

An Roinn Seirbhísí Uisce

Comhairle Contae Chiarraí,
Ráth Teas,
Trá Lí, Co. Chiarraí.



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL**

Water Services

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COL.TF-Nov10

25th November, 2010.



**Administration,
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use,
Environmental Protection Agency,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.**

**RE: Ballyheigue Agglomeration
Waste Water Discharge Licence Application, Register Number D0186
Request for Further Information (Ref. Section 18(3)(b) of the Waste
Water Discharge Licence (Authorisation) Regulations 2007**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached additional information requested in letters dated 14th April 2010, under Section 18(3)(b) of the Waste Water Discharge Licence (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 in relation to Ballyheigue Agglomeration.

It is the opinion of the Council that this information does not impinge on the existing non-technical summary or on any drawings submitted and therefore it is not necessary to revise same.

The information included is in the form of one original and one copy, plus one copy in electronic searchable PDF format on a CD-ROM.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

**[Redacted Name], B.E.,
Executive Engineer,
Water Services (Operational)**

Encl.



Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report

For the proposed Waste Water Discharge Licenses in respect of the
Ballyheigue and Ardfert village agglomerations, which discharge into
Ballyheigue Bay

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 6
OF THE
EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC



September 2010

Contents	Page No
Introduction.....	2
L8/08 assessment	5
Description of Project and of Key Natura 2000 Sites in the vicinity.....	7
Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites.....	14
Conclusion.....	18
Appendix A: Consideration of in-situ and ex-situ Natura 2000 Sites.....	19
Appendix B: Description of other strategies, plans, programmes and projects reviewed in order to identify potential 'in-combination' effects on Natura 2000 Sites.....	32
Appendix C: Current Water Quality in the vicinity of the agglomerations.	47
Appendix D: Photographic record of Ardfert and Ballyheigue WWTPs and Outflows.....	48

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1. Introduction

Introduction

Kerry County Council has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for waste water discharge licenses in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007.

The EPA have requested, Kerry County Council to assess the likelihood of significant effects of the waste water discharges from a number of agglomerations on the relevant European or Natura 2000 sites, by referring to Circular **L8/08** 'Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes - Protection of 'Natural Heritage and National Monuments' issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. In particular, the EPA have advised that the flow diagram in Appendix 1 should be completed and the results of each section recorded. The EPA have also indicated that if significant effects are likely then an appropriate assessment must be carried out and a report submitted to the Agency. This report is a Habitats Directive Assessment / Appropriate Assessment Screening report and as such a detailed assessment of potential impacts on species of Community interest which are not listed in the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites is beyond the scope of this report.

For the purposes of this report, the project under consideration refers to the proposed waste water discharge licenses for the following agglomerations (which discharge into the Ballyheigue Bay area): Ardfert village and Ballyheigue village. This report constitutes Stage 1 Screening which considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites of permitting the project.

These agglomerations are being considered together as they are located in close proximity to the same Natura 2000 Sites (namely, Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC – Site Code 000332, Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA – Site Code 004079, Kerry Head SPA – Site Code 004189 and the Magharee islands SAC – Site Code 002261). Such an approach is considered to be appropriate as it facilitates assessment of potential 'accumulative' and 'in combination' effects on Natura 2000 Sites.

Habitats Directive Requirements

Natura 2000, as an EU wide network of nature protection areas, is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. The aim of this network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. While the network includes nature reserves, most of the land is privately owned, with the emphasis on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. Natura 2000 sites, also known as European Sites, incorporate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the 1979 Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the 1992 Habitats Directive, as well sites awaiting final approval, *i.e.* potential Special Protection Areas

(pSPA) and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

As per the requirements of the Habitats Directive, projects can only be permitted after having ascertained that there will be no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. This was reinforced in the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling against Ireland (Case 418/04). The European Union has provided guidance as to how to make a Habitats Directive Assessment which identifies four main stages in the process as outlined below. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on the Natura 2000 site, there is no requirement to proceed further.

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, wither alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Where significant effects cannot be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, at screening stage, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report providing a more detailed analysis of the potential effects of a proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites is required. It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to have a NIS prepared for submission to the Competent Authority in order to assist in the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. It would be contrary to the requirements of the Habitats Directive to permit an option which would have adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, if non-harmful alternative solutions have been identified.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Water Services Screening Protocol

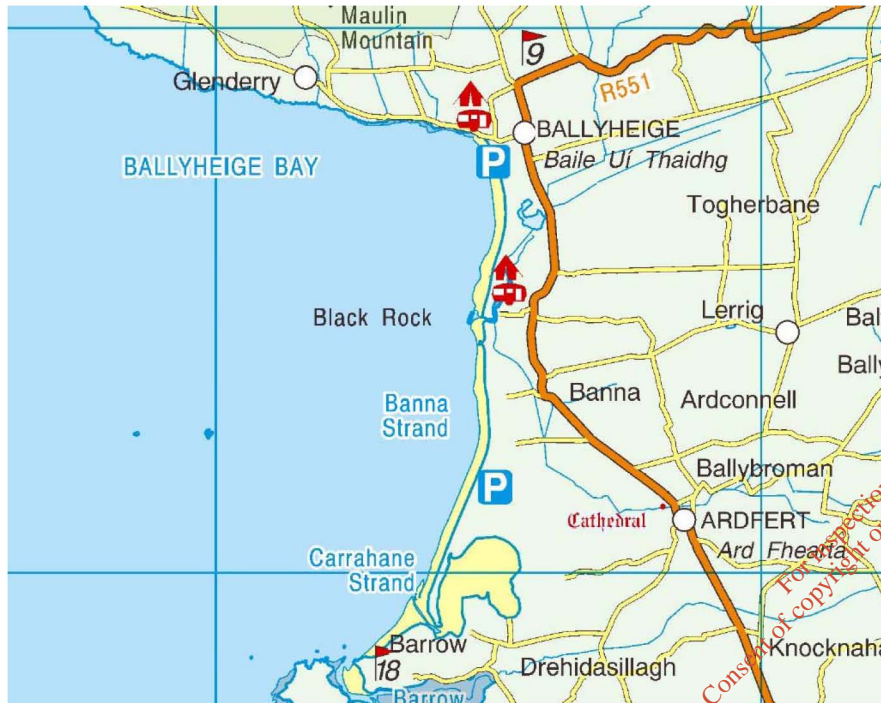
Departmental Circular L8/08, issued by the Water Services Section of the DEHLG on the 2nd of September 2008, provides an outline of the initial Natura 2000 Screening Protocol for Water Services projects. This screening methodology is designed to assist those planning and designing water services solutions when determining whether AA for Natura 2000/European sites or habitats & species listed in the annexes of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives is necessary or not. The assessment as outlined in this report utilises this approach.

Guidance Documents

Guidance documents used in the preparation of this assessment include:-

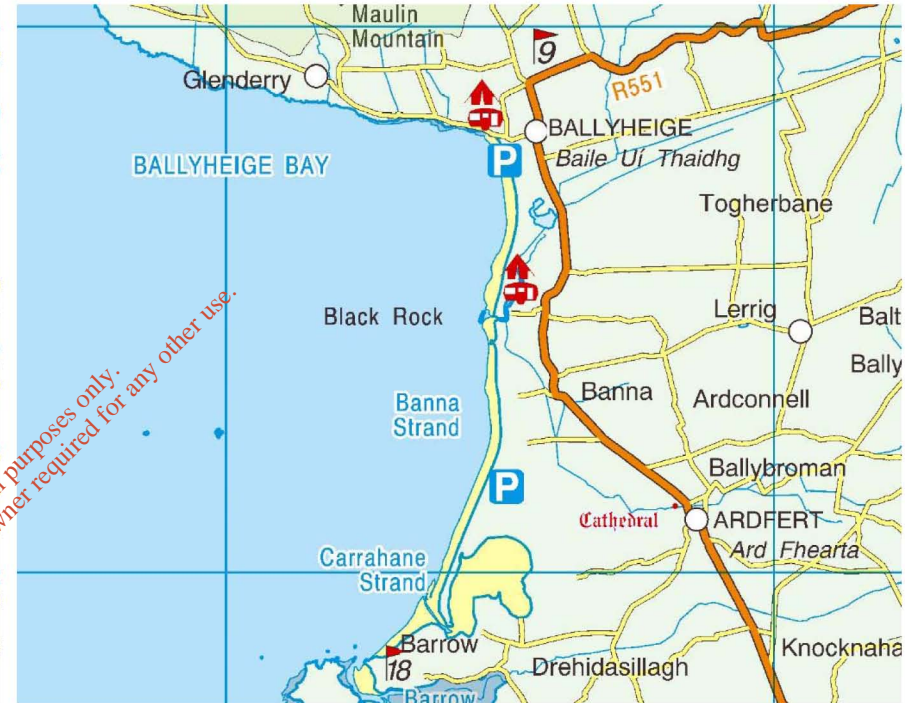
- DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities.
- EPA (2009) Waste Water Discharge Licensing – Appropriate Assessment.
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 dated 15 February, 2008.
- Water Services Section of the DEHLG Departmental Circular L8/08, issued on the 2nd of September 2008
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular Letter PD 5/08: *European Court of Justice ruling on retention planning permission for development requiring environment impact assessment, and the specific case of a wind farm development at Derrybrien in Galway.*
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Guidance Note ‘*Regional Planning Guidelines and Habitats Directive Assessment*’ dated 17th of July 2009.
- Department of the Environment (1994). *Planning and Policy Guidance: Nature Conservation (PPG9)* (HMSO).
- European Commissions (2000): *Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC.* Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2001): *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2007): *Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the ‘Habitats Directive’ 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the Commission.*
- National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Conservation status in Ireland of habitats and species listed in the European Council directive on the conservation of habitats, flora and fauna 92/43/EEC.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (September 2006): *Appropriate Assessment of Plans.*

2. L8/08 Assessment



Map 2A: Waste Water Treatment Plants

(Ballyheigue and Ardfert Villages)



Map 2B: Natura 2000 Sites in the vicinity

(Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC – Site Code 000332, Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA – Site Code 004079, Kerry Head SPA – Site Code 004189 and the Magharee islands SAC – Site Code 002261)

Assessment in accordance with Departmental Circular L8/08

In this section of the report the flow diagram contained within the circular will be followed.

Is the development in a nature conservation site?

No – the outfall from the Ballyheigue Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) discharges into Ballyheigue Bay, while the outfall of the Ardfert WWTP discharges into the River Tyshe.

Is the development in the groundwater catchment or within 5Km (whichever is the greater) of a nature conservation site (or part of such a site)?

Yes – the development is located within 5Km of the following Natura 2000 sites:- Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC – Site Code 000332, Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA – Site Code 004079, Kerry Head SPA – Site Code 004189 and the Magharee islands SAC – Site Code 002261

Are the qualifying habitats and species of the site water dependent?

Some of the qualifying species of the Natura 2000 sites are water dependent, such as the seabirds. Chough, Brent Geese, Golden Plover, Blacktailed Godwit are listed as water dependent bird species in the EPA 2005 document 'Water Framework Directive – Water Status: Identification and Ranking of Nature Conservation Designated Areas'.

Is there a WFD sub-basin plan for the site or its protected habitats / species?

No there is no WFD sub-basin plan for the site or its protected habitats / species. The nearest WFD sub-basin plan is for the Owenmore sub-basin, designated for the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel.

Assess Impacts - use WFD sub-basin plan as basis of impact assessment.

As water dependent bird species are located in the vicinity of the project it is recommended that a more detailed assessment of the impacts of the proposal on Natura 2000 Sites be carried out.

3. Description of the project and of key Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
3.1 Description of the project	
Location	<p>The Ardfert waste water treatment plant is located to the northwest of the settlement with the outfall discharging into the Tyshe River, which enters Ballyheigue Bay via Banna Strand, in the vicinity of Black Rock, approx 5Km northwest of Ardfert.</p> <p>The Ballyheigue waste water treatment plant is located to the west of the settlement with the outfall discharging into the Ballyheigue Bay. The Ballyheigue WWTP previously discharged into Akeragh Lough, however, with the commissioning of the new WWTP in 2003, this practice has discontinued.</p>
Distance from designated site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballyheigue: approx 400m to the Kerry Head SPA and approx 2.5 Km to the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour Natura 2000 sites. • Ardfert: Approx 4Km upstream of the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour Natura 2000 Sites. The Magharee islands SAC is approx 3Km from the mouth of the River Tyshe. <p>A number of other Natura 2000 sites are located within 15km of the proposal but having regard to the location, nature and scale of the project, it is considered that significant effects on these sites is not likely, either from the proposed development on its own or in combination with other plans and projects (refer to Appendix A).</p>
Brief description of the project	<p>The project provides for the treatment and disposal of waste waters from the Ardfert and Ballyheigue agglomerations. The following information is taken from the documentation submitted to the EPA as part of the overall application for the discharge licenses.</p> <p>The Ballyheigue WWTP was commissioned in April 2003 and consists of an extended aeration system with inlet screening, grit removal, stormwater holding tank & overflow, flow measurement, refrigerated influent sampling, diffused aeration, final settlement, ultra violet disinfection, final effluent refrigerated sampling & flow measurement. Sludge thickening and dewatering also forms part of the process. The process is controlled from a central control building complete with modern SCADA system. On site laboratory is also included in the main control building. Only in the event of prolonged storm flows exceeding the capacity of the storm holding tank does the flow from this tank discharge without further treatment. The total maximum future PE is 4228 and the plant is designed for 4234PE so the waste water works has the ability to</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
3.1 Description of the project	
	<p>accommodate the extra hydraulic and organic loading without posing an environmental risk to the receiving water habitat. Two pumping stations have emergency overflow with 'Copa-Sac' screening, while surface storm flows from the town are discharged into the sea just north of the beach area adjacent to the main car park. Emergency overflows from the pumping station discharge to the sea.</p> <p>The Ardferf WWTP consists of a storm overflow chamber, primary settlement tank, two rotating biological contactors and one submerged aerated filter. There is no access road to the site at present and therefore KCC cannot desludge the plant or maintain it to a proper standard. The existing site area measures 840m² and is too small to accommodate a new treatment plant. Part of the waste water infrastructure consists of a combined sewer, which overflows on occasion.</p>
Is the plan directly connected with or necessary to the Natura 2000 Site management for Nature Conservation?	No

Natura 2000 Site: Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (Site Code 000332)	
3.2a Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (Site Code 000332)
Site designation status	Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC)
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>Situated in north Co. Kerry the site extends for approximately 11 km from Ballyheigue in the north to Fenit in the south. A good diversity of coastal habitats occur, especially shingle and sandy beaches, salt marshes, sand dunes and intertidal sand and mud flats, but also rocky shore, dry grassland, wet grassland and reed beds.</p> <p>Akeragh Lough, formerly a brackish lagoon, has silted up since the 1970s and is now mostly wet grassland and swamp vegetation. Barrow Harbour is a highly sheltered inlet and provides particularly useful feeding and roosting habitat for the wintering waterfowl. Carrahane Strand is a sandy inlet with salt marshes. The site is underlain by limestone. The sandy soils are generally calcareous in nature and have a high shell fragment content. The sand dune system at the site is of particular note as the largest proportion of it comprises fixed dune grassland. This site is of major ecological interest due both to its range of floristically-</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC (Site Code 000332)	
3.2a Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
	rich coastal habitats and as a wintering site for significant numbers of waterfowl. More information on this Natura 2000 is available from the NPWS and on-line at: http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData
Qualifying species	-
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual vegetation of drift lines • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) • Humid dune slacks • European dry heaths
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	Additional Special Conservation Interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ringed Plover • Grey Plover • Golden Plover • Lapwing • Bar-tailed Godwit
Unit size	1204Ha (approx)
Condition / threats	Akeragh Lough now supports extensive areas of brackish vegetation. It was formerly richer in birdlife, but the lake level has been controlled by a sluice on the outflow, the total water area has declined and the peaty land to the east has been afforested The harbour is surrounded by low hills of limestone which support an interesting grassland community where they remain unfertilised.

Natura 2000 Site: Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA (Site Code 004079)	
3.2b Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA (Site Code 004079)
Site designation status	Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA)
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>Situated in north Co. Kerry the site extends for approximately 11 km from Ballyheigue in the north to Fenit in the south. A good diversity of coastal habitats occur, especially shingle and sandy beaches, salt marshes, sand dunes and intertidal sand and mud flats, but also rocky shore, dry grassland, wet grassland and reed beds.</p> <p>Akeragh Lough, formerly a brackish lagoon, has silted up since the 1970s and is now mostly wet grassland and swamp vegetation. Barrow Harbour is a highly sheltered inlet and provides particularly useful feeding and roosting habitat for the wintering waterfowl. Carrahane Strand is a sandy inlet with salt marshes. The site is underlain by limestone. The sandy soils are generally calcareous in nature and have a high shell fragment content. The sand dune system at the site is of particular note as the largest proportion of it comprises fixed dune grassland. This site is of major ecological interest due both to its range of floristically-rich coastal habitats and as a wintering site for significant numbers of waterfowl.</p> <p>The Akeragh Lough, Banna Strand and Barrow Harbour SPA is an integral part of the larger Tralee Bay complex and for most species there is regular commuting to other parts of the bay outside of the site. The site is very important for a range of wintering birds, with Brent Goose occurring in numbers of international importance and a further eight species in numbers of national importance. The regular occurrence of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. When considered with the remainder of Tralee Bay, this wetland complex is one of the most important in the south-west region.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 is available from the NPWS and on-line at: http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData</p>
Qualifying species	-
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual vegetation of drift lines • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)

Natura 2000 Site: Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SPA (Site Code 004079)	
3.2b Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) • Humid dune slacks • European dry heaths
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	Additional Special Conservation Interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ringed Plover • Grey Plover • Golden Plover • Lapwing • Bar-tailed Godwit
Unit size	1204Ha (approx)
Condition / threats	Akeragh Lough now supports extensive areas of brackish vegetation. It was formerly richer in birdlife, but the lake level has been controlled by a sluice on the outflow, the total water area has declined and the peaty land to the east has been afforested. The harbour is surrounded by low hills of limestone which support an interesting grassland community where they remain unfertilised. There are no significant threats to the wintering birds though recreational activities may cause some disturbance.

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Natura 2000 Site: Magharee Islands SAC (Site Code 002261)	
3.2c Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Magharee Islands SAC (Site Code 002261)
Site designation status	Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC)
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>This marine site is centred around the Magharee Islands, which lie about 2 km north of the Magharee Peninsula. The site includes two of the smaller islands, Illaunnabarnagh and Mucklaghmore, which lie about 5 km to the north-east of the main group. The islands are exposed on their west coasts and more sheltered on their east coasts with moderately strong currents between them. The islands are composed of Carboniferous limestone.</p> <p>The site is of high conservation importance due to the presence of good examples of reefs, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Illaunbarnagh is of national importance for breeding terns. In 1995 there were 46 pairs of Common Tern and 68 pairs of Arctic Tern. All tern species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Illaunabarnagh and Mucklaghbeg also have a nationally important population of Black Guillemots (113+ individuals in 1999).</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 is available from the NPWS and on-line at: http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData</p>
Qualifying species	-
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	-
Unit size	2270Ha (approx)
Condition / threats	<p>Conservation Status and Future Prospects for reef habitats in Ireland are considered unfavourable – inadequate, as the impacts in fishing on reefs in the offshore area are unknown*</p> <p>* NPWS - Reefs (1170) conservation Status Assessment report.</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Kerry Head SPA (Site Code 004153)	
3.2d Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Kerry Head SPA (Site Code 004153)
Site designation status	Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA)
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>Kerry Head SPA is situated on the south side of the mouth of the River Shannon in north Co. Kerry. It encompasses the sea cliffs from just west of Ballyheigue, around the end of Kerry Head to the west and north-eastwards as far as Kilmore. The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m). The high water mark forms the seaward boundary.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 is available from the NPWS and on-line at: http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chough • Fulmar
Qualifying habitats	-
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>Additional Special Conservation Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peregrine
Unit size	-
Condition / threats	<p>Sea cliffs are the predominant habitat of the site; these occur along its length and are generally well-vegetated by a suite of typical sea cliff species. Above the cliffs areas of heath, blanket bog and lowland wet grassland are found. The northern and southern coasts of Kerry Head are dominated by improved and semi-improved pasture, with some arable land found in the south-east.</p> <p>Landuse at the site is predominantly grazing by stock, but some arable farming is also carried out. The grazing regime, which results in a tight vegetation sward, is beneficial to Chough. The habitats present are quite robust and there are few noticeable activities negatively impacting on or threatening the population. However, changes in landuse, particularly a reduction in grazing levels, could pose a threat to the species. One other potential threat is the residue left in livestock dung due to the application of broad-spectrum anti-parasitic drugs.</p>

4. Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
<p>4.1 Assessment Criteria</p> <p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on Natura 2000 Sites</p>	<p>Discharge from : Effluent from the Ballyheigue and Ardfert agglomerations are discharged to locations in the vicinity of Ballyheigue Bay. The discharge consists of treated effluent from the Waste Water Treatment Plants but can also include untreated overflow volumes.</p> <p>Other Discharges in the area: One-off houses, agriculture discharges and other dispersed type developments served with individual wastewater treatment systems.</p> <p>Consideration of 'in combination' effects Key documents of relevance in this area are those prepared as part of the Water Framework Directive, including:-</p> <p>1. Shannon International River Basin District – Transitional and Coastal Waters Action Programme Smerwick harbour Ballyheigue Bay has a 'yet to be determined' status. The adjoining Tralee Bay has a 'good' status, while the Shannon Estuary has a 'high' Status.</p> <p>2. North Kerry – Tralee Bay Water Management Unit (WMU) The River Tyshe has been given a 'poor' status in the vicinity of Ardfert village, improving to a 'moderate' status in its lower reaches before entering the Natura 2000 Site. The River flowing from Akeragh Lough to the sea has been given a 'good' status.</p> <p>Status Impacts outlined include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tyshe: some improvement, since previous surveys, but continuing less than satisfactory with only moderate quality recorded. <p>Identified Pressures/Risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient sources: 52% of Total Phosphorous is diffuse, mainly from agriculture (37%), unsewered properties (5%) and unsewered industry (5%). 48% comes from WWTP.

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point pressures: 8 WWTPs (Ardfert, Ballydavid, Ballyheigue, Castlegregory, Fenit, Kilfenora and Tralee. 3 Section 4 licensed facilities. WWTPs at risk include: Ardfert WWTP, Ballyferriter Imhoff Tank, Castlegregory, Fenit Septic Tank, Kilcummin, Kilfenora and Tralee WWTP. <p>Action Plan Measures outlined include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital works to the Ardfert WWTP. An extended deadline of 2021 has been outlined for achievement of good status.
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size and scale Land-take Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site Resource requirements Emissions Excavation requirements Transportation requirements Duration of construction, operation etc Others 	<p>Discharges could give rise to elevated nutrients entering the Ballyheigue Bay area. Increased nutrient levels may impact on the ecology of an area by changing the composition of floral communities and reducing the ability of less robust plants to survive. Increased nutrient levels may also result in increasing the invertebrate populations in the estuary, thereby increasing bird population levels.</p> <p>However the potential for the waste waters to result in elevated nutrients within the harbour is reduced by the standard of the effluent emitted from the Ballyheigue WWTP (monitored by KCC*) and the capacity of the receiving waters to absorb the effluent. It is considered that the Bay is a large and well exchanged body of water, which have sufficient dilution capacity to adequately dilute the waters prior to their movement to Natura 2000 sites in the wider area. The blue flag beach status of both Ballyheigue Beach and Banna Strand supports this view.</p> <p><i>*Effluent testing demonstrates that treated effluent consistently meets standards set out in the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations. The results of monitoring indicate that there has been no deterioration in water quality. While it is likely that overflow volumes are intermittently discharged when the overflow volume exceeds the treated effluent volume, such events occur in times of prolonged heavy rain which would dilute discharges.</i></p> <p>No significant impacts are evident or predicted on protected species or habitats arising from the operation of these facilities.</p>
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:	<p>Reduction in habitat area:</p> <p>The Ballyheigue treated effluent complies with standards laid down in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations.</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area • Disturbance of key species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation value • Climate change 	<p>Kerry Head SPA (Site Code 004153) Chough predominantly feed on soil invertebrates associated with improved pasture, unimproved and grassland and coastal grass type habitats. A 2003 study by Gray <i>et al</i> noted that Kerry held the largest number of birds in the Country (31%) and that the population in Kerry remained fairly stable*. It is noted that the high water mark demarcates the boundary of this Natura 2000 site and accordingly, the designated habitat is unlikely to be affected by way of the project.</p> <p>* Gray, N., Thomas, G., Trewby, M. and Newton, S.F. (2003) 'The status and distribution of Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> in the Republic of Ireland 2002/03. Irish Birds (7) P147-156.</p> <p>Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour Natura 2000 Sites While the lower reaches of the River Tyshe flows through these Natura 2000 sites, the river is not listed as a Annex I habitat for which these sites have been designated, the majority of which are terrestrial habitats. It is also noted that the lower reaches of this river are modified and regularly dredged so as to reduce the risk of flooding upstream. While the Ardfert agglomeration is likely to be adversely affecting the ecological quality of the Tyshe River this is not likely to having significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Magharee Islands SAC (Site Code 002261) Ballyheigue Bay is a large and well exchanged body of water, which has sufficient dilution capacity to adequately dilute the waters prior to their movement to Natura 2000 sites in the wider area. It is noted that the NPWS - Reefs (1170) conservation Status Assessment report, outlines the Conservation Status and Future Prospects for reef habitats in Ireland as unfavourable – inadequate, as the impacts in fishing on reefs in the offshore area are unknown.</p> <p>Disturbance to key species: The operation of the WWTP does not cause any disturbance to species within the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation: No habitat fragmentation has been caused as a result of the operation of these facilities.</p> <p>Reduction in species density: No significant impacts are predicted on species for which the Natura 2000 sites have been designated.</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	
	<p>Changes in key indicators of conservation value eg water quality: Testing / monitoring results available suggest that there is no recent deterioration in water quality associated with the discharges. Current water quality details are outlined in Appendix C of this report.</p>
<p>Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference with the Key relationships that define the structure of the site • Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site 	<p>Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site: The structure of the Natura 2000 Sites will not be impacted by the operation of these facilities.</p> <p>Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site: The function of the Natura 2000 Sites will not be impacted by the operation of these facilities.</p>
<p>Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.</p>	<p>No significant impacts are predicted.</p>

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5. Conclusion

This report concludes that it can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on Natura 2000 sites and accordingly it is considered that there is no need to prepare a Natura Impact Statement / Appropriate Assessment, in this instance.

It is recommended that this report be forwarded to the NPWS / DEHLG and Birdwatch Ireland for consultation.

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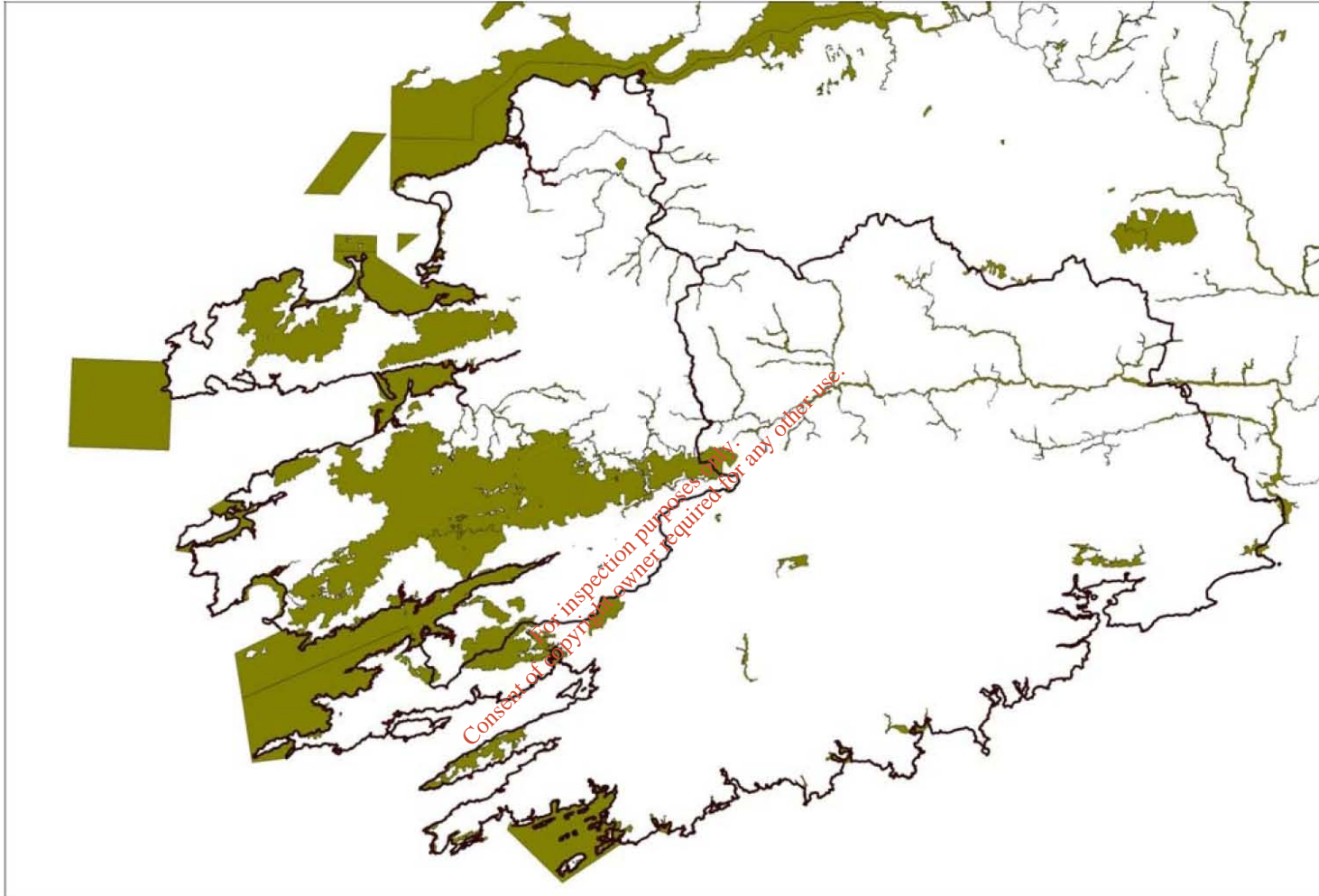
Appendix A: Consideration of in-situ and ex-situ Natura 2000 Sites

DEHLG guidance recommends that, at a minimum, Natura 2000 sites located within 15km of proposed project should be considered. In this section of the report the information available on Natura 2000 sites within or immediately adjoining the project area in situ and ex situ are mapped and tabulated, as appropriate, and this information was used in carrying out the overall screening report.

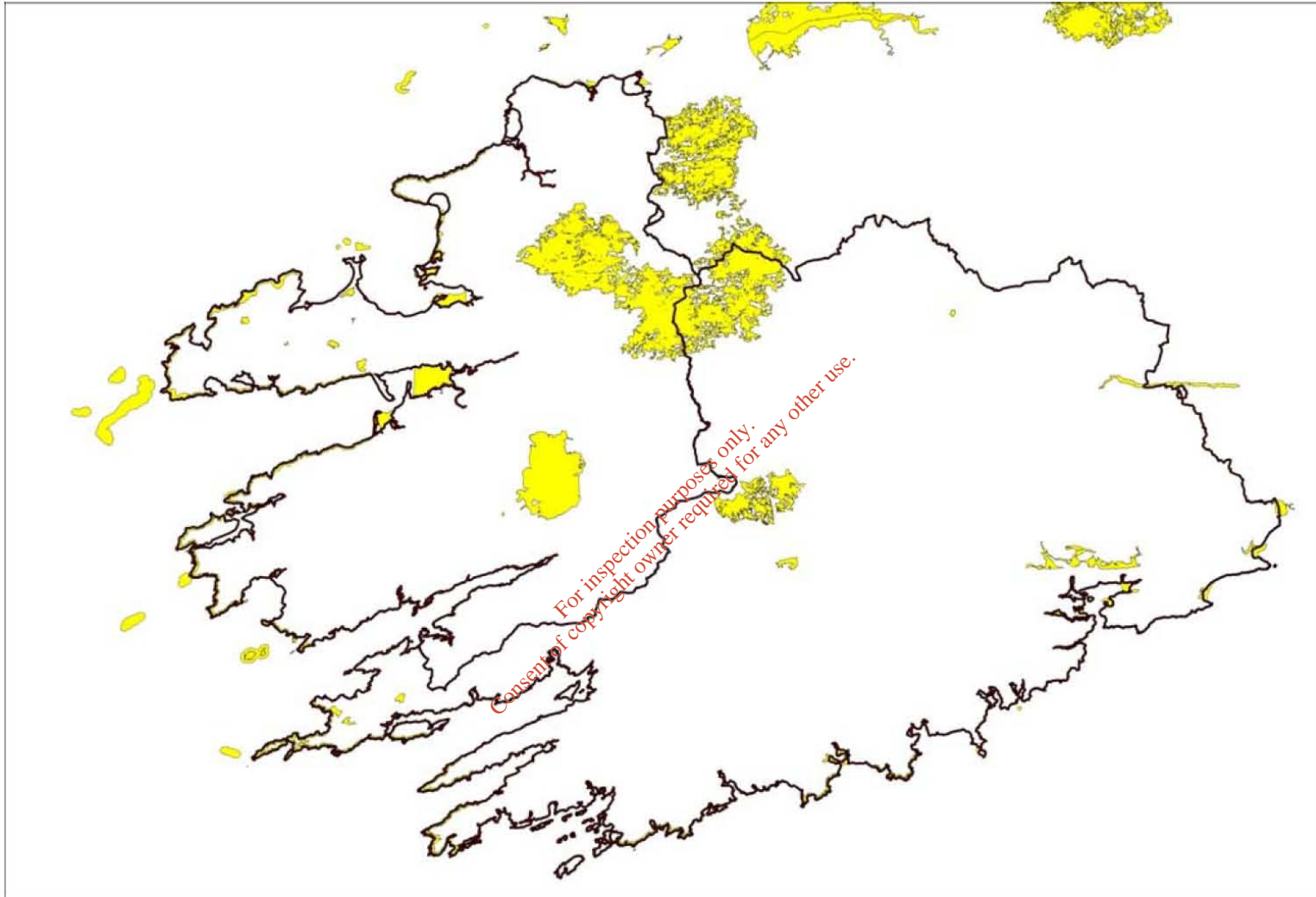
The following sites, the majority of which are ex-situ sites, were identified as being located within 15km of the proposed project(s).

- SAC 000332 - Akeragh, Banna & Barrow Harbour
- SAC 002070 - Tralee Bay & Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane
- SAC 002112 - Ballyseedy Wood
- SAC 002165 - Lower River Shannon
- SAC 002185 - Slieve Mish Mountains
- SAC 002261 - Magharee Islands
- SAC 002263 - Kerry Head Shoal
-
- SPA 004018 - Tralee Bay
- SPA 004077 - River Shannon & River Fergus Estuaries
- SPA 004079 - Akeragh, Banna & Barrow Harbour
- SPA 004125 - Magharee Islands
- SPA 004161 - Stack's to Mullagherisk Mountains, West Limerick Hills & Mount Eagle

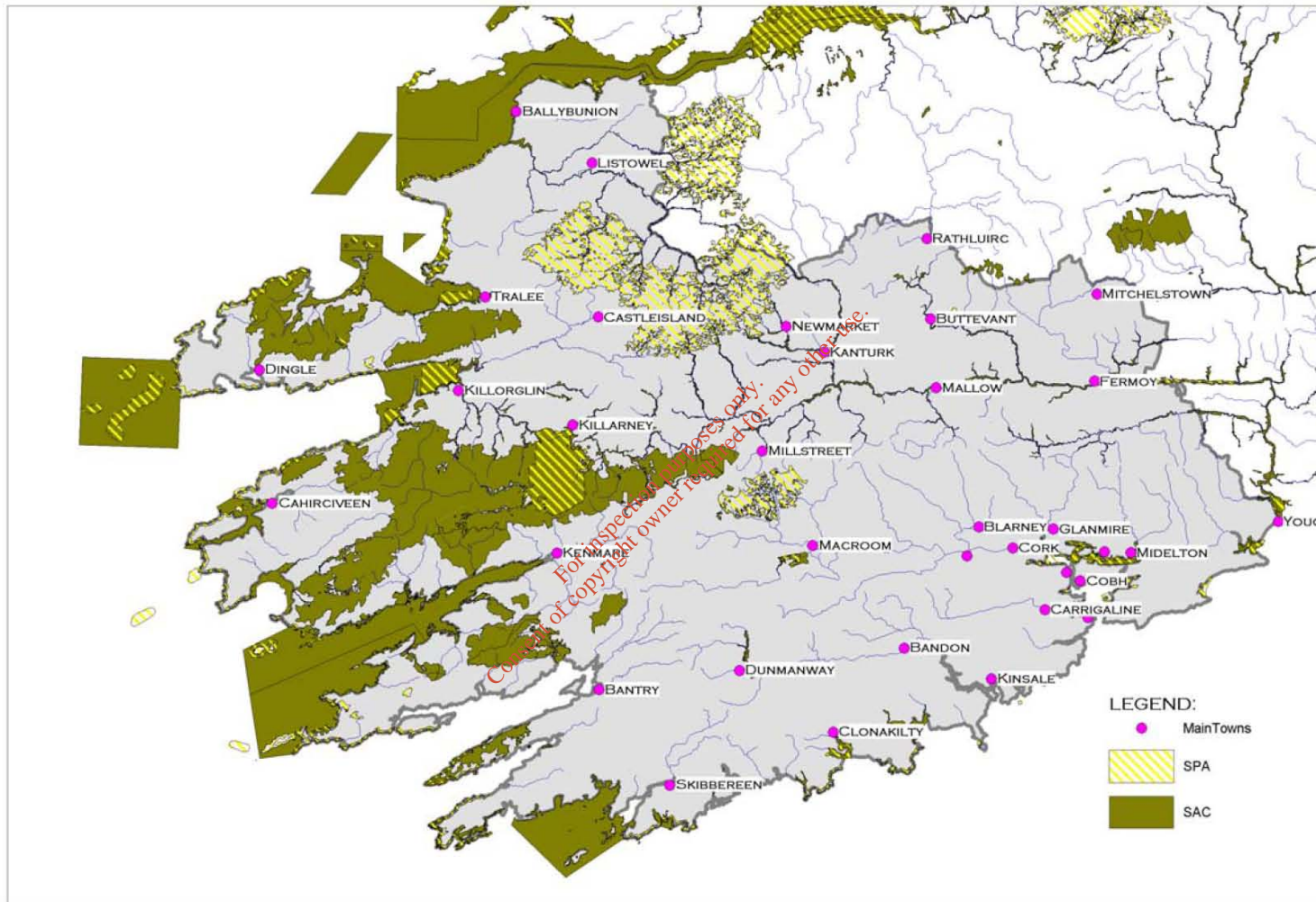
The following maps show the Natura 2000 sites located in the South West Region. Information, data and maps of these and other Irish Natura 2000 sites, is available from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website at <http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData>



Special Areas of Conservation within or adjoining the South West Region (SAC and cSAC)



Special Protected Areas within or adjoining the South West Region (SPAs and pSPAs)



Location of Natura 2000 sites in relation to the Region's Main Towns and Watercourses

Natura 2000 sites, the reasons for their designation, (draft) conservation objectives and the environmental conditions considered necessary to support their site integrity

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
<p>SAC 000332 - Akeragh, Banna & Barrow Harbour</p>	<p>The Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status are: Annual vegetation of drift lines; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks; European dry heaths.</p> <p>The site contains internationally important numbers of Brent Geese and nationally important numbers of Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Bar-tailed Godwit. The regular occurrence of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit is of note as these species are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Annual vegetation of drift lines; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>); Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks; European dry heaths. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. 	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, stock feeding, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeding dumping, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion / trampling / accretion associated with human impacts (fires, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>Adequate water supply (control of water abstraction etc)</p> <p>Limited dredging activities</p> <p>No physical barriers to significantly restrict movement of sand and communities associated with mobile substrate</p> <p>Lack of physical constraints & ability to modify dune distribution in response to natural dynamic coastal processes</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure, walking, horse riding, motorised and non motorised vehicle use, camping and caravanning, bait digging etc)</p> <p>Limited compaction by motorised vehicles etc</p> <p>Adequate air quality (limited tropospheric ozone pollution, limited acid deposition, limited nitrogen deposition etc)</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species (sea buckthorn, bracken etc)</p>
SAC 002070 -	The site is a candidate SAC selected for lagoon, fixed dunes	Habitat Management (control of drainage, aquaculture, fishing, grazing / mowing,

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
<p><u>Tralee Bay & Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane</u></p>	<p>and alluvial forests, all priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a candidate SAC for other habitats listed on Annex I of the directive – perennial vegetation of stony banks, drift line vegetation, estuaries, reefs, Marram dunes, dune slack, dunes with Creeping Willow, <i>Salicornia</i> mudflats, tidal mudflats, large shallow inlets and bays, Atlantic saltmarsh and Mediterranean saltmarsh.</p> <p>In addition, the site is also selected as a candidate SAC for the liverwort, Petalwort and the Otter, a plant and animal species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site also contains a rare, semi-aquatic snail, <i>Vertigo angustior</i> and the Natarjack toad which are species listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Tralee Bay, including Lough Gill, is also an internationally important wetland for wintering waders and wildfowl. Species present which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive include Whooper Swans (24, mid-1980s), Golden Plover (3053, 1994-95) and Bar-tailed Godwit (903, 1995-96). The dunes also provide an important feeding ground for Chough, a resident Annex I species</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>1. To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Coastal lagoons; Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Annual vegetation of drift lines; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>); Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>); Humid dune slacks; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous,</p>	<p>burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeding, dumping, tree felling, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion / trampling / accretion associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, peat extraction, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>Adequate water supply (limited water abstraction etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input, limited industrial effluent input etc)</p> <p>Limited alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, deforestation, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure walking, horse riding, motorised and non motorised vehicle use, camping and caravanning, bait digging etc)</p> <p>Limited compaction by motorised vehicles etc</p> <p>Control on fish stocking and introduced or invasive species.</p> <p>Presence of suitable quiet stretches of river for Otters</p> <p>Limited dredging activities</p> <p>No significant accumulation of organic material in sensitive water bodies.</p> <p>No physical barriers to significantly restrict movement of sand and communities associated with mobile substrate</p> <p>Lack of physical constraints & ability to modify dune distribution in response to natural dynamic coastal processes</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	<p>peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>); Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Lutra lutra</i>; <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> 3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site 4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. 	<p>No significant change in water clarity and average light attenuation</p> <p>No significant change in temperature and salinity of the water</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>
<p>SAC 002112 - <u>Ballyseedy Wood</u></p>	<p>The Alder/Ash-dominated woodland conforms well with the woodland type "Residual Alluvial Forest" listed with priority status on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Ballyseedy Wood is a nesting site for Long-eared Owl and the river is frequented by Otters, a species listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>): 2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: 3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. 4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities 	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeded, dumping, tree felling, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion / trampling associated with human impacts (recreational activities, motorised vehicles etc).</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as deforestation, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species (<i>Rhododendron</i>, Japanese Knotweed etc)</p> <p>Maintain natural regeneration and diverse vegetation structure</p> <p>Presence of suitable quiet stretches of river for Otters</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>
<p>SAC 002165 - <u>Lower River Shannon</u></p>	<p>The site is a candidate SAC selected for the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Large shallow inlets and bays; Estuaries;</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeded, fishing, aquaculture dumping, tree felling, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	<p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>); Coastal lagoons; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p> <p>The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive – Bottle-nosed Dolphin (resident population), Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Atlantic Salmon and Otter.</p> <p>Overall, the Shannon and Fergus Estuaries support the largest numbers of wintering waterfowl in Ireland. Species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive which contributed to these totals include: Great Northern Diver (3; 1994/95), Whooper Swan (201; 1995/96), Pale-bellied Brent Goose (246; 1995/96), Golden Plover (11,067; 1994/95) and Bar-tailed Godwit (476; 1995/96). In the past, three separate flocks of Greenland White-fronted Goose were regularly found but none were seen in 1993/94.</p> <p>A number of species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive breed within the site. These include Peregrine Falcon (2-3 pairs), Sandwich Tern (34 pairs on Rat Island, 1995), Common Tern (15 pairs: 2 on Sturamus Island and 13 on Rat Island, 1995), Chough (14-41 pairs, 1992) and Kingfisher.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>1. To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Large</p>	<p>No significant erosion / trampling associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles recreational activities etc).</p> <p>Adequate water supply</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>Limited alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, deforestation, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p> <p>Control on fish stocking and introduced or invasive species including Japanese Knotweed.</p> <p>Presence of suitable quiet stretches of river for Otters</p> <p>No artificial barriers significantly impairing adult salmon and lamprey from reaching existing and historical spawning grounds and smolts from reaching the sea</p> <p>Limited dredging activities</p> <p>No physical barriers to significantly restrict movement of sand and communities associated with mobile substrate</p> <p>No significant change in water clarity and average light attenuation</p> <p>No significant change in temperature and salinity of the water</p> <p>Maintain natural regeneration and diverse vegetation structure of woodland</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	<p>shallow inlets and bays; Estuaries; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>); Coastal lagoons; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>); Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</p> <p>2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>, <i>Lampetra planeri</i>, <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, <i>Salmo salar</i>, <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>, <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>, <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> <p>3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site</p> <p>4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>	
<p>SAC 002185 - Slieve Mish Mountains</p>	<p>The Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status are :Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. Blanket Bog, Acid Grasslands, Oligotrophic (corrie) lake and dry deciduous woodlands are also present.</p> <p>The site also contains two bird species that are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Peregrines breed on cliffs within the site and Chough are known to feed in the area) and contains a good population of Killaney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>), a species that is listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeding, dumping, tree felling, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion / trampling associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, peat extraction, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities such as rock climbing and hill walking etc).</p> <p>Adequate water supply</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>Limited air pollution (eutrophication, hydrocarbon pollution etc)</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. 	<p>fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, peat extraction, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species (bracken etc)</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>
<u>SAC 002261 - Magharee Islands</u>	<p>The site is of high conservation importance due to the presence of good examples of reefs, habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Reefs. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities 	<p>Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, fishing etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation etc)</p> <p>No significant change in water clarity and average light attenuation</p> <p>No significant change in temperature and salinity of the water</p> <p>Limited disturbance (human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species</p> <p>No dredging or aggregate extraction activities</p>
<u>SAC 002263 - Kerry Head Shoal</u>	<p>This is an example of a reef system and is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Reefs. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. 	<p>Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, fishing, dumping, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
		<p>No significant change in water clarity and average light attenuation</p> <p>No significant change in temperature and salinity of the water</p> <p>Limited dredging activities</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SPAs / pSPAs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
<u>SPA 004018 - Tralee Bay</u>	This site is of high ornithological importance as it supports an internationally important population of Brent Goose and a nationally important population of at least one further species, Ringed Plover.	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, aquaculture, grazing, fishing etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality</p> <p>No significant erosion associated with human impacts (livestock grazing, recreational activities, motorised vehicles, drainage etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, development, track / roadway provision, dumping etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (noise, human activity including recreational pressure / walkers / free-running dogs, sailing activities and bait-digging etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species</p>
<u>SPA 004077 - River Shannon & River Fergus Estuaries</u>	<p>Site is selected for: Cormorant, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, 20,000 wintering waterbirds,</p> <p>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Whooper Swan, Pintail, Shoveler, Scaup, Black-headed Gull, Wetland & Waterbirds</p> <p>Main conservation objective:</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, fishing, grazing, fishing etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality</p> <p>No significant erosion associated with human impacts (livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, development (aggregate extraction, coal extraction, wind farm development, track / roadway provision)) etc</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SPAs / pSPAs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Cormorant, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Ringed Plover, Golden Plover, Grey, Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Greenshank, 20,000 wintering waterbirds, Whooper Swan, Pintail, Shoveler, Scaup, Black-headed Gull, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Limited disturbance (noise, human activity including recreational pressure, boating etc) The control of introduced or invasive species including Cord-grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>)
<u>SPA 004079 - Akeragh, Banna & Barrow Harbour</u>	The site is very important for a range of wintering birds, with Brent Goose occurring in numbers of international importance and a further eight species in numbers of national importance. The regular occurrence of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit is of particular note as these species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.	Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, grazing, fishing etc) Adequate water quality No significant erosion associated with human impacts (livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc). No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, development, track / roadway provision, dumping etc) Limited disturbance (noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc) The control of introduced or invasive species
<u>SPA 004125 - Magharee Islands</u>	This site contains Common, Arctic and Little Terns all of which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. In addition, Storm Petrel, an Annex I species, may breed on the islands. In winter, the islands are utilised by a flock of Barnacle Geese of national importance (267 individuals in 1993, 73 individuals in 1999). A possible breeding pair of Chough was recorded on the islands in 1992. Both Barnacle Goose and Chough are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Of note is that the Barnacle Geese are at the most southerly point of their range in Europe.	Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, grazing, fishing etc) Adequate water quality No significant erosion associated with human impacts (grazing, recreational activities etc). No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation etc) Avoidance of disturbance (noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc) The control of introduced or invasive species No significant change in climate
<u>SPA 004161 -</u>	Site is selected for:	Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser /

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SPAs / pSPAs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
<u>Stack's</u> to <u>Mullagherisk</u> <u>Mountains, West</u> <u>Limerick Hills &</u> <u>Mount Eagle</u>	Hen Harrier Main conservation objective: To maintain the special conservation interest for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Hen Harrier.	lime input, reseeded etc) No significant erosion associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, livestock grazing, peat extraction, afforestation, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc). No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, development, track / roadway provision, dumping etc) Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure, wind farm construction / operation etc) The control of introduced or invasive species
<u>SPA 004189 -</u> <u>Kerry Head</u>	Site is selected for: Chough Additional Special Conservation Interests: Fulmar Main conservation objective: To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Chough, Fulmar.	Habitat Management (control of drainage, control of the use of agricultural pesticides, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeded etc) No significant erosion associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc). No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, development, track / roadway provision, dumping etc) Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc) The control of introduced or invasive species

Appendix B: Description of other strategies, plans, programmes and projects reviewed in order to identify potential 'in-combination' effects on Natura 2000 Sites

In this section of the report, other strategies, plans, programmes and projects are described in order to consider the potential for 'in combination' effects. In this instance, 'in combination' is taken to refer to the cumulative effect of influences acting on sites from all plans and projects in the context of prevailing environmental conditions. Underlying environmental trends such as sea level rises, climate change and increased flood risk have also been taken into account in the potential for significant effects.

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
UN Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>The UN Convention on Biological Diversity was a direct result of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It came into force in 1993, being ratified by Ireland in 1996. Its objective is the conservation of global biodiversity as well as to ensure equitable access to the world's genetic resources.</p> <p>It requires each party to develop strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and that these should be integrated into other national initiatives that may have biodiversity implications. Monitoring programmes and appropriate designations for protected areas must be established, while undesirable alien species which threaten ecosystems should be controlled. In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels.</p>	-
Agenda 21	<p>Agenda 21 was the main outcome of the United Nations' Conference on Environment and Development that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. That Conference endorsed the concept of sustainable development, requiring that economic growth must be compatible with the needs of both present and future generations and that environmental protection should form an integral part of the development process. These principles are required to be supported by a precautionary approach, which ensures that an absence of complete scientific certainty is not a justification of postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. The key role of EIA is stressed in respect of activities that may have a significant affect on the environment. Local Agenda 21 aims</p>	-

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	to promote sustainable development at local and regional level.	
Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	This international policy initiative sets out an action plan for the implementation of the activities adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. It covers topics such as poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, managing natural resources, sustainable development and other aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21.	To strengthen the commitment to sustainable development from Governments at all levels.
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was decided in December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. Its objective is to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a response to climate change. Developed countries, the so-called Annex I states, have to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by a collective average of 5% below their 1990 levels. An Annex I country which fails to meet its Kyoto obligation is subject to possible penalties, although the Protocol also makes provision for flexible mechanisms which permit the purchasing of greenhouse gas emission allowances from other states. The National Climate Change Strategy sets out how Ireland is participating in this process.	-
The European Integrated Maritime Policy and Action Plan (2007)	The Integrated Maritime Policy Action Plan from 2007 set out a particularly ambitious work programme. It included new working methods, cross-cutting tools and a wide range of specific actions that aimed to benefit the maritime economy, protect marine environment, strengthen research and innovation, foster development in coastal and outermost regions, address international maritime affairs, and raise the visibility of Europe's maritime dimension.	It is envisaged that the European Integrated Maritime Policy Action Plan will create new economic development opportunities for this region. Strategic policy orientations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of maritime governance, where permanent structures for cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder consultation need to be put in place at European, national and regional levels of government, building on hitherto achievements. • Development of cross-cutting policy tools, namely maritime spatial planning, comprehensive marine knowledge and data, and integrated maritime surveillance. These tools can streamline the way we manage maritime space and maritime activities and help preserve marine ecosystems. • Defining boundaries of sustainability, to be set in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, will help develop all maritime activities with greater regard to their

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
		<p>cumulative impacts on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of sea-basin strategies, which allows adapting priorities and policy-making tools to the unique geographical, economical and political context of each maritime region. • Development of international dimension of the Integrated Maritime Policy, to strengthen the EU's position in multilateral and bilateral relations. • Renewed focus on sustainable economic growth, employment and innovation through, for example, strengthened links between energy and climate change policies and the IMP which will help promote renewable energies from the sea and develop climate change adaptation strategy for coastal and maritime areas.
<p>Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland 1997</p>	<p>The aim outlined for Ireland in our first sustainable development strategy, published in 1997, was "to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community".</p> <p>The principal goals and policies defined in the 1997 publication Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland continue to inform the development and delivery of policies and programmes in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development. The integration of environmental considerations into other policy areas is a key means of securing balanced development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage efficient use of energy, transport and natural resources through careful selection of development locations; • Promote the most effective use of already developed areas; • Secure protection and enhancement of the natural environment; • Accommodate new development needs in an environmentally sustainable way.
<p>National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020</p>	<p>The identification of development corridors is only the initial step in the process of balanced regional development. The success of the spatial strategy in its role of achieving strong and sustainable economic growth is dependent on a number of factors including the development of an area's Potential, Critical Mass and Linkages.</p> <p>The NSS, prepared by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is a twenty-year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic, and physical development, and population growth between regions. Its focus is on people, on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the strengthening, consolidating and development of gateway and hub settlements. • Promotion of rural diversification • Associated infrastructural developments <p>Possible impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new development / infrastructure. Avoidance on or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible favouring of infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the RPGs.</p>

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>places and on building communities.</p> <p>Implementation of the NSS at regional and local level is through the formulation of guidelines, integrated planning frameworks, Development Plans and strategies.</p> <p>The NSS has identified the important need to support the role of smaller towns, villages and rural areas at the local level.</p>	
<p>Making Ireland's Development Sustainable 2002</p>	<p>This document focuses on the link between economic activity and pressures on the environment. Sustainable development emerged as an idea in the late 1980s and led to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At the Summit, world leaders agreed to implement an action programme for sustainable development called, Agenda 21. The Irish Government published Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland in 1997 which applies Agenda 21 in Irish circumstances.</p> <p>Making Ireland's Development Sustainable reviews progress with sustainable development in Ireland since Rio, assesses the challenge we now face and sets out policies and actions to meet that challenge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad emphasis on eco-efficiency as a means of achieving both environmental and economic objectives, • Pressing ahead with the catchment-based approach to water quality, including through investment in waste water infrastructure and additional regulations where necessary, • Development of a national strategy to meet the requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol and the related EU Directive concerning transboundary air emissions, • Implementing the policy approaches to waste management set out in Government policy statements, • Implementation of a National Spatial Strategy, addressing among other things issues relating to settlement patterns.
<p>National Climate Change Strategy, 2007-2012</p>	<p>This National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 was published in April 2007, develops from the 2000 Climate Change Strategy, and it builds on the commitment to sustainable development set out in Towards 2016 taking into account the review contained in Ireland's Pathway to Kyoto Compliance (2006). Its purpose is to demonstrate how Ireland is to meet its 2008-2012 Kyoto commitments and to identify further policy measures needed for the period from 2012 and after 2020.</p>	<p>The Strategy for reducing emissions is shared across all sectors but the main focus is on reducing transport emissions, encouraging more use of renewable energy sources, reducing energy consumption of buildings, changes in agriculture including promoting forestry, reducing herds, altering feeding regimes and greater use of agricultural waste and biomass for energy production. The Strategy sees local authorities as the key agents for change at the local level in achieving target reductions through their waste management plans by ensuring those generating waste pay the full cost of waste collection, treatment and disposal.</p>
<p>National Development Plan 2007-2013</p>	<p>The National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 <i>Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All</i> is a blueprint for the economic and social development of the Country up until 2013. One of the principal objectives of the plan is to promote balanced regional development. This plan builds on the previous NDP which identified the need for a National Spatial Strategy, in order to promote regional development throughout</p>	<p>Cork Gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate growth and development within the City. • Improved transport infrastructure • Roads, water services, port relocation and associated infrastructure to facilitate docklands regeneration; • Enhancement of tourism, cultural and recreational facilities;

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>the country by the identification of a number of development corridors as Gateways and Hubs in individual regions. These development corridors have been designated to act as development growth areas that will be promoted in terms of infrastructure and investment to act as economic drivers for their region.</p> <p>The five 'Investment Priorities' of the plan are Economic Infrastructure; Enterprise, Science and Innovation; Human Capital; Social Infrastructure; and Social Inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands at Ringaskiddy and Carrigtohill to be developed by IDA Ireland as part of its Strategic Sites Initiative; and <p>Hub Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transport, telecommunications and water services infrastructure • Physical regeneration of local housing stock; • Economic linkages with surrounding rural areas. <p>Rural areas</p> <p>Priority areas for investment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure; • Enterprise and Employment; • Agriculture and Food; • Tourism, Culture and Sport; and • Marine Sector.
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future For Ireland - The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (White Paper)</p>	<p>Sub-titled the Energy Policy Framework 2007–2020, this document addresses how Ireland is to respond to international energy supply issues in the context of severe limitations on indigenous fuel supplies. Recognising that 90% of energy is currently imported the White Paper sets down a series of strategic goals.</p> <p>These include actions relating to security of energy supply, of which the development of additional electrical inter-connectors with other European Countries is a particular priority. Other measures include ensuring fuel diversity, the upgrading of the national transmission networks, stimulating hydrocarbon exploration and contingency planning in respect of possible energy supply disruption. The sustainable supply and use of energy is also a theme, with policy proposals to address climate change and energy efficiency. In relation to the use of renewables, a highly ambitious 33% contribution to electricity generation by 2020 is proposed.</p> <p>The main areas within which the strategic goals are framed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to ensure security of energy supply; • Actions to promote the sustainability of energy supply and use; 	<p>Actions outlined to ensure security of energy supply include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand • Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland • Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation • Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks • Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production • Being prepared for energy supply disruptions <p>Actions outlined to promote the sustainability of energy supply and use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing climate change by reducing energy related greenhouse gas emissions • Accelerating the growth of renewable energy sources • Promoting the sustainable use of energy in transport • Delivering an integrated approach to the sustainable development and use of bioenergy resources

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to enhance competitiveness of energy supply; Integrated approach to delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising Energy Efficiency and energy savings across the economy • Accelerating Energy Research Development and Innovation Programmes in support of sustainable energy goals <p>Actions outlined to enhance the competitiveness of energy supply include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering competition and consumer choice in the energy market • Delivering the All-Island Energy Market Framework • Ensuring that the regulatory framework meets the evolving energy policy challenges • Ensuring a sustainable future for Semi-State Energy Enterprises • Ensuring affordable energy for everyone • Creating jobs, growth and innovation in the energy sector
Grid 25 (Eirgrid 2008)	<p>Eirgrid, which is the Transmission System Operator (TSO), has put in place an infrastructure initiative / strategy until 2025 (Grid 25) aimed at facilitating reliable, secure and affordable electricity supplies throughout Ireland. Aims include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting growth in the regions and ensuring continued reliability and security of supply; • Providing high-quality, high voltage bulk power supply for Ireland that will enable the different regions to attract in future industry and boost existing industry; • Exploiting Ireland's natural renewable sources of energy (wind and wave); • Reducing Ireland's carbon emissions by transmitting renewable energy in line with Government policy; • Increasing Ireland's connectivity to the European Grid, allowing for both bulk exports of electricity and imports of electricity when appropriate. 	<p>Eirgrid has divided up the network into seven regions. With the exception of part of North Kerry the 'South West Planning Region' is contained within Eirgrid's South West Region. North Kerry is located within Eirgrid's Western Region.</p> <p>West Region Key Developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-rating over 250 km of existing networks to facilitate higher capacity power flows, using existing corridors where possible (which will allow for renewable resources from both wind and wave to feed into the National Electricity Grid) • Strengthening the transmission capacity across the Shannon Estuary. <p>South West Key Developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €730m will be invested in the infrastructure of the region, to include the upgrading of approximately 130 km of transmission network and new transmission developments; • Strengthening of the Cork network to allow power to be exported from the two large gas fired generators in East Cork; • Planned grid reinforcements to connect significant amounts of

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
		wind generation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant strengthening of capacity between the South West and the South East to allow excess power to flow from both renewable and conventional sources to supply demand in other parts of the country.
National Biodiversity Plan 2002	<p>The National Biodiversity Plan sets out the framework through which Ireland is to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity over a five-year period being prepared as a response to the UN Convention of Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Plan has been developed to coincide with the National Heritage Plan, which sets out the framework for the protection and enhancement of all aspects of Ireland's heritage, which includes our natural heritage over the five years, from 2002.</p> <p>Objectives include the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity. Although such issues would generally be dealt with at local or site level, the RPGs should have regard to these objectives and promote such objectives where possible.</p>	-
National Heritage Plan 2002	<p>The purpose of the National Heritage Plan is to set out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Ireland's heritage over the five years from 2002.</p> <p>The goals of the National Heritage Plan are in line with the principles underlying the Government's Policy Statement on Heritage. The Plan is published with the endorsement of the Government, in fulfilment of a clear commitment in the Government's Action Programme for the Millennium.</p>	-
The Economic and Social Aspects of Biodiversity – Benefits and Costs of Biodiversity in Ireland	<p>The DEHLG document <i>The Economic and Social Aspects of Biodiversity – Benefits and Costs of Bio-diversity in Ireland</i> made significant progress in identifying overall biodiversity patterns across the country and a map was produced indicating biodiversity index value.</p>	-

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
Waste Management - Changing Our Ways (1998)	<p>Published in 1998, Waste Management - Changing our Ways, sets out a national policy framework for the adoption and implementation by local authorities of their waste management plans.</p> <p>This was the first in a series of comprehensive government policy documents on the management of waste in Ireland. It endorsed the integrated waste management approach, based on the internationally adopted hierarchy of options which places greatest emphasis on waste prevention, followed by minimisation, re-use, recycling, energy recovery and finally, the environmentally sustainable disposal of residual waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy document emphasises the pressing need for Irish waste management to move away from landfill, viewing the ultimate role of landfill as acting as a disposal outlet only for residual waste that cannot be reclaimed or recycled. • Policy document specifies that a small national network of regional landfill sites is required, with this network being served by increasing numbers of more localised waste recovery facilities and composting plants. • Changing Our Ways reiterates the targets for the progressive reduction of the use of landfill for biodegradable waste which are set down in the EU Landfill Directive, but adds further national targets such as for the reclamation of construction and demolition waste.
National Strategy for Biodegradable Waste	<p>The National Strategy for Biodegradable Waste was published in April 2006, being an obligation on Ireland under the Landfill Directive. An aim is to set out how the three progressive landfill diversion targets of the Directive are to have effect. While significant progress in the development of recycling and waste reclamation initiatives is noted, the continuing national dependency on landfill is described as substantial. It states that a major increase in recycling and biological treatment capacity is necessary in order to facilitate the EU requirements for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill.</p>	<p>The preferred options for dealing with Biodegradable Waste are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and minimisation – avoiding generating the waste • Recycling – mainly of paper and cardboard but also of textiles • Biological treatment – mainly of kitchen and garden waste including composting • Residual treatment – thermal treatment with energy recovery or by way of mechanical-biological treatment.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan	<p>The Primary objective of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan is to prevent the production of hazardous waste and to minimise the effect of hazardous waste on the environment.</p> <p>The secondary objective is to manage hazardous waste in such a manner is to ensure that environmental pollution is minimised and not transferred from one medium to another; in other words to bring about a qualitative reduction in the quantity of hazardous waste requiring management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To describe and predict the type, quantity and origin of hazardous waste, its movement within, into and out of the country and facilities available for the collection, recovery and disposal of the waste. • To provide for, as appropriate, the identification of sites at which waste disposal activities that to a significant extent involved hazardous waste have been carried on, the assessment of any risk of environmental pollution and the recommending of measures to prevent or limit such pollution and to identify remedial measures. • To have regard to the precautionary principle in relation to the potentially harmful effects of emissions and the risk of environmental pollution. • To make recommendations, as respects the management of

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
		hazardous waste
OPW Guidelines on Flood Risk 2005	The OPW provide guidance on Planning Policy in relation to flooding. The policy which the Planning Authority should adopt is 'Development should not itself be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations'.	-
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DEHLG 2009)	<p>These guidelines require the planning system at national, regional and local levels to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding by not permitting development in flood risk areas, particularly floodplains, unless where it is fully justified that there are wider sustainability grounds for appropriate development and unless the flood risk can be managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall; • Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management based on avoidance, reduction and then mitigation of flood risk as the overall framework for assessing the location of new development in the development • Incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals. <p>Ensuring that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management is a core objective of the draft guidelines.</p>	-
Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines (DEHLG 2005)	<p>These guidelines set out in detail how the Government's policies on rural housing are to be implemented by planning authorities in making their development plans and in the operation of the development control system to ensure a vibrant future for all rural areas.</p> <p>While these guidelines facilitate the sustainable development of one-off houses in the open countryside, they also make it clear that in considering development proposals, including the attachment of planning conditions, planning authorities should only consider approving proposals they are satisfied will not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 designated areas.</p>	-

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DEHLG 2009)	This guidance document revises and updates the Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities published in 1999. The guidelines are focused on creating sustainable communities by incorporating the highest design standards and providing a coordinated approach to the delivery of essential infrastructure and services.	Promote the consolidation of the urban areas by providing for high-density residential development in the right locations, well-serviced in terms of public transport and community facilities and built to the highest possible standards.
Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-20 (Fáilte Ireland South West)	<p>Strategic Goals</p> <p>1. Build on the region's position as Ireland's leading tourism destination outside of Dublin, by focusing on innovative developments and marketing while delivering top quality experiences based on the region's natural and cultural assets and well-established range of leisure and business tourism facilities.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver high quality nature-based holiday experiences integrating wellness with adventure and related activities 'Nature and Nurture' based around established tourism service centres in counties Kerry and Cork • Position the City of Cork as a principal gateway to the region and as a major urban destination for business and leisure visitors • Exploit the maritime heritage and indigenous strengths of the region's coastal environs • Capitalise on the tourism potential of country pursuits and the cultural and linguistic heritage of the rural areas of Cork and Kerry. <p>2. Improve transportation links to and within the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a South West Coastal Walking Route and identify new walking routes in the region • Develop the potential for Cruise ships to dock and tender in the South West • Develop the heritage and cultural assets of the South West (Castles, Houses, Gardens, Trails etc • Ensure the sustained growth of Killarney and Ring of Kerry as a primary tourism hub with particular emphasis on the county's carrying capacity • Develop a major attraction to celebrate and stage natural culture • Promote the development of Cork's Inner and Outer harbours and explore the potential to develop tourism facilities in Cork's City Quays • Explore the potential of development of a necklace of marinas stretching along the coastline and a cluster of 'Centres of Excellence' in sailing • Develop the Blackwater and Lee valleys as inland propositions for country pursuits • Position the region as a leading destination for nature-based leisure activities. • Develop a regional coastal walking route. • Develop and market a West Cork island cluster, including a heritage trail and activities. • Develop boat-touring along the coastline.
Water Framework Directive / River Basin Management Plans	These provide for a programme of measures and a river basin management strategy, designed to achieve at least good status for all waters and to maintain high status where it exists for the three river basins located in the SW Region (South West RBD, Shannon IRBD and the South East RBD). It is envisaged that the final strategy will make recommendations in relation to managing development within the river	This Directive will set environmental objectives for each particular type of water body, with due consideration to social and economic costs. River Basin Management Plans are central to the framework as they advocate an integrated approach to the management of water bodies and consideration of the cumulative impacts of all activities within a river basin and district. They also

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	basin district	consider the risk posed to the environment.
Waste Management Plans	Kerry, Limerick, Clare Waste Management Plan which covers the period from 2006-11. Cork City Council and Cork County Council carried out a joint Waste Management Strategy for Cork in 1995. These Plans detail the amount of waste being generated in the Counties, the progress made since the previous Plans were introduced and how it is proposed to minimize and treat the waste that is produced in the Counties going forward. The concept of Reduction, Re-use and Recycling is fundamental to Regions Waste Management Plans.	<p>The Kerry/Limerick/Clare Waste Management Plans implementation provides for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of the process for the provision of thermal treatment capacity • Provision of adequate landfill capacity. <p>The Cork Waste Management Plans implementation provides for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Waste Recovery Facility that will allow active segregation of a large number of waste streams for their more effective recovery and disposal. • Development of an engineered residual landfill site in Cork County.
Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015	<p>The County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. The following are the overall objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>OS 2-1: Provide an improved quality of life for all the citizens of the area by promoting the area's economic potential, protecting its natural and built environment and safeguarding its cultural heritage.</p> <p>OS 2-2: Provide for the development of the area in a manner which is sustainable and protects its social, cultural, environmental and economic assets for future generations and is compliant with relevant EU and national legislation.</p> <p>OS 2-3: Provide for balanced growth throughout the area by promoting the strengthening of rural communities and provide the infrastructure to facilitate job creation in these areas.</p> <p>OS 2-4: Strengthen towns and villages throughout the County, improve the infrastructure provided, develop the critical mass necessary to maintain and expand the service provision within them, and make them more attractive places in which to live. In this plan, the term village is used to describe a close group of contiguous dwellings and services including shops etc. with a defined urban structure. It does not include a grouping of one-off rural housing dispersed over a townland or group of townlands.</p> <p>OS 2-5: Promote the development of the Tralee Killarney Hub as a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of the Tralee-Killarney Hub • Facilitate the provision of vibrant settlements throughout the County • Provide for the development of sustainable rural housing in the County • Encourage sustainable economic and employment growth in both urban and rural areas • Support the development of large scale industrial uses on zoned land within the Tarbert / Ballylongford area including large scale marine-related industry and enterprise which require deep water access • Facilitate the sustainable development of a diversified tourism industry • Encourage the provision of recreational and tourism infrastructure and outdoor recreational activities • Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of the energy and in particular the renewable energy sector in the County • Facilitate the development of the County's telecommunications network • Improve the transport infrastructure in the County • Improve waste management and water services infrastructure in the County

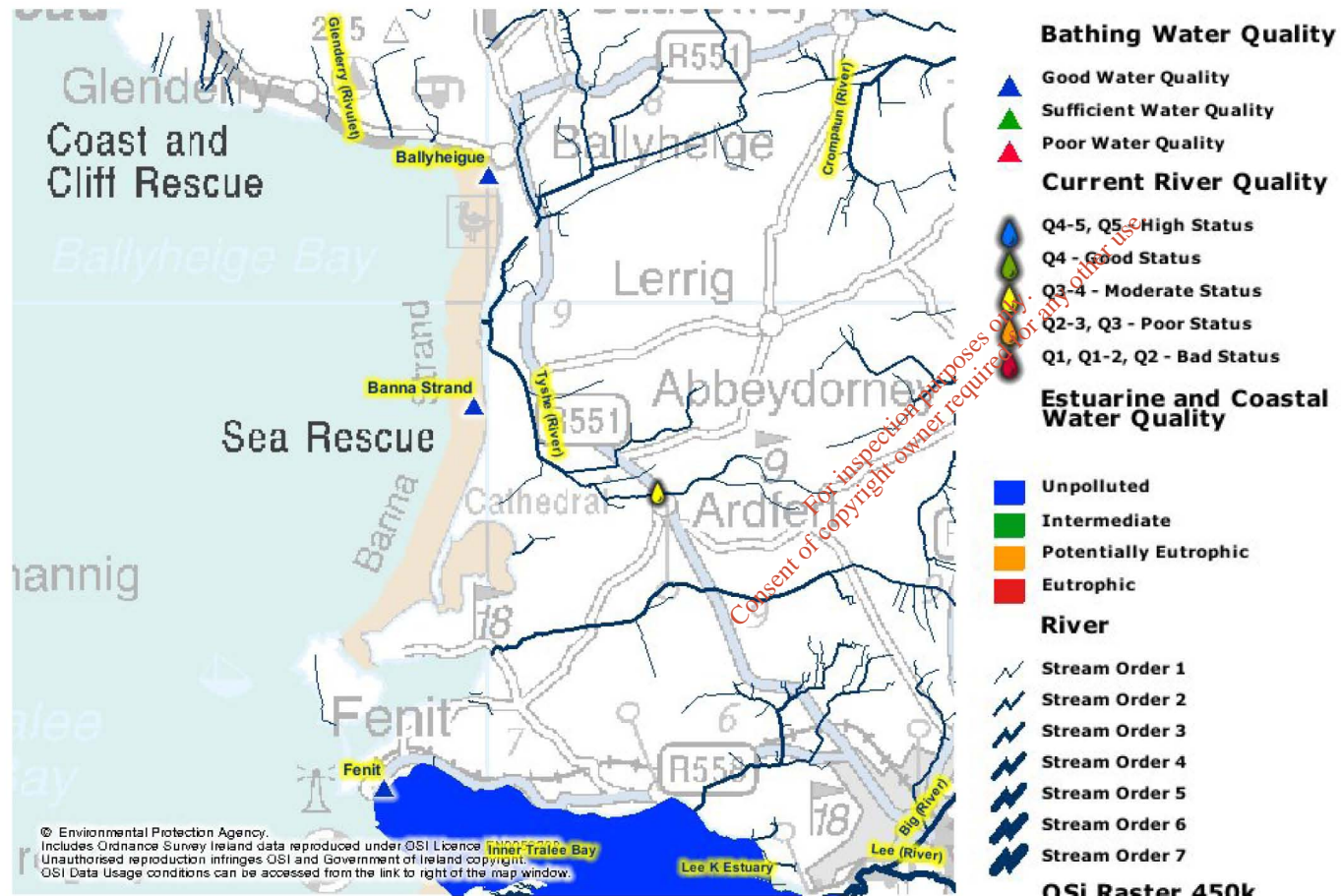
Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>means of strengthening the economic base of the County and acting as a focus for inward investment.</p> <p>OS 2-6: Ensure that the existing provisions, including land-use zoning, of the adopted Local Area Plans will remain in force pending their review during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>OS 2-7: Provide a high quality of design in private and public development, increasing the quality of the public realm while maintaining the character, form and settlement pattern of the villages.</p> <p>OS 2-8: Provide the infrastructure and support for the development and expansion of employment opportunities, including indigenous knowledge based industries.</p> <p>OS 2-9: Protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the County and promote Irish as the living community language.</p> <p>OS 2-10: Promote renewable energy measures and sustainable settlement patterns in order to promote energy conservation and sustainable communities and travel patterns in the future.</p> <p>OS 2-11: Protect the landscape of the County as an economic asset in addition to its intrinsic beauty and amenity value.</p> <p>OS 2-12: Facilitate where possible, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, family members on their own land.</p> <p>OS 2-13: To ensure that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be incorporated into development management and policy formulation in the county.</p> <p>OS 2-14: To protect and promote the natural biodiversity of the County through development management and as a core principle of policy formulation.</p> <p>OS 2-15: Ensure that all plans and programmes during the lifetime of this plan are screened for the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – The SEA Directive and the associated Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004.</p> <p>OS 2-8: Provide the infrastructure and support for the development and expansion of employment opportunities, including indigenous knowledge based industries.</p> <p>OS 2-9: Protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the County and promote Irish as the living community language. OS 2-10: Promote renewable energy measures and sustainable settlement patterns in</p>	<p><i>It is noted that a HDA screening report for the Kerry County Development Plan (2009-2015) indicated that it would not be likely to have significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.</i></p>

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>order to promote energy conservation and sustainable communities and travel patterns in the future.</p> <p>OS 2-11: Protect the landscape of the County as an economic asset in addition to its intrinsic beauty and amenity value.</p> <p>OS 2-12: Facilitate where possible, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, family members on their own land.</p> <p>OS 2-13: To ensure that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be incorporated into development management and policy formulation in the county.</p> <p>OS 2-14: To protect and promote the natural biodiversity of the County through development management and as a core principle of policy formulation.</p> <p>OS 2-15: Ensure that all plans and programmes during the lifetime of this plan are screened for the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – The SEA Directive and the associated Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004.</p>	
<p>Cork County Development Plan 2009-2015</p>	<p>The County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. The key aims that underpin the strategy were first development in the County Development Plan 2003 and this plan seeks to maintain and enhance their implementation into the future in order to achieve the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced quality of life for all, based on high quality residential, working and recreational environments and sustainable transportation patterns; • Sustainable patterns of growth in urban and rural areas, reflecting the need to reduce energy consumption and emissions and taking account of the need to plan for the effects of climate change, that are well balanced throughout the County, together with efficient provision of social and physical infrastructure; • Sustainable and balanced economic investment, in jobs and services, to sustain the future population of the County together with wise management of the County's environmental, heritage and cultural assets; • Responsible guardianship of the County so that it can be handed on to future generations in a healthy state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable development in the County, consolidating development within the settlements • Promote and encourage sustainable economic growth in the County • Protect and develop the County's principle transportation, waste, water services, telecommunications and energy infrastructure <p><i>It is noted that a HDA screening report for the Cork County Development Plan (2009-2015) indicated that it would not be likely to have significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.</i></p>

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
Kerry County Council Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2008-2012	This document outlines a series of policies aims and actions to deal with education, access, research and management of the county's heritage and biodiversity assets.	-
Cork County Heritage Plan 2005-2010 and County Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014	<p>The main aims of the Cork County Heritage Plan are stated to be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness and to promote appreciation and enjoyment of the heritage of Co. Cork • To develop and encourage best practice in relation to the management and care of heritage in Co. Cork and to deliver practical actions to achieve this; • To gather and disseminate information about heritage in Co. Cork <p>The stated aim of the Cork Biodiversity Action Plan is 'to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to ensure that every person in the county has the opportunity to appreciate and understand its importance in our lives'</p>	-
Kerry and Cork Noise Action Plans	<p>A number of Noise Action Plans have been prepared by the Local Authorities in the Region to address environmental noise.</p> <p>These plans are prepared as per the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive. The aim of the Directive and subsequent Regulations is to provide for the implementation of an EC common approach to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. Environmental noise is unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, including noise emitted by means of transport, road traffic, rail traffic, air traffic and noise in agglomerations over a specified size.</p> <p>Types of noise not included in the Regulations are noise that is caused by the exposed person, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at workplaces or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.</p>	-
Kerry Strategic Water Study	The Kerry Strategic Water Study was commissioned to consider the water services of Kerry over a 25 year period. It identifies the need for priority investment in both water and waste water treatment in the	This report provides for upgrades to existing waste water treatment plants in the County.

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	County.	
Cork Strategic Water Study	The Cork Strategic Water Study was commissioned to consider the water services of Cork over a 25 year period. It identifies the need for priority investment in both water and waste water treatment in many of the metropolitan towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased water abstraction from the Lee Road and Inniscarra Dam. • Promote the development of a north ring water main from Inniscarra to Midleton via the proposed new town of Monard also serving any new growth in the northern environs of Cork City. • Promote upgrading of the Carrigrennan wastewater treatment works on little island and extension of this scheme to the proposed new town of Monard. • Promote the development of the Cork Lower Harbour Towns Waste Water Scheme • Promote modular extensions to the existing treatment works at Midleton, Carrigtwohill, Blarney and Ballincollig.
North Kerry Settlements Local Area Plan 2007-2013	<p>This is a local area plan for the North Kerry Area.</p> <p>*It is noted that the Ardfert and Ballyheigue development strategies will be reviewed in 2011 as part of the Kerry Hub Functional Area Plan 2012. Population Targets set out in the current RPGs and County Development Plan for the area would suggest that the extent of residentially zoned lands in the Kerry Hub and which is not located in the towns of Tralee and Killarney, will be reduced as part of the review.</p>	Increased growth facilitated by the Plan could place additional pressures on existing infrastructure.
Tralee / Killarney Hub Settlements Local Area Plan 2006-2012	<p>This is a local area plan for the North Kerry Area.</p> <p>*It is noted that the Ardfert and Ballyheigue development strategies will be reviewed in 2011 as part of the Kerry Hub Functional Area Plan 2012. Population Targets set out in the current RPGs and County Development Plan for the area would suggest that the extent of residentially zoned lands in the Kerry Hub and which is not located in the towns of Tralee and Killarney, will be reduced as part of the review.</p>	<p>Increased growth facilitated by the Plan could place additional pressures on existing infrastructure.</p> <p>This LAP notes that 'the existing foul and surface water sewer system is at capacity and future development will not be favourably considered until a new wastewater treatment scheme is constructed. The existing system is a combined foul and storm drainage system and measures to deal with storm waters are required'</p>

Appendix C: Current Water Quality in the Vicinity of the Agglomerations



EPA WATER STATUS REPORT GENERATED ON THE 1/09/2010

PLANNING POLICY UNIT
 KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
 SEPTEMBER 2010.

Appendix D: Photographic Record of Ardfert and Ballyheigue WWTPs and Outflows



Above: Ardfert WWTP



Above: Tyshe River immediately upstream of Ardfert WWTP



Above: Outfall from Ardfert WWTP into Tyshe River



Above: Confluence of Tyshe River and the outflow stream from Akeragh Lough 250m east of there entry into Ballyheigue Bay



Above: Seabirds in the immediate vicinity of the mouth of the River Tyshe (Oyster Catchers, Lesser Black Backed Gulls (mature and juvenile) Kittiwakes and Black Headed Gulls)



Above: Ballyheigue WWTP



Above: Outfall of Ballyheigue WWTP in Ballyheigue Bay with Mt Brandon in the background

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