principle” and the “precautionary principle.” Sets out archaeological policies and principles that should be applied by all bodies when undertaking a development.	
Heritage Ireland 2030 (to be published soon)	This plan will be a coherent, comprehensive, and inspiring framework of values, principles and strategic priorities which will guide and inform the heritage sector over the next decade.	
The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999	Provides for the establishment of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The objective of the NIAH is to aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage, especially by advising planning authorities on the inclusion of particular structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999)	Objective is to set out for all concerned parties the basic principles and approaches for the protection of the archaeological heritage.	
Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (1999)	Objective is to set down policy on licensing of excavations, and guidelines for licensees on strategies and method statements, reports and publications.	
Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities	Objective is to provide a practical guide for planning authorities and for all others who must comply with Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 on the protection of the architectural heritage and support the effort of protecting Ireland’s architectural heritage.	
National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) Management Plan 2017-2022 DCHG 2018	The aim of this plan is to provide guidance and clarity on how Ireland’s network of raised bog SACs will be managed, conserved, and restored in future years, including national restoration targets for raised bog habitats. To raise awareness and understanding of the benefits and values of raised bogs and encourage community involvement to inform future decisions.	https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/AA%20Determination%20ONRBMP%202017_2022_0.pdf https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/SEA%20Statement%20National%20Raised%20Bog%20SACs%20Management%20Plan%202017_2022.pdf
Ireland’s Long-Term Renovation Strategy 2020	This Strategy includes Ireland’s existing building renovation policies which are set out in a range of policy documents most notably the Climate Action Plan and the National Energy and Climate Plan . The	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	document does not change or amend policy and it does not provide a framework for development consent for projects.	
Material Assets		
Dumping at Sea Act, 1996	Make provision to control dumping at sea, to give effect to the convention for the protection of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic done at Paris on the 22nd day of September, 1992.	
The Fisheries Acts 1959 to 1997	Amends and extends the laws relating to fisheries, to prohibit persons from engaging in aquaculture except with and in accordance with a licence, to establish a procedure for the granting, renewal, amendment and revocation of licences, to allow for appeals against decisions relating to licences and for connected purposes.	
The Harbours Act 1946	An Act to make further and better provision in relation to the membership of certain harbour authorities and to the management, control, operation and development of their harbours, to provide for the charging of rates by such harbour authorities, to make certain provisions in relation to pilotage authorities and to provide for other matters connected with the matters aforesaid.	
The Waste Management Act 1996 and amendments	Objectives include (amongst others) the more effective and environmentally sensitive management of wastes in Ireland.	
National Waste Prevention	The National Waste Prevention Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative, led by the EPA, which supports national-level, strategic programmes to prevent waste and drive the circular economy in Ireland.	https://www.epa.ie/pubs/epasub/Circular%20Economy%20Consolidated%20EPA%20Response.pdf

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
Programme 2001 and Waste Action Plan for Circular Economy 2020	The new national waste action policy will inform and give direction to waste planning and management in Ireland over the coming years. It shifts focus away from waste disposal and moves it back up the production chain.	
Resource Efficiency Action Plan DAFM 2019-2021	<p>These REAP documents set out how government departments are monitoring their resources efficiency. The DAFM document includes sections on energy, canteens, waste disposal and food waste, paper/stationery and water conservation. The aim of the report is to provide an update of how the department are doing in terms of reducing their impact on the environment and provide an opportunity to introduce some new actions to reduce their impact even further.</p>	
Resource Efficiency Action Plan DBEI 2019-2020	<p>Details current efforts made by the Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation to reduce their impact on the environment. The DBEI split their Green plan into pillars focusing on water, energy, waste and ecology. The plan proposes some future actions which include; promotion of their green agenda via their intranet and a 'Green Week', greening of meetings and events, establishing 'Green Ambassadors' and continued engagements with other departments to look into structural changes.</p>	
National Broadband Plan 2020	It is an initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	
European Communities (Port Reception Facilities for Ship Generated Waste and Cargo Residues) Regulations 2003 (SI 117 of 2003)	Objective is to reduce the discharges of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea, especially illegal discharges, from ships using ports in the Community, by improving the availability and use of port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, thereby enhancing the protection of the marine environment.	
Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment DPER 2016-2020	This is a €27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland. The new Capital Plan seeks to build on prior investments in a way that is sustainable and long-term in its design and focus, building on the stock of infrastructure already delivered and setting a course to return to investment levels typical of a developed economy.	
Future Jobs Ireland DBEI 2019	<p>Aims to ensure Irelands enterprises and workers are well placed to prosper in a rapidly changing global economy by creating highly productive and sustainable jobs.</p> <p>There are five pillars that the FJI will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • embracing innovation and technological change. • improving SME productivity. 	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	Was this subject to SEA and AA ? Link provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing skills and developing and attracting talent. • increasing participation in the labor force; and • transitioning to a low carbon economy. 	

Regional plans, policies and programmes

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	SEA or AA link to same please?
<p>Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</p> <p>3 regions with different plans</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eastern and Midland 2019 2. Southern 2018 3. Northern and Western 2018 	<p>This process is centrally involved in the formulation of policies geared towards achieving a greater dispersal of economic growth and development throughout the regions.</p>	<p>https://emra.ie/final-rses/</p> <p>http://www.southernassembly.ie/uploads/general-files/Strategic%20Environmental%20Assessment%20%20%28SEA%29%20Statement.pdf</p> <p>http://www.southernassembly.ie/uploads/general-files/Natura%20Impact%20Report%20%28NIR%29.pdf</p> <p>https://www.nwra.ie/rses/</p>
<p>Regional Waste Management Plans 2015-2021</p> <p>3 regions:</p>	<p>The vision for the plan is to reconsider our approach and attitudes towards managing waste. The primary focus will be to view waste as a valuable resource in conjunction with making better use of current resources along with the reduction of leakage of material, to include energy, as we make the transition from a linear to a circular economy.</p>	<p>http://southernwasteregion.ie/sites/default/files/SEA%20Statement.pdf</p>

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	SEA or AA link to same please?
<p>1. Southern</p> <p>2. Eastern-Midlands</p> <p>3. Connacht-Ulster.</p>		<p>http://southernwasteregion.ie/sites/default/files/Natura%20Impact%20Report.pdf</p> <p>http://emwr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/08-SEA-Statement.pdf</p> <p>http://emwr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/09-Natura-Impact-Report.pdf</p> <p>http://www.curwmo.ie/sea-ssa/</p>
<p>Wild Atlantic Way Updated in 2016</p>	<p>The overall aim of the project is to develop a long-distance touring route that will achieve greater visibility for the west coast of Ireland in overseas tourist markets.</p>	<p>https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/2_Develop_Your_Business/Key%20Projects/Final_SEA_Scoping_Report_as-published.pdf</p>
<p>Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes</p>	<p>Designated shellfish water under the Shellfish Regulations for which Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes have been developed must have regard to the requirements of the Shannon river Basin Management Plan together with other specific measures. Developments adjoining, or in the vicinity of, Designated Shellfish Waters must have regards to the designation and ensure that development does not have a negative impact on the quality of the water and Natura 2000 sites in the area.</p>	
<p>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Management Plan</p>	<p>The Cloon Sub-Basin Management Plan (SBMP) has been produced to supplement the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). It provides the more detailed programme of measures</p>	

Policy, plan or programme	Summary of objectives	SEA or AA link to same please?
	required to restore the habitat of the freshwater pearl mussel to a condition that will support the long term survival of the species and the achievement of favorable conservation status.	

