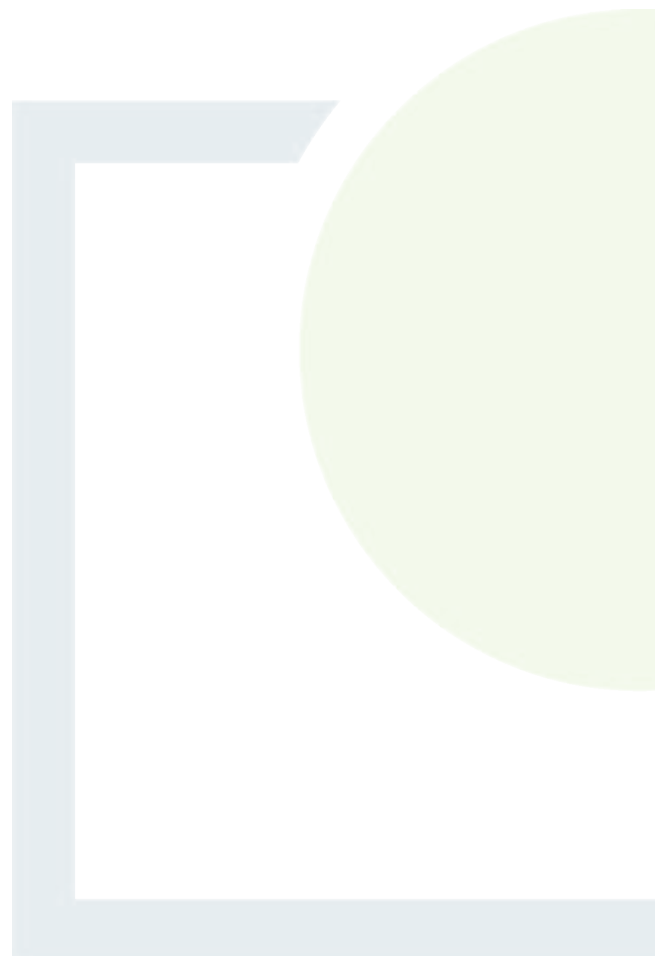




DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 1

Plan Inter-relationships



The purpose of this Appendix is to identify and examine the relationships the plan has with other legislation and plans/programmes. International/European, national and regional/local legislation, plans and programmes, which have an inter-relationship with the Plan, are itemised in the table below. A summary of the high and lower levels objectives associated with each and a description of their particular relevance to the Plan is provided. The information on legislation and plans/programmes presented below is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the relevant legislation or plan/programme to gain a full and comprehensive understanding of each, where necessary.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804)	This Directive repealed the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure directive (2014/94/EU). The Regulation sets binding national targets for the development of adequate alternative fuel infrastructure. The Regulation sets out targets to be achieved by all member states with the purpose to establish a comprehensive and complete network of alternative fuel infrastructure across the EU. The aim of this is to boost production and uptake of sustainable infrastructure in domestic, road, rail, aviation and maritime transport.	The specific objectives of the regulation are as follows: - To ensure minimum infrastructure to support the required uptake of alternative fuel vehicles across all transport modes and in all EU Member States to meet the EU's climate objectives. - To ensure full interoperability of the infrastructure. - To ensure comprehensive user information and adequate payment options at alternative fuels infrastructure.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	The overall goals of the project are twofold: - To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and - To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.	The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks: - mitigation - adaptation - technology - financing	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)	The convention has three main aims: - to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats - to promote cooperation between states - to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species	The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also: - Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. - Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucus. - Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. - Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. - Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. - Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: - Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. - An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. - A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision making.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.	
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended by 2009/147/EC)	- Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. - Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. - The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.	- Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. - Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). - Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. - Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: - Mitigation - Transparency of actions - Technology - Finance - Adaptation - Forests - Capacity building	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Clean Energy for all Europeans Package (2019)	In 2016 the EU's energy policy framework was rewritten to facilitate a clean and fair energy transition, to work towards clean energy and a carbon-neutral economy. Through this new policy the EU aims to stimulate the necessary public and private investment by creating a modern, stable legal environment that sets a clear and common sense of direction. As a package, the new rules will reinforce consumer rights, putting them at the heart of the energy transition and creating growth and green jobs in a modern economy. They will enable the EU to show leadership with regards to climate change following the Paris Agreement. Member States will continue to choose their own energy mix but must meet new commitments to improve energy efficiency and the take-up of renewables in that mix by 2030. Member States are required to draft plans to prevent, prepare for and manage crisis situations in the supply of electricity in coordination with neighbouring Member States, and to enhance the role of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.	The energy package consists of eight legislative measures. These are: • Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EU) 2018/844 • Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 • Energy Efficiency Directive (EU) 2018/2002 • Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 • Electricity Regulation (EU) 2019/943 • Electricity Directive (EU) 2019/944 • Regulation on Risk-Preparedness in the Electricity Sector (EU) 2019/941 • Regulation on the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (EU) 2019/942	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	• The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)	- Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. - A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.	- Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. - Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. - Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. - Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)	This regulation introduces faster permitting processes for projects that have the highest potential for a quick roll-out of renewable energy and the least impact on the environment.	The regulation introduces urgent and targeted measures that address specific technologies and types of projects, which have the highest potential for quick deployment and the least impact on the environment.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Directive 2010/75/EU on Industrial Emissions (amended by Directive (EU) 2024/1785)	The purpose of this Directive is lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: • energy; • metal production and processing; • minerals; • chemicals; • waste management; • and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference: • Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); • Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; • Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; • Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and • Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184)	- The recast Drinking Water Directive is the EU's main law on drinking water. It concerns the access to and the quality of water intended for human consumption to protect human health. - The EU adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive in December 2020 and the Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have to transpose the Directive into national law and comply with its provisions by 12 January 2023. The recast Drinking Water Directive will further protect human health thanks to updated water quality standards, tackling pollutants of concern, such as endocrine disruptors and microplastics, and leading to even cleaner water from the tap for all.	Key features of the revised Directive are: - reinforced water quality standards, in line or, in some cases, even more stringent than the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations - tackling emerging pollutants, such as endocrine disruptors and PFAs, as well as microplastics - a preventive approach favouring actions to reduce pollution at source by introducing the risk-based approach - measures to ensure better access to water, particularly for vulnerable and marginalised groups - measures to promote tap water, including in public spaces and restaurants, to reduce (plastic) bottle consumption - harmonisation of the quality standards for materials and products in contact with water measures to reduce water leakages and to increase transparency of the sector	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	- Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. - Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.	- All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. - For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. - The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. - Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC, Directive 2013/30/EU and Regulation (EU) 2019/1010	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	• Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. • Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. • Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. • The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. • The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. • The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. • The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.	
EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	- A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. - Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% eu actionshare of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as- usual scenario.	- To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: - A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). - New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. - First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil' 2050	The Action Plan sets the key 2030 targets for reducing pollution at source and outlines a number of flagship initiatives. In addition, as pollution does not stop at borders and as the EU acknowledges that it is both the victim and the source of pollution, the Action Plan foresees reinforced external action. The EU in fact is committed to leading the global fight against pollution	Guided by the 9 Flagship Initiatives, the key actions include: • align the air quality standards to the latest recommendations of the World Health Organisation, • review the standards for the quality of water, including in EU rivers and seas, • reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration, • review the majority of EU waste laws to adapt them to clean and circular economy principles, • foster zero pollution from production and consumption (through the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive, EU Ecolabel and other measures), • minimize EU external pollution footprint through export restriction of harmful products and wastes, • present a Scoreboard of EU regions' green performance to promote zero pollution across regions, • showcase zero pollution solutions for buildings, • launch Living Labs for green digital solutions and smart zero pollution, including by targeting the building and farming sectors, • consolidate the EU's Knowledge Centres for Zero Pollution and bringing stakeholders together in the Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform. • Stronger enforcement of zero pollution together with environmental and other authorities.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 [2006/7/EC] (amended by 2013/64/EU)	The purpose of this Directive is to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing Directive 2000/60/EC	This Directive lays down provisions for: - the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; - the management of bathing water quality; and - the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Climate Adaptation Strategy 2050	The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.	The Strategy has four principle objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Common Agricultural Policy	- To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and - To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.	- Ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; - Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; - Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791	The new directive introduces a series of measures to help accelerate energy efficiency, including embracing the "energy efficiency first" principle in the energy and non-energy policies.	- Establishing an EU legally-binding target to reduce the EU's final energy consumption by 11.7% by 2030 (relative to the 2020 reference scenario). This includes for each Member State the requirement to set its indicative national contribution based on objective criteria reflecting national circumstances. If the national contributions do not add up to the EU target, an ambition gap mechanism is applied by the Commission. - Increasing annual energy savings from 0.8% (at present) to 1.3% (2024-2025), then 1.5% (2026-2027) and 1.9% from 2028 onwards. That's an average of 1.49% of new annual savings for the period from 2024-2030. - Obliging Member States to prioritise vulnerable customers and social housing within the scope of their energy savings measures. - Introducing an annual energy consumption reduction target of 1.9% for the public sector as a whole. - Extending the annual 3% buildings renovation obligation to all the levels of public administration.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		• Introducing a different approach, based on energy consumption, for business to have an energy management system or to carry out an energy audit. • Bringing in a new obligation to monitor the energy performance of data centres, with an EU-level database collecting and publishing data. • Promoting local heating & cooling plans in larger municipalities. • Progressively increasing the efficient energy consumption in heat or cold supply, also in district heating.	
EU environment action programme to 2030 (EU 8th Environmental Action Programme)	The long-term priority objective is that, by 2050 at the latest, Europeans should live well, within planetary boundaries, in a healthy economy where nothing is wasted, growth is regenerative, climate neutrality is a reality and inequalities are significantly reduced. Building on the European Green Deal, the environmental action programme aims to speed up the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient economy, recognising that human well-being and prosperity depend on a healthy ecosystem.	Six priority objectives: • Attain the 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction target and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. • Enhance the ability to adapt by strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change. • Move towards a regenerative growth model, detaching economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, while transitioning faster to a circular economy. • Aim for zero pollution of the air, water and soil and protect the health and well-being of Europeans. • Protect, preserve and restore biodiversity by improving the state of ecosystems and of the environment, as well as by combating desertification and soil degradation. • Reduce environmental and climate pressures from production and consumption, in particular energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and food systems.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Forestry Strategy for 2030	Sets out a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience. It aims to adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change. This is a precondition for forests to continue delivering their socio-economic functions, and to ensure vibrant rural areas with thriving populations. The commitments and actions proposed in the Strategy will contribute to achieving the EU's greenhouse gas emission reduction target of at least 55% in 2030, as set out in the European Climate Law	The measures proposed in the strategy, to be reviewed in 2025, include: • Promoting sustainable forest management (SFM), including by encouraging the sustainable use of wood-based resources. • Providing financial incentives for forest owners and managers to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as those linked to carbon storage and sequestration • Improving the size and biodiversity of forests, including by planting 3 billion new trees by 2030. • Promoting alternative forest industries, such as ecotourism, as well as non-wood products, such as cork, honey and medicinal plants. • Encouraging the take-up of financial support under the common agricultural policy (CAP), which can help forests and forest-based industries mitigate against climate change. • Providing education and training for people working in forest-based industries and making these industries more attractive to young people. Establishing a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration, and a new legislative proposal on EU forest observation, reporting and collection. • Protecting the EU's remaining primary and old-growth forests.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	• Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. • Supporting EU-level GI projects. • Improving access to finance for GI projects. • Improving information and promoting innovation.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.	The IPPC Directive is based on several principles: • an integrated approach • best available techniques, • flexibility; and public participation	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include: • a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year • set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk • set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).	• The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. • Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006) (as amended)	Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.	The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely: • Registration, • Evaluation, • Authorisation; and • Restriction of chemicals. REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewables Directives (RED II & RED III)	The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. The RED directive was first introduced in 2009 (2009/28/EC) and set an Eu-wide goal for 20% renewable energy use by 2020. This was replaced by RED II (2018/2001) which set a renewable energy target of 32% for the European Union for 2030. Following on from RED II, the EU adopted Red III (2023/2413) with the aim to further increase its renewable energy ambitions. sets a new binding target of c. 42.5% renewable energy in the EU's total energy consumption by 2030, with an aspirational target of 45%. The aim of RED III is to introduce sector-specific targets for transport, heating, cooling, and industry to ensure a balanced contribution from all parts of the economy and also included measures to streamline and accelerate the permitting process for renewable energy projects, addressing one of the major bottlenecks in the deployment of renewables.	• Building on the 2009 and 2018 directives, the RED III directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. • Strong policy framework to facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging. • Permitting procedures will also be easier and faster both for renewable energy projects (including through shorter approval periods and the creation of 'Renewables acceleration areas') and for the necessary infrastructure projects.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	• The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: • Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; • The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; • The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; • Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; • Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)	The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.	The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Landscape Convention (Florence 2000)	The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.	- Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. - Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Wind Power Action Plan (COM/2023/669)	The action plan will support the European wind manufacturing sector in overcoming the difficulties it faces and improve its competitiveness to ensure that this sector fully contributes to the ongoing energy transition. The action plan is an initiative established under the EU Wind Power Package in October 2023.	The Plan is based on six pillars, each of which have set actions: - Accelerating deployment through faster permitting and increased predictability. - Improved auction design. - Access to finance. - Creating a fair and competitive international environment. - Skills (investment in skills development). - Industry engagement and member state commitments.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	- Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks - Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community	- Assess all water courses and coastlines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment - Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. - Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. - Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	- Protect, control and conserve groundwater. - Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. - Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.	- Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. - Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	- Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. - Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. - Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	- Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. - Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. - Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. - Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')	It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.	- Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; - Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; - Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and - Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as amended	European legislation which aims to achieve Good Environment Status (GES) for all marine waters in Europe and protect the resource base for marine related economic and social activities.	This was adopted on June 17th, 2008, establishing a framework for EU Community Action specifically regarding marine environmental policy. The MSFD is implemented in cycles of 6 years, with member state being obliged to report to the EU every 2 years. The third cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2023 – 2028) for Ireland is underway. The MSFD is implemented through a national Marine Strategy.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Nature Restoration Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991)	The regulation sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, particularly those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. It is also a key instrument to help the EU and its Member States meet international biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	The law aims to restore ecosystems, habitats and species across the EU's land and sea areas in order to • enable the long-term and sustained recovery of biodiverse and resilient nature • contribute to achieving the EU's climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives • meet international commitments	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: • Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; • Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
OSPAR Convention	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: • Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy • Eutrophication Strategy • Hazardous Substances Strategy • Offshore Industry Strategy • Radioactive Substances Strategy • Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Public Participation Directive (2003/35/EC)	The objective of this Directive is to contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising under the Aarhus Convention, in particular by: (a) providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment; (b) improving the public participation and providing for provisions on access to justice within Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC.	Not applicable.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: • Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; • Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; • Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
RePower EU Plan (2022)	This plan was launched as a response to global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The overarching aim of this plan is to reduce the reliance on Russian fossil fuels and enhance energy security within the EU. The plan specifies that Member States should speed up the green transition and spur massive investment in renewable energy.	The main measures introduced under this plan are concerned with the following: • Save Energy • Diversify supplies • Quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition • Smartly combine investments and reforms.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	• Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. • Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.	• Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. • Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. • Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. • Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. • Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. • Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. • Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Soil monitoring law: EU on the pathway to healthy soils by 2050	According to the EU soil strategy, presented by the Commission in 2021, the lack of a dedicated EU legislation was singled out as a major cause for the alarming state of EU soils. To ensure the same level of protection to soil that exists for water, the marine environment and air in the EU, the Commission put forward the soil monitoring directive on 5 July 2023. The law provides a legal framework to help achieve healthy soils by 2050 and aims to address key soil threats in the EU, such as erosion, floods and landslides, loss of soil organic matter, salinisation, contamination, compaction, sealing, as well as loss of soil biodiversity.	The general approach reached by the Council aims to make soil health monitoring obligatory, provides guiding principles for sustainable soil management and addresses situations where soil contamination poses unacceptable health and environment risks. The law aims to help achieve healthy soil by: • Putting in place a solid and coherent monitoring framework for all soils across the EU so Member States can take measures to regenerate degraded soils. • Making sustainable soil management the norm in the EU. Member States will have to define which practices should be implemented by soil managers and which should be banned because they cause soil degradation • Requesting Member States to identify potentially contaminated sites, investigate these sites and address unacceptable risks for human health and the environment, thereby contributing to a toxic-free environment by 2050.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	• Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention • Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention • Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention • Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner • To target additional POPs	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance	
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	- The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). - Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. - Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. - Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. - The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	- Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. - Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. - Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. - Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. - Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. - Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Eighth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community	• Obligation for the Commission to present a monitoring framework, based on a limited number of headline indicators. • These should include, where available, systemic indicators that address interlinkages between environment-social and environmental-economic policy considerations, respectively.	The 8th EAP aims at accelerating the green transition in a just and inclusive way, with the 2050 long-term objective of 'Living well, within planetary boundaries', already established in the 7th programme (2014-2020).	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The EU LULUCF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/841)	The LULUCF (Land Use, Land Change and Forestry) Regulation addresses greenhouse gas emissions and carbon removals in the land use and forestry sector from the period of 2021-2030, establishing an emissions target for the sector. The regulation entered into force in 2018. It was recently updated in 2023 to	This regulation was revised in 2023 with a new set of rules introduced to address the carbon footprint of activities related to the conversion, use and management of land and forests for both human and environmental benefits. These activities can occur in areas such as grasslands, agricultural land and forests. Previous rules (the 'no debt' rule) required that EU member states ensure that emissions from land and forestry are compensated by an equivalent removal of CO ₂ within the sector for the period of 2021-2030. This has been replaced by a more ambitious new rule that sets the EU-wide net target of 310 million tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent carbon removals in the LULUCF sector by 2030. Each member state has a specific target under this regulation which they must meet to contribute towards the EU-wide net target. The national targets are based on the recent level of removals or emissions with the member state and on the potential to further increase removals, taking into account the principles of cost-effectiveness, fairness and environmental integrity. Ireland's binding target is to achieve a reduction of 0.6 Mt CO ₂ equivalent LULUCF emissions by 2030, relative to average levels in 2016-2018.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The European Green Deal (EGD) 2019	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	• It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution. • It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. • In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission entered into force the European Climate Law in July 2021. This writes into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal for Europe's economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: - the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); - the sustainable use of its components; and - the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	- The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). - EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. - Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	- Links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and - Recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.	- Sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them; - Each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage; - Encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	- This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. - The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.	- Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. - Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. - Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	- Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. - Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.	- Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. - Achieve "good status" for all waters. - Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. - Involve the public and streamline legislation.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this.

International/European Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	- Promote sustainable water usage. - The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: - The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive - Sampling Drinking Water Directive - Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive - Shellfish Directive - Freshwater Fish Directive - Groundwater Directive - Dangerous Substances Directive	- Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. - Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. - Recover costs for water services.	The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Afforestation Scheme 2023 - 2027	This scheme aims to increase the current land area of Ireland under forest cover (11% vs. EU average of 38%) whilst ensuring these climate resilient and healthy forests are managed according to the principles of sustainable forest management. The scheme aligns with the Forestry Strategy goals on Forest for Climate, Nature, Wood, People, and Forest for the Economy and Rural Development.	The objectives of the scheme are as follows: i. Increase Ireland's forest cover to 18%; ii. Establishment of 8,000 ha of new diverse, multifunctional and climate resilient forests per annum (subject to the availability of funding and land); iii. Provide at least 50% of the national area afforested with broadleaved species and a require minimum per-application broadleaved species component (20% by area) during the programme period; iv. Encourage forest management practices in newly planted forests that result in CCF management and forest retention, enhancing and supporting natural systems by linking existing habitats and new, dedicated forest biodiversity areas within established forests; v. Expand and encourage appropriate management of new emergent native scrub forest with attendant biodiversity, habitat and ecosystem service enhancements; vi. Increase the area of new forest area used by members of the public for forest recreation, amenity, health and wellbeing by providing dedicated "open forests" and specific forest recreational and amenity facilities; vii. Increase the uptake of agroforestry systems for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, animal welfare and the production of high-quality hardwood timber; viii. Develop forest-based biomass resources to support the circular and green economy in commercial and domestic markets; ix. Support carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and forest resilience through appropriate species selection and sustainable forest management;	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		x. Provide a forest resource to support economic viability and sustainability of rural communities through increased use of wood and wood products in construction and energy production.	
Ag Climatise - A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality	This roadmap has been developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) on foot of extensive engagement with industry, research, policy, farmer and environmental stakeholders. It is a roadmap designed to help all stakeholders to work together to tackle climate change and air pollution	The roadmap proposes 29 actions across two strands of activity: • Actions that can be implemented now: to ensure farmers act immediately on the changes necessary to address climate change. This is made up of three parts, the mitigation measures in the next section, the removals from the landscape measures, and the sustainable energy measures that follow. • The development of cross cutting enabling actions into the future: This will focus on a number of actions, including further research and innovation. Where appropriate, it will require the establishment of consultative groups to assist with the development and delivery of the actions	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Island Grid Study 2008	• The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. • The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: • The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study. • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO2 emissions compared to portfolio 1 • All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports. • The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact. • Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.	
All-Ireland Pollinator Plans: All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 (latest)	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a framework bringing together different sectors across the island of Ireland to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. Implementation is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan for 2021-2025 is a five-year road map that aims to help bees, other pollinating insects and our wider biodiversity. The AIPP 2021-2025 has 186 actions spread across six objectives. Objective 1: Making farmland pollinator friendly Objective 2: Making public land pollinator friendly Objective 3: Making private land pollinator friendly Objective 4: All-Ireland Honeybee Strategy Objective 5: Conserving rare pollinators Objective 6: Strategic coordination of the Plan	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All-Island Strategic Rail Review	The Review aims to inform policy and future strategy for the railways in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland.	The Review sets out six high-level goals which aim to use rail as effectively as possible to: - contribute to decarbonisation; - improve All Island connectivity between major cities; - enhance regional accessibility; - stimulate economic activity; encourage sustainable mobility; and achieve economic and financial feasibility.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025	The first national action plan for an Irish bioeconomy. The purpose of this plan is to further develop Ireland's bioeconomy in delivering the vision of the 2018 National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy; for Ireland "to be a global leader for the bioeconomy through a coordinated approach that harnesses Ireland's natural resources and competitive advantage and that fully exploits the opportunities available while monitoring and avoiding unintended consequences".	This action plan approaches the bioeconomy using seven pillars: • Governance & Awareness • Research, Development & Innovation • Nature, Climate, Energy & Circular Economy • Agriculture, Food, Forestry, And The Marine • Communities, Regions & Cities • Industry & Enterprise • Knowledge & Skills The Action Plan is aligned with the implementation of the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Building Regulations	The aim of the building regulations is to provide for the safety and welfare of people in and about buildings.	The building regulations apply to the design and construction of a new building (including a dwelling) or an extension to an existing building.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland (2023)	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	- Through this document Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. - The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. - The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. - In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount, this is a strong theme of the Strategy.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: - The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, - The policy of the Government on climate change, - Climate justice, - Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and - The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Climate Action Plan 2025	The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) is the third annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of the Climate Action Plan is to lay out a roadmap of actions which will ultimately lead Ireland to meeting its national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050. Aiding the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with the legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings that were agreed by Government in July 2022.	Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon CAP24 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (2019)	- Heritage in Ireland ranges from private homes, commercial and public buildings, national monuments, underwater and buried archaeology and the physical and cultural settings of all of these. - This plan considers not only those structures and sites that have been statutorily listed, but all man-made assets that have historical, aesthetic and cultural value, but does not consider natural heritage. Aims to: - Build adaptive capacity within the sector - Reduce the vulnerability of built and archaeological heritage to climate change - Identify and capitalise on the various potential opportunities for the sector.	The five adaptation goals for built and archaeological heritage in Ireland are: - To improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate change - To develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage - To conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations - To communicate and transfer knowledge - To exploit the opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan (2022-2025)	The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is a major public transport initiative developed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) with the aim of increasing connectivity, particularly for people living outside our major towns and cities. The plan aims to improve mobility in rural areas by providing frequent and affordable transport services that offer freedom to travel and sustainable transport connections.	The Plan focuses on: - Adding new high-frequency services; - Enhancing existing services; and Providing improved connectivity to the wider transport network	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	- Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. - The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: - A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; - Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; - The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; - Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; - Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; - Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and - Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Electricity Storage Policy Framework (2024)	This Framework aims to o clarify the role of electricity storage systems (ESS) in Ireland’s climate objectives and energy transition. This will support Ireland’s 2030 climate targets as grid scale electricity storage is vital in securing an electricity grid capable in supporting Ireland’s renewable generation programme and the future growth of industrial sectors. The Electricity Storage Policy Framework refers, in the main, to front of meter electricity storage, outlining its present roles, technical processes, market positions and regulatory structures in Ireland. The framework addresses the grids immediate and near-term needs by supporting the incorporation of electricity storage from the immediate up until 2040 and presents 10 government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland’s energy transition, identifying the key stakeholders and timelines for these actions.	Under this framework there are ten government actions to support the role of electricity storage systems in Ireland’s energy transition: 1. Maintain a technology neutral approach to all electricity storage systems. 2. Creation of a ‘sandbox’ project to advance both System Operators’ technological knowledge of emerging electricity storage technologies. 3. Convene an electricity storage and system services working group as part of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce. 4. Convene a forum for an expanded group of stakeholders including statutory bodies, leading industry representatives and academic or interest groups. 5. Support access to the wholesale electricity markets, arbitrage and revenue stacking for electricity storage systems. 6. Support the immediate procurement of Demand Flexibility products and of (long duration) electricity storage to meet specific network needs, on the Distribution and Transmission systems respectively. 7. Initiate a ‘Quantity’ consultation to establish the optimal (long duration) electricity storage requirements to meet climate targets and electricity grid network expansion between 2030-2040. 8. Initiate a ‘Financial’ consultation to establish if the expected market mechanisms due between 2025-2028 will provide sufficient service provider certainty to meet the optimum (long duration) electricity storage systems requirements of 2030-2040. 9. If required and pending the outcome of the ‘Financial’ consultation, develop a market framework to further incentivise the incorporation of (long duration) electricity storage system technologies to the grid to meet projected 2030-2040 requirements.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		10. Ensure a route to market for the identified optimum (long duration) electricity storage requirements for 2030-2040 is in place before end of 2028.	
Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019	These Guidelines offer advice to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining applications for planning permission.	The guidelines are intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Energy Security in Ireland to 2030	Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. This report is being published as part of an Energy Security Package, containing a range of supplementary analyses, consultations, and reviews, which have informed the recommendations and actions related to energy security.	The Energy Security Package states that we must ensure energy security is prioritised, monitored, and reviewed regularly, and includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising: • Reduced and Responsive Demand • A Renewables-Led System • More Resilient Systems • Robust Risk Governance Under each of these four areas of actions, the report sets out a range of mitigation measures, including the need for additional capacity of indigenous renewable energy, but also energy imports, energy storage, fuel diversification, demand side response, and renewable gases. The governance structures supporting the energy system, including oversight and accountability reforms, were also examined.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	• They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. • The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2003 (as amended, latest S.I. No. 663/2021)	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. The Directive aims to provide a common framework to avoid, prevent or reduce, on a prioritised basis, the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise.	• The Regulations set out a two-stage process for addressing environmental noise (preparation of strategic noise maps and preparation of noise action plans for each area concerned. • The Regulations designate noise-mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making and reviewing of strategic noise maps and action plans. • The Regulations designate the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Authority for the purposes of the Regulations. • The Regulations provide for strategic noise maps and action plans and revised noise maps and action plans to be made available to the general public.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (as amended) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations (as amended)	• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. • Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. • Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water (now Uisce Eireann) in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.	• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. • Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. • Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. • Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body. • Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. • Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. • Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. • Outlines surface water quality standards. • Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Food Harvest 2020	Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.	Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Vision 2030	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten-year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector). The strategy has an aim of delivering a climate-neutral food system by 2050, with verifiable progress by 2030.	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level Missions for the sector to work toward: 1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector 2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being 3. Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad 4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: • 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. • 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. • 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high end value added product development.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning: • Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% • Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
GRID25 Implementation Programme and associated Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 for the Electricity Transmission System in Ireland	Grid25 is a high-level strategy outlining how EirGrid intends to undertake the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short-, medium- and longer-terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply. This Grid25 Implementation Programme (IP) is a practical strategic overview of how the early stages of Grid25 are intended to be implemented. The IP identifies the best current understanding of those parts of the transmission system that are envisaged as likely to be developed over the next five years. The IP identifies the issues, objectives and associated processes that will need to be adopted when making decisions about how and where developments will occur. This Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 supersedes the Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022. It is focused on the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023-2032.	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to upgrade the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. - The EirGrid Shaping Our Electricity Future Version 1.1 (SOEF - published in June 2023) is a core context for grid development as part of this Plan. The SOEF addresses matters such as why EirGrid develops the electricity transmission network, Government policy context that underpins this, and the importance of an efficient and economical grid network. - The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2023 also forms a core context for this Plan. The TDP lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027	This plan sets out the direction for the HSE to deliver its national <i>Healthy Ireland Strategic Action Plan 2021-2025</i>. The HSE aims to support a healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.	This Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 has four main goals: 1. Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life. 2. Reduce health inequalities. 3. Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing. 4. Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Heritage related legislation and guidelines: - National Monuments Act 1930 as amended; - Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2023) - Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999; and - The Heritage Act 2018. - Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage. The <i>National Monuments Act 1930</i>, which provides national legislation for the protection of monuments, historical wrecks and archaeological objects, has been replaced by the <i>Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2023)</i>. This new Act will provide for the protection of historic and archaeological heritage. A new 'Register of Monuments' will be established, replacing several overlapping designation and registration systems currently in operation. Newly discovered archaeological sites will be afforded immediate legal protection, mirroring the existing system for archaeological objects and historic wrecks that are automatically protected without a need for formal designation or registration. This will be reinforced by a statutory reporting scheme for finds of monuments. Subject to certain exceptions, archaeological objects with no known owner will automatically become the property of the State. A new civil enforcement procedure can be used as an alternative to, or to supplement, criminal proceedings. The new Act also makes explicit provision for the protection of World Heritage Sites.	Irish Heritage regulations that are relevant to the CDP. Broadly, this legislation is designed to conserve and enhance heritage.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Housing for All (2021)	Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030. The overall aim of the housing plan for Ireland is that everyone in the State should have access to a home to purchase or rent at an affordable price, built to a high standard and in the right place, offering a high quality of life. The plan's vision is to have a steady supply of housing in the correct locations with economic, social, and environmental sustainability built into the system.	Housing for All provides four pathways to achieving its overarching objectives: • Supporting Homeownership and Increasing Affordability. • Eradicating Homelessness, Increasing Social Housing Delivery and Supporting Social Inclusion. • Increasing New Housing Supply. • Addressing Vacancy and Efficient Use of Existing Stock.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025	The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i>	These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive: • Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities • Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Ireland 2040: The National Development Plan (2021 - 2030)	The National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP) sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	The key role of the NDP is to set out the updated configuration for public capital investment over the next 10 years in order to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes (NSO), as set out within the NPF. These ten National Strategic Outcomes are as follows: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. Sustainable Mobility 5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 6. High-Quality International Connectivity 7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage 8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Planning Framework (First Revision) 2025	The revised National Planning Framework (NPF) published in April 2025 replaced the National Planning Framework (2018) and now informs the wider Government Policy agenda, the actions of a broad range of public and private bodies, including homebuilders, the renewable energy sector, infrastructure agencies and domestic and international investors. • The focus of the revised NPF have been the following key drivers of change in Ireland: • Population growth and associated housing requirements • Infrastructure delivery • Climate and Environment	The revised NPF's ambition is expressed in a set of goals, termed National Strategic Outcomes: 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. High-Quality International Connectivity 5. Sustainable Mobility 6. A Strong Economy 7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
	The revised NPF now provides the basis of review and updating of regional strategies and local authority development plans to reflect matters such as updated housing figures, projected jobs growth, renewable energy capacity allocations, including through the zoning of land for residential, employment and a range of other purposes. The implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024 will also be closely aligned with the implementation of the revised NPF, with updated regional strategies and new 10-year development plans required to reflect the revised NPF as they are prepared.	10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services	
Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 - 2030	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues: - Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity. - Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs. - Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People. - Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity. - Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity Initiatives.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050	This EPA report provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions out to 2050 which includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its National ambitions under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and EU emission reduction targets for 2030 as set under the EU Effort Sharing Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2018/842).	The focus of the assessment is out to 2030 given current national and EU 2030 climate targets. Extended projections out to 2050 are provided in the Appendix and as a separate download accompanying this report.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction 2024	This long-term strategy aims to build on the targets, policies, measures and actions that Ireland has committed to in the period to 2030 (as set out in success annual national Climate Action Plans and the EU National Energy and Climate Plans.	The Strategy sets out Ireland's 2050 climate action targets and describes sector-specific pathways to reaching those targets. These sectors include: • Electricity • Industry • Built Environment • Transport • Agriculture, Forestry and Land-Use	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Ireland's Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (2022 - 2024)	- National Implementation Plan 2022 - 2024 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). - The first version of the Plan (2018 – 2020) provided a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also included a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies five strategic objectives to guide implementation: - To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development; - To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs; - Greater partnerships for the Goals; - To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms; and - Strong reporting mechanisms	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Land Use Review – Phase 1 (2023)	This review provides an evidence base to determine the environmental, ecological and economic characteristics of land types across Ireland. It gives a holistic understanding of current land use patterns to shape future policies and measures. This review aids in ensuring optimal land use options inform all relevant Government decisions.	The primary objective of this report is to inform phase 2 of the Land Use Review, which will build on the evidence gathered. Phase 2 will, in consultation with all stakeholders and land users, go on to consider the policies, measures, and actions which will need to be taken — in the context of the Government's wider economic, social and climate objectives.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (as amended)	This act is designed to regulate the maritime area within Ireland. This regulation will be achieved by means of the National Marine Planning Framework. The Act provides the legislative framework for a new streamlined development consent process for activities in the maritime area including offshore renewable energy projects. The Bill will also establish a new body, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to undertake certain consenting and enforcement functions in the new regime. Enactment and implementation of the Bill will help Ireland to reach its climate action and renewable energy targets.	The key features of the plan are as follows: - Provision of Maritime Area Consents (MACs) for permission to occupy a maritime area over undefined or relatively long periods of time. - It is required that projects obtain a MAC as a pre-requisite before seeking planning permission for developments which fall under the Planning and Development Act 2000. - Provision of licenses for certain maritime usages which do not require planning permission or an EIA. Establishment of a Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) which will grant MACs, license specified maritime usages, ensure compliance with MACs, licenses and offshore planning permissions.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ministerial Guidelines such as Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, wind energy, childcare facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Adaptation Framework: Planning for a Climate Resilient Ireland 2024, and Sectoral Adaptation Plans	This framework specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities to reduce the vulnerability of Ireland to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur. It sets out an extended suite of guiding principles that underscore the need for smarter, faster and transformative adaptation actions, which demand a pathway planning approach to account for a range of future warming and impact scenarios. It acts as a roadmap for governments, organisations, and communities to plan and implement adaptation strategies. The Framework helps coordinate efforts, allocate resources, and prioritise actions that reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. A robust framework not only enables more effective responses to immediate climate related challenges but also fosters long-term sustainability by ensuring that adaptation measures are integrated into policymaking, infrastructure development, and local planning.	Key actions under the framework: • Putting in place revised governance and reporting arrangements • Formalising the status of existing guidelines • Formalising long term operational support for key sectors • Facilitating the establishment of regional local authority climate action offices • Increasing awareness around climate adaptation and resilience • Integrating climate adaptation into key national plans and policies	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP)	The National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) is a technical document which outlines the pathway Ireland will follow to achieve compliance with its commitments under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive). The National Emissions Ceilings Directive (NEC Directive) establishes emission ceilings for 2020 and 2030 for five specified pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NOx), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs), sulphur dioxide (SO2), ammonia (NH3) and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). It also mandates the development of a National Air Pollution Control Programme (NAPCP) for each Member State.	The programme includes: • An overview of sectors and national policy frameworks in Ireland that impact on emissions of the five NEC pollutants • An overview of the current outlook for compliance with NEC targets for each pollutant • Projections of relevant pollutant emissions to 2030 • Policy options, measures and actions across sectors but in particular in the residential, transport agricultural and energy sectors aimed at reducing emissions of the five specified air pollutants	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Broadband Plan (2019)	The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Demand Management Strategy - Moving Together: A Strategic Approach to Improving the Efficiency of Ireland's Transport System	The Strategy encourages an urban first approach to rolling out measures, where other travel options exist, and aims to improve journey times for car drivers, public transport users, business and freight, leading to improvements in local air quality and reduced stress with associated health benefits for drivers and non-drivers alike.	The Strategy does not contain a prescriptive series of actions. Instead, it provides a firm policy direction and suite of options - such as road space reallocation, progressive taxation, freight efficiency, or behavioural incentives - that can be taken at national, regional and local levels to bring about the systems changed needed. It is also intended that the Strategy will provide guidance needed for local authorities and local council representatives to develop plans for their own areas that suit their own communities' needs best.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030	The NECP outlines Ireland's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP is a consolidated plan which brings together energy and climate planning into a single process for the first time.	The NECP facilitates the ongoing analysis at EU level. It will be revised to bring it in line with the 7% trajectory and to include policies and measures currently being developed to achieve the 7% trajectory.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Security Framework	The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine. The Framework also sets out how Government can support households and businesses, with a particular focus on protecting those most at risk of fuel poverty, how it is already ensuring Ireland's energy security, how it will speed up the country's shift to increased energy efficiency and indigenous renewable energy systems. It also sets out how consumers and businesses can be supported to save energy and save money.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027	The national Forestry Programme 2023-2027 came into force in 2023, as soon as State Aid approval by the European Commission has been received. The new Programme sets out increased support for a number of schemes.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions: • Forest creation; • Agroforestry; • Infrastructure and technology investments; • Sustainable forest management; • Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management; • Open forests - social, cultural and heritage forests; • Climate resilient reforestation; • Reconstruction.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2021 - 2027	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period: • To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; • To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a • view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;	The revised Plan makes 20 recommendations under the following topics: • Policy and Regulation • Prevention • Collection and Treatment • Implementation	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
	- To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; - To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.		
National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) 2021	NIFTI is the Department of Transport's framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network to support the delivery of the National Strategic Outcomes. The NIFTI will guide transport investment in the years ahead to enable the National Planning Framework, support the Climate Action Plan, and promote social, environmental and economic outcomes throughout Ireland.	The four investment priorities stated in NIFTI are: - Mobility of people and goods in urban areas. - Protection and renewal. - Enhanced regional and rural connectivity. - Decarbonisation.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: - Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; - Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
	Landscape Strategy Vision: “Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”	- Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; - Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	
National legislation transposing the Industrial Emissions Directive, including: - Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, amended by the Protection of the Environment Act 2003; and - Environmental Protection Agency (Integrated Pollution Control) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. - European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992)(Amendment) Regulations 2020	The purpose of this Directive is to lay down rules to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce industrial emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection. This legislation transposes the provisions of the Directive.	The legislation covers industrial activities in the following sectors: - energy; - metal production and processing; - minerals; - chemicals; - waste management; - and other sectors such as pulp and paper production, slaughterhouses and the intensive rearing of poultry and pigs. All installations covered by the directive must prevent and reduce pollution by applying the best available techniques (BATs)* and address efficient energy use, waste prevention and management and measures to prevent accidents and limit their consequences.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
• Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions)(Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. • European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013 • Environmental Protection Agency (Industrial Emissions) (Licensing) Regulations 2013. • Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing Fees) Regulations 2013			
National Marine Planning Framework 2021	The NMPF is a key consideration for decision makers on all marine authorisations. The NMPF creates the overarching framework for decision making that is consistent, evidence based, and secures a sustainable future for the maritime area.	The National Marine Planning Framework is a succinct strategic document that will deal with, inter alia, the following environmental, social and economic issues: • Key marine activities such as fisheries, tourism, transport, offshore renewable energy generation, oil and gas exploration and production, aquaculture, and how they interact; • Climate change and related impacts; • Communities and health; • Cultural heritage; • Marine environment and biodiversity; Transboundary interactions with other jurisdictions.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Mitigation Plan 2017	The National Mitigation Plan represents an initial step in transitioning Ireland to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. This whole-of-government Plan draws on the perspectives and responsibilities of a range of government departments, and reflects the central roles of key ministers responsible for electricity generation, the built environment, transport and agriculture.	The Plan includes over 100 individual actions for ministers and public bodies to implement and began the process of developing medium to long term mitigation choices for the next and future decades. The Plan is structured across several key themes: • Climate Action Policy Framework • Decarbonising Electricity Generation • Decarbonising the Built Environment • Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: • To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. • To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.	
National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	- This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. - By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. - This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport: - Reduce overall travel demand - Maximise the efficiency of the transport network - Reduce reliance on fossil fuels - Reduce transport emissions - Improve accessibility to transport These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework. Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: - AFV forecasts - Electricity targets - Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets - Hydrogen targets - Biofuels targets - LPG targets - Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Ports Policy 2013	The core objective of National Ports Policy is to facilitate a competitive and effective market for maritime transport services.	National Ports Policy introduces clear categorisation of the ports sector into Ports of National Significance (Tier 1), Ports of National Significance (Tier 2) and Ports of Regional Significance.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Retrofit Plan	The National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.	The Plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the Plan were guided by a number of key principles.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Roads 2040	NR2040 sets out TII's long-term strategy for the maintenance, development, and management of Ireland's National Roads network. NR2040 is fully aligned with NIFTI and Project Ireland 2040 and focuses on strategic issues for National Roads identified by TII.	The following objectives have been defined. • Safe and efficient transport network for people and goods • Environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable • Tailored for different customers in different places Managed and improved as a key public asset	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: • Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; • Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and • Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030	Article 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy ('the CFP'), on the promotion of sustainable aquaculture, calls for the establishment of multiannual national strategic aquaculture plans. The NSPSA 2030 is the second such plan under the current CFP.	This Plan proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030. The purpose is as follows: - To align and mainstream the recently updated but non-binding guidance for the sustainable development of EU aquaculture (2021 – 2030) with national aquaculture sector planning. - To help inform the investment priorities for aquaculture in Ireland's new Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027 (EMFAF). To provide a framework so that strategic planning for the aquaculture sector in Ireland responds to the latest thinking in terms of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Irish aquaculture in order to promote the development of a sustainable and forward-looking sector.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Sustainable Mobility Policy and the Sustainable Mobility Policy Action Plan 2022 - 2025	The National Sustainable Mobility Policy sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is accompanied by an action plan to 2025 which contains actions to improve and expand sustainable mobility options across the country by providing safe, green, accessible and efficient alternatives to car journeys. It also includes demand management and behavioural change measures to manage daily travel demand more efficiently and to reduce the journeys taken by private car.	The policy aims to deliver at least 500,000 additional daily active travel and public transport journeys by 2030 and a 10% reduction in the number of kilometres driven by fossil fuelled cars. It will make it easier for people to choose walking, cycling and use public transport daily instead of having to use a petrol or diesel car.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
National Transport Authority's Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	Section 13(1) of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (the DTA Act) requires the NTA to prepare an integrated implementation plan covering a six year period.	In accordance with the DTA Act, the Plan comprises the following: • An infrastructure investment programme, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority over the period of the Plan; • The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public transport infrastructure over the period of the Plan; • An integrated service plan, identifying the key objectives and outputs to be pursued by the Authority in relation to the procurement of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; • The actions to be taken by the Authority in relation to small public service vehicles; • The actions to be taken by the Authority to ensure the effective integration of public passenger transport services over the period of the Plan; and Such other matters as the Authority considers appropriate or as may be prescribed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030	The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030 has been published and replaces the Regional Waste Management Plans. The Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The ambition of this Plan is 0% total waste growth per person over the life of the Plan with an emphasis on non-household wastes including waste from commercial activities and the construction and demolition sector. This ambition is underpinned with a comprehensive series of targets, policies, actions and a suite of key deliverables. The Plan is presented in 5 Volumes. • VOLUME I Sets out the current situation including policy, the existing waste landscape and financial, human and market resources deployed. It also identifies the key waste management challenges facing the State.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		- VOLUME II Sets out the responses to the waste management challenges identified including the Plan ambition, targets, policies and priority actions. Targeted policies and priority actions are identified for a range of focus areas chosen to align with the challenges. - VOLUME III Sets out the delivery roadmap for the responses contained in Volume II and contains key deliverables required to enable the ambition, targets, policies, and actions identified. - VOLUME IV Provides the supporting information for the Plan in a series of technical appendices. - VOLUME V Contains the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement and Natura Impact Statement. Key challenges identified in the Plan include resources, organisational capability, policy requirements, specific material stream targets, the provision of infrastructure and waste generation.	
A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025	The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is an action-focused plan that will place Ireland at the vanguard of EU efforts. It will act as a roadmap for Ireland to embrace the opportunities in becoming a circular economy in the upcoming decade.	The overarching objectives of this action plan are to: - Shift the focus away from waste disposal and treatment to ensure that materials and products remain in productive use for longer thereby preventing waste and supporting reuse through a policy framework that discourages the wasting of resources and rewards circularity - Make producers who manufacture and sell disposable goods for profit environmentally accountable for the products they place on the market; - Ensure that measures support sustainable economic models (for example by supporting the use of recycled over virgin materials); - Harness the reach and influence of all sectors including the voluntary sector, R&D, producers / manufacturers, regulatory bodies, civic society; and	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		Support clear and robust institutional arrangements for the waste sector, including through a strengthened role for Local Authorities (LAs).	
National Water Resources Plan (2021)	The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: - Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions - Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry - Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources - Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events - Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water - Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025	The policy provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years.	The policy focuses on the following thematic objectives: - Optimising the opportunities for rural communities from high speed broadband. - Supporting improved quality employment and career opportunities in rural areas. - Assisting the regeneration, repopulation and development of rural towns and villages. - Enhancing the participation, leadership and resilience of rural communities. - Enhancing public services in rural areas - Supporting a Just Transition to a climate neutral economy. - Supporting the sustainability of Agriculture, the	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		• Marine and Forestry. • Supporting the sustainability of our island and coastal communities. • Nurturing our culture and heritage	
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.	Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Acts	The principal objectives of these are to provide a framework for land use planning and development control – with a view to promoting proper planning and sustainable development	• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning and Development Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. • There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. • Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large scale projects.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO)	PLUTO's objective is to develop a transport investment framework which delivers a land transport network that meets the travel needs of the population in the coming decades and which supports the National Strategic Outcomes of Project Ireland 2040.	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: - Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; - Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, - Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas 2017 - 2022	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	- Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. - Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF)	Under Action EL/23/2 of CAP23, the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework (RESPF) is currently being prepared. In effect, this will be the national policy for onshore renewable electricity and will inform and reshape the development and distribution of onshore renewables in order to enable the delivery of Ireland's renewable electricity targets, as set out in CAP23. The RESPF will promote a plan-led and evidence-based approach to the allocation of renewable electricity spatial and generation targets across the three Regional Assemblies, to facilitate the achievement of the national target of 80% RES-E by 2030.	The objective of this spatial policy framework is to effectively translate renewable electricity objectives, as those outlined in Climate Action Plan 2023, to the regional level and allocate regional spatial and renewable generation capacity targets.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023)	The vision of the Strategy is to ensure by 2050 that Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across the country.	Priority actions for the Strategy include: - Use the Planning and Development Acts to instruct An Bord Pleanála to prioritise planning applications for renewable energy and associated grid infrastructure. - Delivery of grid is a necessary foundation for decarbonisation of the economy. Market designs must include system services, flexibility, and capacity markets and fully exploit demand side resources. - Simplify administrative & regulatory requirements for renewable heat, energy efficiency, flexible demand, and storage technologies - Encourage EVs, enhanced public mobility and cycling infrastructure while harnessing Ireland's strengths for the appropriate use of sustainable biofuels and green hydrogen. - Bring together industry, Government and other key stakeholders to identify ways to cut the price of renewable energy in Ireland so that we can deliver clean energy at the lowest possible price for Irish consumers.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. • GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.	• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. • Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. • Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. • Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. • Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)	• The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. • These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. • Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of statutory land use plan on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	- The Regulations cover statutory land use plans, including Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Regional Planning Guidelines etc.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. 79 of 2008 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended (latest S.I. No. 322/2024)	- These Regulations provide for transposition of the EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (Directive 2006/7/EC of 15 February 2006) which aims: - To improve health protection for bathers - To establish a more pro-active approach to management of bathing waters, and - To promote increased public involvement and dissemination of information to the public.	- The Regulations establish a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” and “excellent” and generally require that a classification of at least “sufficient” be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. - Local authorities must take appropriate measures with a view to improving waters which are classified as “poor” and increasing the number of bathing waters classified as “good” or “excellent”. - A permanent advice against bathing must be issued in a case where a bathing water is classified as “poor” for five consecutive years. - Local authorities are required annually to identify bathing waters, establish a monitoring calendar, carry out the specified monitoring, report the results to the EPA, carry out appropriate management measures where necessary and provide information to the public. - There must be public participation in the identification of waters and the general implementation of the Regulations.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		- The EPA is required by the Regulations to classify bathing waters, generally on the basis of the monitoring results for the four preceding bathing seasons, and to publish an annual report in relation to bathing water quality. - Monitoring by local authorities is to commence not later than 2011 with a view to ensuring that a classification is assigned to bathing waters not later than 2015. - Private controllers of access lands may be required to contribute towards the costs incurred by a local authority or the EPA.	
S.I. No. 113/2022 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022, as amended	The purpose of the Regulations is to provide a basic set of measures to ensure the protection of waters, including drinking water sources, against pollution caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural sources, with the primary emphasis on the management of livestock manures and other fertilisers. The set of measures also provide some basic safeguards against possible harmful impacts on water quality arising from agricultural expansion. This basic set of measures has been strengthened over the last two reviews and this new programme provides a further strengthened set of measures to help reduce nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agriculture and contribute to improvements in water quality.	The Regulations include measures such as: - Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited - Limits on the land application of fertilisers - Storage requirements for livestock manure; and - Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
S.I. No. 296/2009 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009, as amended (latest S.I. 355/2018)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	Actions: - Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). - Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. - Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
S.I. No. 9/2010 - European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended (latest S.I. No. 287/2022)	These Regulations are made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for groundwater by Article 4(1)(b) of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) and to give effect to the requirements of the Groundwater Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	The Regulations establish clear environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies within specified timeframes and introduce the legal basis for a more flexible, proportionate and risk-based approach to implementing the legal obligation to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater, which already exists under Directive 80/68/EEC. Measures include: - measures to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and to prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater - measures to protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater and to ensure a balance between abstraction and recharge of groundwater, with the aim of achieving good groundwater within a particular timeframe - measures requiring the reversal of any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of any pollutant resulting from the impact of human activity in order to progressively reduce pollution of groundwater - measures for determining groundwater quantitative and chemical status	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		- measures establishing procedures for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and the definition of the starting point for trend reversal - the laying down of rules for the presentation and reporting of groundwater monitoring results, trend assessments and the classification of quantitative status and chemical status of groundwater bodies	
Spatial Planning and National Roads: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)	These guidelines have been prepared in the context of the delivery of the National Spatial Strategy and the actions identified in Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020. The guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national roads (including motorways, national primary and national secondary roads) outside the 50/60 kmh speed limit zones for cities, towns and villages These guidelines have been developed by following a number of key principles and aim to facilitate a well-informed, integrated and consistent approach that affords maximum support for the goal of achieving and maintaining a safe and efficient network of national roads in the broader context of sustainable development strategies, thereby facilitating continued economic growth and development throughout the country.	The following key principles have guided the development of these guidelines: - Land-use and transportation policies are highly interdependent - Proper planning is central to ensuring road safety - Development should be plan-led - Development Management is key to Plan Implementation Planning Authorities and the National roads Authority and other public transport bodies must work closely together	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2024	The EPA produces state of the environment reports on a four-yearly cycle. These reports provide timely information and knowledge to the public, policymakers and key economic sectors in support of action to protect and manage the environment. The EPA will be publishing the next iteration of our State of the Environment Report later in 2024.	Not applicable.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	- A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; - Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism - to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, - domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; - Greenways that provide a substantially segregated offroad experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; - Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and, - Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) as transposed into Irish legislation by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011 as amended)	The Directive sets air quality standards for European Union member states.	Limit values for air quality parameters are set in this Directive.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027	Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan provides a framework for the application of the Common Agricultural Policy in Ireland. It aims to promote the agricultural sector and the provision of safe and sustainable food in the county. Ireland as an EU member state is responsible for the running of our own CAP Strategic Plan, in close co-operation with the European Commission, and the EU Court of Auditors as the guardian of EU finances. The CAP is divided into two pillars. Pillar 1 covers direct support and market supports, and rural development is in Pillar 2.	The Irish CAP Strategic Plan aims to: 1. Protect farm family incomes 2. Recognise the hard work of our farm families as food producers regardless of where they are in the country 3. Play a meaningful role in supporting our climate ambitions. It provides for the following: • Pillar 1 agri-environment schemes, including direct support consisting of payments granted directly to farmers and provides baseline income support and operates as a safety net in cases of market disturbances, and market measures to manage and control the agricultural economy. • Pillar 2 direct payments supporting rural development. Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan has a strong emphasis on achievement of a higher level of climate and environment ambition that will be achieved through the CAP's new green architecture.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		It contains measures that will help to achieve significant improvements in the areas of biodiversity and water quality, as well as contributing to national and EU climate and environmental targets, including through increased sequestration and carbon removal. There are three key areas in the new green architecture: 1. Conditionality 2. Pillar 1 Eco-schemes 3. Pillar 2 climate and environment-related interventions	
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	• Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. • Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. • Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. • Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.	• Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. • Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. • Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. • Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. • Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. • Ensure 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. The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Uisce Éireann Water Services Strategic Plan 2015, Water Services Strategic Plan 2050, and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020 - 2024)	The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) presents Uisce Éireann's objectives for the next 25 years and the means by which we will achieve them. It aligns to requirements set out in the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013. The first Water Services Strategic Plan was published in 2015 and are the draft Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) is in the process of consultation which will replace the current plan.	The new Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 will be an important strategic document that will focus on the provision of safe drinking water and ensure that the environment is protected from the impacts of wastewater discharges.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Action Plan 2024 - A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The objectives of the Water Framework Directive are (i) To prevent the deterioration of water bodies and to protect, enhance and restore them with the aim of achieving at least good status. (ii) To achieve compliance with the water standards and objectives for designated protected areas.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: • Prosecute for water pollution offences. • Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. • Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. • Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; • Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. • Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007, and amendments in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2022	• Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.	Key strategic objectives include: • Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. • Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

National Level			
Legislation, Plans, etc.	Summary of high level aim/purpose/objective	Summary of lower-level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance of the Plan
		- Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems. - Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services. Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.	
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	- Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems - Give statutory protection to NHAs - Enhances wildlife species and their habitats - Includes more species for protection	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020	A strategy for Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity and ensure that the environment can continue to support our people and economy.	The objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy are to: i) maintain healthy ecosystems, ii) address adverse pressure, iii) increase prosperity and well-being, and engage society in biodiversity conservation and develop partnerships.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Circular Economy Strategy	The draft strategy sets out NI's vision to create an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy, with responsible production and consumption at its core.	The strategy outlines twelve proposals for change which will create more sustainable production and consumption patterns in Northern Ireland. The proposals have been framed around the five universal Circular Economy policy goals developed by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF) which provide a blueprint to align ambition and create a common direction of travel.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Draft Environment Strategy	The Environment Strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out Northern Ireland's environmental priorities for the coming decades and will form part of the Green Growth agenda.	This Strategy focuses on several Strategic Context/Drivers: i) Sustainability ii) Global Climate & Biodiversity Action iii) Green Growth Strategy iv) Environmental Governance & Co-operation v) Agriculture & Environment vi) Marine Environment Built & Historic Environment	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland (2024)	The plan aims to deliver real improvements to the quality of the environment within Northern Ireland. This will lead to the improvement of health and well-being of all who live and work there, aid in creating opportunities to improve the economy, the elevation of Northern Ireland as an environmental leader, and will enable NI to play their part in protecting the global environment in future decades. The key strategic drivers underpinning the plan are as follows: • Sustainability. • Global Climate and Biodiversity action • Green growth strategy. • Northern Ireland Climate Action Plan 2023-2027. • Environmental governance and co-operation. • Agriculture, food & environment • Marine environment. • Built and historic environment.	The plan consists of six strategic environmental outcomes: 1. Excellent air, water & land quality. 2. Healthy & accessible environment & landscape everyone can connect with & enjoy. 3. Thriving, resilient & connected nature and wildlife. 4. Sustainable production & consumption on land and at sea. 5. Zero waste & highly developed circular economy. 6. Net zero greenhouse gas emissions & improved climate resilience and adaptability.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan 2024-2028	The plan aims to improve the long-term prospects of the species by addressing the threats faced by the Hen Harrier through a series of coordinated actions across sectors, including agriculture, forestry and wind energy.	This plan aims to: • Synthesis the key scientific evidence for the Hen Harrier population decline. • Outline the views and concerns presented by the relevant sectors. • Lay out a coordinated set of targeted actions and measures to cease, avoid, reverse, reduce, eliminate or prevent the identified threats, pressures and hazards.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995	The Order was introduced to protect and manage Northern Ireland's cultural heritage by focusing on monuments and objects of archaeological and historical significance.	The key provisions of the Order include: • Protection of historic monuments by extending legal protection • Designating and scheduling of monuments that are considered to possess special historic or archaeological value Requiring consent for any development that could affect a scheduled monument and ensuring that these works do not harm the historic value of the monument	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026	The aim of the plan is to guide, inform and provide structure for the conservation management of this important species over the next five years (2022-2026).	The Plan established practical conservation measure for the conservation of this species. The measures are divided into four broad categories: – Roosts, Habitat, Connectivity, Outreach, with each category having specific actions to be carried out.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte and NPWS (2024)	The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes the framework and process for partnership, collaboration, and enhanced cooperation in areas of collective responsibility and shared interest, leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of nature projects and the respective work programmes of both organisations. The aim of the MOU is to create benefits biodiversity in Ireland by empowering the parties to address shared challenges and maximise shared opportunities in relation to nature restoration on the Coillte estate.	The objectives of the MOU are: • Establish a collaborative framework covering activities to the benefit of biodiversity in Ireland by promoting conservation principles and collaborative working between Coillte and NPWS. • Identify partnerships in areas of mutual interest and responsibility of the parties in the context of relevant legislative frameworks. • Establish a platform for professional exchange to share information and best practice and foster co-operation, co-ordination and collaboration on specific projects and initiatives. • Establish clear working groups and governance structures which facilitate further partnership and cooperation and allow for regular reviews of the effectiveness of the MOU.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		The parties commit to the co-development and co-implementation of agreed site management plans, for nature restoration projects, supported by costed operational plans with clearly identified sources of funds. Further, the development of scientific best practice and best practice implementation in the management of sites will be documented and, where appropriate, shared externally.	
Northern Ireland's draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027	The draft Climate Action Plan sets out 52 policies and proposals designed to reduce emissions across nine sectors: energy production and supply; transport; business and industrial processes; residential buildings; public buildings; waste management; agriculture; land use, land-use change and forestry; and fisheries. These policies and proposals set a roadmap of action needed to reduce emissions and keep NI on track for future targets and will keep the country on track to meet the carbon budget set across sectors.	Each sector within the plan has a set of policies and proposals set out that will enable Northern Ireland to achieve its first carbon budget and meet its emission reduction targets. The policies are a committed course of action to which a policy outcome can be attributed with a reasonable level of confidence. The proposals are a suggested course of action or exploratory action, the details of which might change as this course of action is explored further. Proposals are generally at an earlier stage of development than policies and more work will be needed to determine what they entail, how they might be delivered and how they could be funded	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 (Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 'Path to Net Zero Energy')	The Strategy sets a long-term vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy for Northern Ireland. It is also about growing the economy and supporting the 10X Economic Vision.	The energy strategy sets a target of 70% of local electricity supplies coming from renewable sources by 2030 and includes a plan to fully decarbonise by 2050. The Energy Strategy is centred around delivering on five key principles: • Placing you at the heart of our energy future • Grow the green economy • Do more with less • Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy • Create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy 2021-2040	The strategy identifies the ecosystem services provided by healthy peatlands, including climate regulation and adaptation, specialised biodiversity, good water quality, flood alleviation and a historical archive. The strategy also highlights the role peatlands play as a unique landscape for recreation and education.	The document outlines six strategic objectives: - Conserve peatlands & prevent degradation - Restoration of degraded areas to functioning peatland ecosystems (designated & non-designated sites) - Supporting Sustainable Peatland Management - Knowledge Sharing & Research - Communication, Education & Access - Governance, Implementation & Funding	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Northern Ireland Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2021-2027	Under The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2017, integrated catchment planning through the preparation and implementation of a river basin management plan is required. These regulations apply to groundwater and all surface waters and take an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. There have been three sets of RBMPs published for NI. The first cycle was published in 2009, the second in 2015, and the third currently runs from the period 2021-2027. Unlike its predecessors, where each River Basin District had an individual RBMP, the third cycle RBMP is just a single plan that covers all three River Basin Districts within Northern Ireland.	The Plans identified where Northern Ireland's water environment is in good or excellent condition and set out objectives for improvement or prevention of deterioration.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Northern Irish Local Development Plans for Northern Irish local authorities bordering Ireland	These Northern Ireland plans make sure there is enough land available for each area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features.	Northern Irish Local Development Plans for Northern Irish local authorities bordering Ireland include: • Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Mid Ulster District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 • Derry City and Strabane District Council's Local Development Plan 2032 • Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Local Development Plan 2030 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Local Development Plan 2030	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provides the legislative basis for the reform of the Northern Ireland planning system. It is the principal piece of planning legislation in Northern Ireland, receiving assent on 4 th May 2011. It underpins the reformed two-tier planning system which commenced with the transfer of responsibility for the majority of planning functions from central government to district councils.	The act streamlines the planning process, improves decision-making and ensures greater public involvement in planning decisions. The Planning Act creates a more efficient, transparent and locally-focused planning system in NI which balances economic development, environmental protection and public interests by: • Transferring planning functions to the planning authorities to decentralise decision-making and allowing local authorities more control over the planning decisions • Introducing a requirement for local development plans for council areas, which outline land-use, regulates development and identifies what infrastructure is required • Simplifying the planning procedure for applicants and planning authorities and allowing for more flexibility in the application process • Creating a Planning Appeals Commission to handle appeals and reviews of planning decisions to consider appeals against planning refusals, conditions or enforcement decisions. Integrating sustainability and environmental considerations into proposed development through the planning process	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2: Natural Heritage (2013)	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2 sets out the Department of the Environment's planning policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of Northern Ireland's natural heritage. PPS 2 replaces 'Planning and Nature Conservation (1997)' and supersedes Policies SP16 and DES4 in 'A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (1993).	Objectives of PPS2 include: - to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage. - to contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high-quality environment.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3: Access, Movement and Parking	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3 sets out the Department's planning policies for vehicular and pedestrian access, transport assessment, the protection of transport routes and parking. It forms an important element in the integration of transport and land use planning. It embodies the Government's commitments to the provision of a modern, safe, sustainable transport system, the improvement of mobility for those who are socially excluded or whose mobility is impaired, the promotion of healthier living and improved road safety.	Objectives of PPS3 include: - Ensure that new development offers a realistic choice of access by walking, cycling and public transport, recognising that this may be less achievable in some rural areas. - Ensure the needs of people with disabilities and others whose mobility is impaired, are taken into account in relation to accessibility to buildings and parking provision. - Protect routes required for new transport schemes including disused transport routes with potential for future reuse.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 6: Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 6 sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection and conservation of archaeological remains and features of the built heritage. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.	PPS6 aims to: • Protect and conserve archaeological remains and their settings. • Protect World Heritage Sites. • Protect historical parks, gardens and demesnes. • Manage and preserve listed buildings. • Manage and enhance conservation areas.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 7: (addendum) Safeguarding the character of established residential areas	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 7 (addendum) provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments. In addition, the addendum contains policy to promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water run-off.	With regards to the protection of areas of established residential character, environmental quality, and local amenity, this policy aims to: • Prevent unacceptable damage to the local character, environmental quality, or residential amenity of established residential areas. • Maintain or enhance the quality of established residential areas. • To safeguard the privacy of existing residents.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 8 sets out the Department's planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation, and advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.	The objectives for PPS 8 include: • To facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside. • To safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision. • To ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 13: Transportation and Land Use	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 13 aims to integrate land use planning and transport by promoting sustainable transport choices, promoting accessibility for all, and reducing the need to travel, especially by private car.	Secondary objectives for PPS 13 include: • ensure that new development offers a realistic choice of access by walking, cycling and public transport, recognizing that this may be less achievable in some rural areas. • ensure the needs of people with disabilities and others whose mobility is impaired are taken into account in relation to accessibility to buildings and parking provision. • protect routes required for new transport schemes including disused transport routes with potential for future reuse.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 15: Planning and Flood Risk	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 15 sets out the Department's draft planning policies to minimise and manage flood risk to people, property and the environment. It embodies the government's commitment to sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity. It adopts a precautionary approach to development and the use of land that takes account of climate change and emerging information relating to flood risk through the implementation of the EU Floods Directive in Northern Ireland and the implementation of sustainable drainage systems. The revised PPS is supportive to the safety and wellbeing of people.	Objectives of PPS15 include: • seek to prevent inappropriate new development in areas known to be at risk of flooding, or that may increase the flood risk elsewhere. • ensure that the most up to date information on flood risk is taken into account when determining planning applications and zoning / designating land for development in development plans. • adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land for development through the development plan process and the determination of development proposals, in those areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or future uncertainties associated with flood estimation, climate change predictions and scientific evidence. • support the retention and restoration of natural flood plains and natural watercourses as a form of flood alleviation and an important environmental and social resource, and ensure that this is recognised in the decision-making process. • promote an integrated and sustainable approach, both locally and at catchment scale, to the management of development and flood risk which contributes to: - o the safety and wellbeing of everyone. - o the prudent and efficient use of economic resources. - o the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and biodiversity. - o the conservation of archaeology and the built heritage.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 16: Tourism	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 16 sets out the Department's planning policy for tourism development, including the main forms of tourist accommodation and tourist amenities. In addition the PPS provides policy for the safeguarding of tourism assets from development likely to adversely impact upon the tourism value of the environmental asset.	Objectives of PPS16 include: • facilitate sustainable tourism development in an environmentally sensitive manner. • contribute to the growth of the regional economy by facilitating tourism growth. • safeguard tourism assets from inappropriate development. • utilise and develop the tourism potential of settlements by facilitating tourism development of an appropriate nature, location and scale. • sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting tourism development of an appropriate nature, location and scale in rural areas. • ensure a high standard of quality and design for all tourism development.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside. For the purpose of this document the countryside is defined as land lying outside of settlement limits as identified in development plans. The provisions of this document will apply to all areas of Northern Ireland's countryside.	PPS21 aims to manage development in the countryside in a manner consistent with achieving the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 and which strikes a balance between the need to protect the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development, while supporting rural communities. Its objectives are: • to manage growth in the countryside to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development that meet the essential needs of a vibrant rural community. • to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		- to facilitate development necessary to achieve a sustainable rural economy; including appropriate farm diversification and other economic activity. - to promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development in the countryside.	
Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18: Renewable Energy	Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 18 sets out the Department's planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable resources and that requires the submission of a planning application. In addition, the PPS encourages the integration of renewable energy technology and greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design in the design, siting and layout of new development.	The aim of this Statement is to facilitate the siting of renewable energy generating facilities in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment in order to achieve Northern Ireland's renewable energy targets and to realise the benefits of renewable energy. The objectives of the Statement are: - to ensure that the environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts associated with or arising from renewable energy development are adequately addressed; - to ensure adequate protection of the Region's built and natural, and cultural heritage features; and - to facilitate the integration of renewable energy technology into the design, siting and layout of new development and promote greater application of the principles of Passive Solar Design.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)	Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.	Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022	The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (Act) sets a target of an at least 100% reduction in net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. The Act also sets other sectoral targets including 2030 targets at least 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources (DfE) and 70% of waste is recycled (DAERA) as well as a target for a minimum spend of 10% of overall transport budgets on active travel (DfI).	Section 23 of the Act requires DAERA to make regulations that set carbon budgets. Sections 13-22 place requirements on Northern Ireland departments to produce and publish various sectoral plans setting out how specific sectors will contribute to meeting the 2030, 2040 and 2050 emissions reduction targets. DAERA is required to produce 5-year climate action plans (CAP) to set out the policies and proposals that Northern Ireland departments will implement to meet the corresponding carbon budget as well as set out how the emissions reduction targets will be achieved. The Act places a duty on DAERA to prepare and publish a series of interim and final reports setting out what progress has been made in implementing the proposals and policies set out in the CAPs and the progress made in achieving carbon budgets and emissions reduction targets. There are also reporting requirements placed on the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC). Section 37 of the Act places a duty on DAERA to establish a Just Transition Commission for Northern Ireland.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		Section 31 places a requirement on DAERA to establish a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture in order to provide advice and financial assistance to the agricultural sector to help deliver its contribution under policies and proposals within CAPs. Section 42 of the Act requires regulations to be made in regard to climate change reporting by public bodies. Section 50 of the Act requires The Executive Office (TEO) to establish an independent office to be known as the “Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner”.	
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)	These regulations transpose the requirements of the EC 'Habitats' Directive and aspects of the 'Wild Birds' Directive in relation to Northern Ireland. Provide for the protection of sites in the UK that support habitats and species in need of conservation across Europe and full protection of species of European importance whether occurring within designated sites or not.	Protects certain birds, plants, animals, marine life and their habitats, including Natura 2000 sites, through creating criminal offences and changing planning requirements.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 is the primary piece of environmental legislation in Northern Ireland. The order sets out a range of requirements for the protection and management of the environment, including the prevention and control of pollution, the conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity, and the regulation of waste management. The order applies to a wide range of activities, including industrial and commercial activities, waste management, agriculture, and construction. It also establishes the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), which is responsible for enforcing the order and regulating activities that may have an impact on the environment. The NIEA has the power to investigate environmental incidents, issue enforcement notices, and prosecute individuals and organisations that breach environmental regulations.	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 places a range of obligations on individuals and organisations to protect and manage the environment. These obligations include reporting environmental incidents, obtaining permits, and complying with environmental standards. Evidence requirements under the order may include: 1. Reporting requirements 2. Permit requirements 3. Compliance monitoring 4. Enforcement action	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Green Growth Strategy	The Strategy establishes Northern Ireland's Green Growth vision and principles and sets out commitments to tackling the climate crisis.	One of the key commitments of the Green Growth Strategy is to develop Northern Ireland's first Climate Action Plan. 10 Executive Commitments have been set out in the Strategy. Green Growth considers climate targets but also the wider environment and green jobs.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 (as amended)	This Act establish a legal framework for the management, planning, and conservation of Northern Ireland's marine resources. It seeks to balance economic development with environmental protection, ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources and the protection of marine biodiversity and ecosystems. The Act, alongside the Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009, sets forth actions to deliver the UK government's vision for "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas."	This Act establishes a strategic system of marine planning in Northern Ireland's inshore region (out to 12 nautical miles) that will: • be proactive, co-ordinated and responsive; • assists in the delivery of a modernised licensing and enforcement regime that is streamlined, consistent and promotes integrated decision making; • and contributes to the delivery of the United Kingdom's aim of establishing an "ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas", so that marine biodiversity is protected and international and European commitments are met.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009	This Act, alongside the Marine Act 2013, sets forth actions to deliver the UK government's vision for "clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas." The act established a framework or marine management that aims to balance conservation and sustainable development. Under this act the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) was created and tasked with functions to aid in the realisation of the aims of the Act.	Key areas of the Marine & Coastal Access Act include: • Setting up the MMO in order to centralise many of the existing, diverse areas of marine regulation. • Streamline the existing marine licensing system and provide powers to create a joined-up marine planning policy. • Introduce new measures to reform fisheries management. • Provide a framework for establishing marine conservation zones. • Enable the creation of a walkable route around the English coast.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland 2018	The Plan informs and guides the regulation, management, use and protection of Northern Ireland's marine area. It is a single document made up of two plans, one for the inshore region and one for the offshore region.	Marine Plan Objectives • To promote the sustainable development of productive activities, which support employment at all skill levels while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests. • To help realise the potential of energy resources and energy storage within the marine area, while fully considering the requirements of other marine interests. • To promote the development of vibrant, accessible and sustainable coastal communities. • To promote the marine resource, its recreational value and its wider economic, environmental and social benefits to all. • To promote the preservation and enjoyment of marine related heritage assets. • To promote a healthy, resilient and adaptable marine ecosystem and an ecologically coherent network of Marine Protected Areas. • To contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. • To continue to develop a sound marine evidence base in a co-ordinated manner, to increase understanding and to support the development, monitoring and review of marine plans.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017	The purpose of these regulations is to promote sustainable development by considering and mitigating the potential environmental effects of projects before they are approved. The regulations require a systematic and transparent assessment process, enabling decision-makers to make informed choices based on the environmental implications of proposed developments.	The regulations apply to a wide range of projects, including infrastructure developments, industrial facilities, energy projects, and certain agricultural and waste management activities. The regulations mandate that developers or project proponents carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of the planning process. The EIA involves the identification, prediction, and evaluation of potential environmental effects, such as impacts on air, water, biodiversity, human health, and cultural heritage. The assessment also considers alternative options and potential mitigation measures. Additionally, the regulations emphasize public participation, ensuring that affected individuals and organizations have the opportunity to provide input and express their concerns during the assessment process.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Regional Development Strategy 2035	The strategy aims to take account of the economic ambitions and needs of the Northern Ireland Region, and put in place spatial planning, transport and housing priorities that will support and enable the aspirations of the Region to be met.	The Strategy sets out a spatial framework and guidance specific to each NI area.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland	The SPPS is a statement, consolidating some twenty separate policy publications into one document of the Department's policy on important planning matters that should be addressed across Northern Ireland. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within their new Local Development Plans.	The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans, and are also material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. The SPPS has a policy objective to "seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage".	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The UK Marine Policy Statement 2011	The MPS was prepared and adopted under section 44 of the Marine & Coastal Act 2009. The MPS is the framework for marine planning systems. It provides the high-level policy context within which national and sub-national Marine Plans will be developed, implemented, monitored, amended and will ensure appropriate consistency in marine planning across the UK marine area. The MPS will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom marine area.	The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: • Promote sustainable economic development. • Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects. • Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets. • Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011	This Act requires every public body to promote the conservation of biodiversity and defines functions of public bodies in Northern Ireland with respect to the conservation of biodiversity. It also contains provisions for the conservation of wild fauna and flora and habitats. The Act amends the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002.	• To make provision about biodiversity. • To amend the wildlife (Northern Ireland) order 1985 and part 4 of the environment (Northern Ireland) order 2002. • To abolish game licences and game dealers' licences. • To prohibit hare coursing events. • To amend the game preservation act (Northern Ireland) 1928; and for connected purposes.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended)	Prohibits the intentional killing, taking or injuring of certain wild birds and wild animals or the intentional destruction, uprooting or picking of certain wild plants.	• Protection of wild birds, their nests and eggs, the prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds and the sale of live or dead wild birds or eggs. • Protection of captive birds. • Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals, the use of spring traps, and the sale of live or dead wild animals as well as providing protection for wild plants and prohibiting the sale of invasive, non-native species. • Also covers: the protection of deer, the sales and purchases of venison and the prevention of poaching; the possession of pesticides harmful to wildlife; wildlife refuges; and the possession of articles for purposes of committing certain offences. With regard to enforcement, it includes details regarding the power of wildlife inspector to enter premises and to examine specimens and take samples, false statements made for obtaining registration or licence and penalties and forfeitures.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan	- The plan sets out a 10-year plan for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland., with an aim to increase the value of tourism to the economy by 50-75% compared to 2019. - Vision is to “Establish Northern Ireland as a year-round world class destination which is renowned for its authentic experiences, landscape, heritage and culture and which benefits communities, the economy and the environment, with sustainability at its core.”	The strategic goals and core themes of the Strategy are: - Innovative - Inclusive - Sustainable - Attractive - Collaborative The document identifies the key challenges and drivers for growth.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 - 2026	Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) aims to establish sustainable levels of economic and social activity in our coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. ICZM seeks to reconcile the different policies that have an effect on the coast and to establish a framework that facilitates the integration of the interests and responsibilities of those involved in the development, management and use of the coast.	The Strategy is based on the several key principles: - Sustainable development - Precautionary principle Ecosystem approach	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Northern Ireland			
National Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Level			
Local Development Plans for Northern Ireland district councils	Under Part 2 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, district councils are required to prepare a local development plan for their area. These plans aim to make sure there is enough land available for the area's housing, employment and community facilities, while protecting important landscape and environmental features. The plans comprise two development plan documents: The Plan Strategy - The strategic policy framework for the plan area as a whole across a range of topics. It sets out the vision for that area, and the objectives and strategic policies required to deliver that vision. The Local Policies Plan - The council's local policies and site-specific proposals in relation to the development and use of land in the plan area. It contains the local policies, including site specific proposals, designations and land use zonings required to deliver the council's vision, objectives and strategic policies, as set out in the Plan Strategy.	At present the following district councils have been published: • Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan Strategy • Derry City and Strabane Local Development Plan Strategy • Banbridge and Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 The following districts have Local Development Plans that are forthcoming: • Mid Ulster • Newry, Mourne and Down • Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Biodiversity Action Plans	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	• Outlines the status of biodiversity and identifies species of importance. • Outlines objectives and targets to be met to maintain and improve biodiversity. • Aims to increase awareness.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Authority Climate Action Plans	Each Local Authority has a statutory requirement to create a climate action plan under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment Act 2021). These plans are required to take into consideration wider national climate and energy targets and must address both mitigation and adaptation measures.	These action Plans will develop and implement specific, action-focused, time-bound and measurable actions. Through this, it will allow plans which: • Provide a strong emphasis on a place-based approach to climate action, delivering a better understanding of greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related risks at a local level, while addressing context-specific conditions and support for locally tailored policy making. • Deliver and promote evidence-based and integrated climate action by way of adaptation and mitigation measures, centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of the local authority on climate action. • Translate and provide strategic direction at local and community levels on the delivery of the national climate objective which is seeking to curb further global warming and to transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of 2050.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
County Landscape Character Assessments	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	- Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. - Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans	- Outline planning objectives for land use development (including transport objectives). - Strategic frameworks for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. - Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the bordering and connected Local Authority areas.	- Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. - Protect and enhance amenities and environment. - Guides neighbouring planning authority in assessing proposals. - Aim to guide development in neighbouring areas - Aim to promote sustainable development in neighbouring and connected areas. - Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan	- Develop a segregated cycling and walking trail to international standards, extending from Dublin City to Galway which is of a scale that will allow Ireland to harness the potential of an identified growing tourism market for cycling. - This route forms part of an interconnected National Cycle Network of high quality, traffic free, inter urban routes, which will establish Ireland as a quality international tourism destination for a broad range of associated recreational activities and pursuits.	To provide a segregated, substantially off road cycle route from Dublin City to Clifden via Galway City, maximising the use of – where feasible – existing and approved routes and disused railway line corridors and to also use existing plans and/or permitted projects where these have been subject to a consent process that has previously included the carrying out or screening for SEA, EIA and AA.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub- Basin Management Plans	- Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline. - Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status.	- Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland. - Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan	- Sets out a ten year cycling strategy for Counties Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow - Plan to increase regions cycle network dramatically - The Plan refers to the EuroVelo International Cycle Route Network of the European Cyclists Federation is a network of 15 long distance cycle routes connecting and uniting the whole European continent. Two of these routes are in Ireland including EV2 from Galway through Dublin to London, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow.	Aims to identify and determine: - The Urban Cycle Network at the Primary, Secondary and Feeder level - The Inter-Urban Cycle Network linking the relevant sections of the Urban Network including the elements of the National Cycle Network within the Greater Dublin Area including linkages to key transport locations outside of urban areas such as airports and ports - The Green Route Network being cycle routes for development of tourist, recreational and leisure purposes.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy (2016-2035)	- It sets out how transport will be developed across the region, covering Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare, over the period of the strategy and has been approved by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in accordance with the relevant legislation. - The Vision Statement: <i>“The GDA by 2022 is an economically vibrant, active and sustainable international Gateway Region, with strong connectivity across the GDA Region, nationally and worldwide; a region which fosters communities living in attractive, accessible places well supported by community infrastructure and enjoying high quality leisure facilities; and promotes and protects across the GDA green corridors, active agricultural lands and protected natural areas.”</i> Full SEA and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken on this Strategy	They set out a number of core principles deriving from the strategic vision, which are: - Dublin as the capital city of Ireland and a major European centre shall grow and progress, competing with other cities in the EU, and serving a wide range of international, national, regional and local needs. - The Dublin and Mid-East Regions will be attractive, vibrant locations for industry, commerce, recreation and tourism and will be a major focus for economic growth within the Country. - The GDA, through its ports and airport connections will continue to be the most important entry/exit point for the country as a whole, and as a Gateway between the European Union and the rest of the World. Access to and through the GDA will continue to be a matter of national importance. - Development in the GDA shall be directly related to investment in integrated high quality public transport services and focused on compact urban form. - Development within the existing urban footprint of the Metropolitan Area will be consolidated to achieve a more compact urban form	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		Development in the Hinterland Area will be focused on the high quality integrated growth and consolidation of development in key identified towns, separated from each other by extensive areas of strategic green belt land devoted to agriculture and similar uses.	
Green Infrastructure Plans/Strategies	- Promotes the maintenance and improvement of green infrastructure in an area. - Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and habitats.	Not applicable	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Heritage Plans	Aims to highlight the importance of heritage at a strategic level.	• Manage and promote heritage as well as increase awareness. • Aim to conserve and protect heritage.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities"	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Local Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans	- Produced by Local Authorities. - Outlines areas local flood risk. - Sets out measures to manage and prevent flood risk at a local level.	Not applicable.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Transport Plans and Strategies	Local Transport Plans and Strategies relevant to a particular local authority functional area provide a more granular framework for the delivery of sustainable transport systems in accordance with higher-level plans.	- To promote sustainable transport. - To promote integrated and proper transport planning. - To promote safe travel. - To promote active travel infrastructural development. - To encourage modal shift.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Noise Action Plans	The Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to: • Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems • Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects • Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives	• Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies provide a long-term regional level strategic planning and economic framework in support of the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midland Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council. The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Waterford City and County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Tipperary County Council, Wexford County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council and Carlow County Council. The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its eight constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Cavan County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council; and Galway County Council.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes	Aims to improve water quality and ensure the protection or improvement of designated shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and contribute to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.	- Identifies key and secondary pressures on water quality in designated shellfish areas. - Outlines specific measures to address identified key and secondary pressures on water quality. - Addresses the specific pressures acting on water quality in each area.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

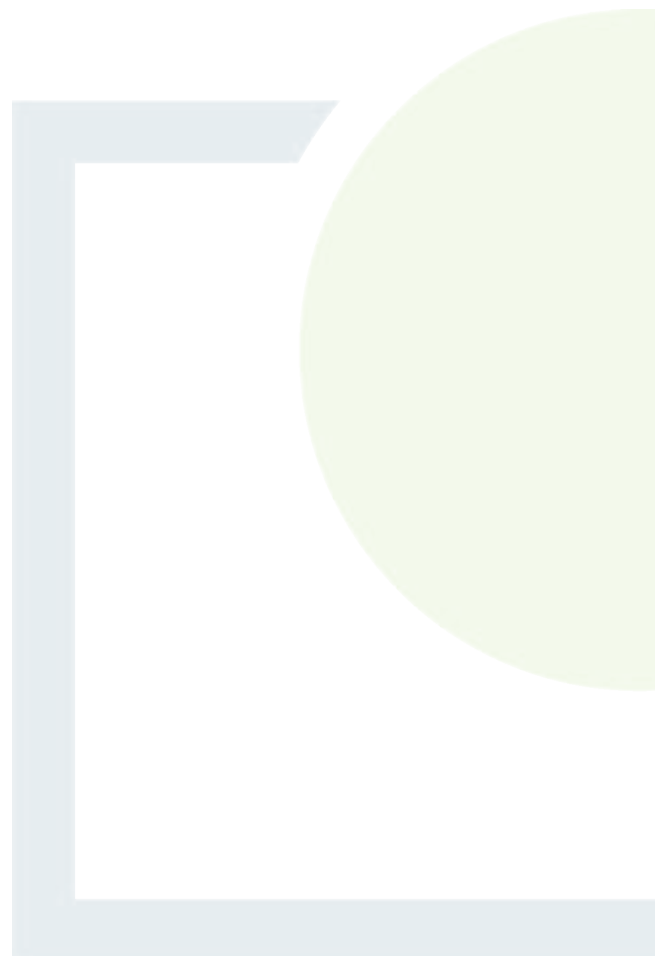
Regional/Local Level			
Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
Transport Strategy for the Cork Metropolitan Area 2040	The Strategy addresses all transport modes and its objective will be to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the integrated development of transport infrastructure and services in the Cork Metropolitan Area, over the next two decades	It will be used to inform transport investment levels and investment prioritisation over both the longer and shorter terms and will be able to inform sustainable integrated land use and transport policy formulation at the strategic (Metropolitan Area) level and at the local level.	The Plan shall be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters, such as this. The implementation of the Plan will be required to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards, in combination with other bodies and their plans or policies, the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 2

SEA Scoping Consultation
Submissions



The table itemises shows a list of all SEA Scoping submissions received from the statutory Environmental Authorities as part of the SEA Scoping process for the LUSIP

Ref.	Environmental Authority	Date Received
1	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) - Department for Communities Historic Environmental Division (HED).	06/05/2025.
2	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) - Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).	07/05/2025.
3	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) - (now termed Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment).	12/05/2025.
4	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).	15/05/2025.
5	Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) – Development Applications Unit.	16/05/2025.
6	Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM).	06/06/2025 - Updated 12/06/2025.

These submissions are presented in order overleaf.

Historic Environment Division

Second Floor

2 Titanic Boulevard

Belfast,

BT3 9HQ

Telephone: (028 90569840)

Email : Liam.mcquillan@communities-ni.gov.uk

Naoimh.quinn@communities-ni.gov.uk

Date: 06/05/2025

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION (SEA TEAM) COMMENTS RE: SEA SCOPING
REPORT FOR COILLTE STRATEGIC LAND USE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

DfC Historic Environment Division (HED) team operate via a Service Level Agreement with colleagues in DAERA in relation to SEA, whereby we provide authoritative comment and advice in relation to matters of Cultural Heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage. We make the following comments in respect of the documentation received by our office on 15/04/2025.

HED welcome the consideration afforded to potential for transboundary environmental effects in respect of cultural heritage assets in Northern Ireland. We note the articulation of archaeological assets in Northern Ireland on the mapping in Fig. 3-13, and the recognition of the wider portfolio of Historic Environment Records in Table 3-8. This wider suite of datasets will merit appropriate consideration at the project specific level. (NB HED advise that some of the figures here are significantly out of date (e.g. Defence Heritage) and revision of these would therefore be merited. This can be done through utilisation of our datasets which can be found at [Historic Environment Digital Datasets | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](http://Historic%20Environment%20Digital%20Datasets%20|%20Department%20for%20Communities%20(communities-ni.gov.uk)))

HED would normally expect to see consideration of inter-relationships between topic themes in the content of scoping reports, but would for the progression of environmental reporting, advise that the historic environment has relationships across several topic areas, inclusive of, but not confined to, landscape and biodiversity. We note the reference to World Heritage Sites and advise that it may be pertinent to further consider the Royal Sites of Ireland, which as referenced is presently on the tentative list, and which has a transboundary context in itself. Also of relevance on landscape scale, and particularly in respect of transboundary considerations would be UNESCO Geoparks such as the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark incorporating parts of Fermanagh and Cavan, and the Mourne Gullion Strangford Geopark which contain an array of geological and natural and cultural heritage features.

HED note and welcome that the proposed SEA objectives (CH1 and CH2, Table 4.1) factor in consideration of Northern Ireland's cultural heritage. We suggest that these objectives could incorporate conservation and enhancement(e.g. *Protect, conserve and enhance archaeological/architectural heritage and related settings, including entries to*).

We consider that the potential impact on setting of heritage assets could be more clearly recognised as a key consideration in 3.7.3. and in Table 3.9) Impacts on setting/understanding are possibly one of the most likely types of transboundary environmental effect in respect of cultural heritage, alongside impacts on assets which are transboundary in their physical makeup (ancient earthworks, routeways, canals etc).

HED would also note the opportunity to consider the potential for environmental effects in respect of heritage landscapes such as entries on the Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes.

Finally in respect of Plans and Programmes with which the strategy may interact, HED advise the following plans and programmes with respect to international, Northern Ireland and locally specific concerns on Cultural Heritage.

International Level.

Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Valletta 1992)

Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (Granda 1985)

The European Landscape Convention (Florence 2000)

Northern Ireland

Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995

Planning Act (NI) 2011

Strategic Planning Policy Statement 2015

Regional Development Strategy 2035

Local Level

Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan Strategy

Derry City and Strabane Local Development Plan Strategy

Banbridge and Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015

HED note that LDP plan strategies will also be in due course forthcoming from:

Mid Ulster

Newry, Mourne and Down

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

If there are any queries about the content of this response we can be contacted via the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Liam McQuillan MCIfA

Senior Archaeologist

Naoimh Quinn RIBA

Senior Architect

HERITAGE RECORDS AND DESIGNATIONS BRANCH

Larissa Delazeri
Strategic Planning Manager
Coillte Forest
Corrin
Fermoy
Co. Cork

Strategic Environmental
Assessment Team
DAERA – NIEA
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED
YES

Email: SEATeam@daera-ni.gov.uk

7th May 2025

Re: Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan - Consultation on SEA Scoping

Dear Larissa Delazeri,

Thank-you for your email dated 14th April 2025 regarding the SEA Scoping exercise in respect of Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan.

The consultation body comprising of The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and (supported with a service level agreement) DfC Historic Environment Division (HED), has considered the consultation and associated report and our opinions are set out below and on the attached HED document.

DAERA notes that under Section 2.3 that within the Environmental Report other plans and programmes will be considered. Please note a non-exhaustive list at the bottom of the NED response which lists a number of plans programmes etc that should be considered for Northern Ireland. DAERA advise that details on any relevant conflicts and/or synergies between this plans objectives and the objectives of other plans and programs should be identified and described within the Environmental Report.

DAERA notes that regarding the Strategic Environmental Objectives no targets or indicators have been provided. DAERA note that these will be provided in the SEA Environmental Report as detailed within Section 4.2, DAERA look forward to reviewing this.

DAERA would like the SEA Environmental Report to contain a clear statement indicating the opinion about whether or not the implementation of this plan is likely to have a significant effect on Northern Ireland, in combination with any identified measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

Natural Environment Division Comments

NIEA Natural Environment Division works to ensure that Northern Ireland's special natural environment, including its flora and fauna and landscapes, is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of this and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

NED advise that impacts can occur at a distance and note that a Zone of Influence is detailed within the report, NED welcomes this. However, NED advise that impacts can occur outwith the Zone of influence for sites and environmental features which have hydrological links, NED advise that hydrological links should also be considered between the plan area and sites and environmental features within the SEA Environmental Report.

NED would recommend that the SEA Environmental Report is afforded as much detail to transboundary environmental topics as for the Republic of Ireland. This should include but not be limited to maps to hydrologically linked environmental features. Furthermore, details should be provided on the existing environment without the plan, any gaps in baseline data and if used alternative/ proxy data, any technical deficiencies or lack of know-how, please note this list is not exhaustive.

NED notes that reasonable alternatives will be detailed within the Environmental Report, NED look forward to reviewing these.

NED notes that an AA (Appropriate Assessment) screening will be carried out and dependent on the outcome a full AA. NED would welcome the opportunity to review the completed AA, screening or full should it be required when this has been completed. Note comments in relation to the zone of influence and hydrological links above.

Please note following the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, the collective term of "Natura 2000" sites the network of European protected sites are now known as "National Site Network" sites within the United Kingdom, and is including Northern Ireland.

It may be worth including in your considerations the following:

- **The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)**
- **Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011**



- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)
- The Environment (NI) Order 2002
- The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
- The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland
- Planning Policy Statements (PPS – in particular PPS2 and PPS18). It should be noted that the PPS's will be superseded by Local Development Plans when they are adopted.
- Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0>
- Draft Environment Strategy <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document>
- The Draft NI peatland policy: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation>.
- The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)
- Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 [Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-energy-strategy-2050) | Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)

DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat:
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer

A number of useful information sources that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level and which could be referenced are:

Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013>

Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report>

Other relevant web-links are;

Designated Scientific Sites: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas

Regional Landscape Character Map viewer: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer>

DAERA have a map browser for NI protected sites and known priority habitat:
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer

Our natural environment datasets are available at the link below:
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets

Appropriate Assessments should refer to the status of habitats and species in the relevant reports available on the JNCC website as follows: UK Article 17 report for the Habitats Directive <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/article-17-habitats-directive-report-2019/> and the UK Article 12 report for the Birds Directive <https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/european-reporting/#birds-directive-reporting>

Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit Comments

- Happy to see that air quality impacts on biodiversity are considered, in particular ammonia from agricultural activities;
- We note that transboundary issues will be considered for the SEA topics scoped in;
- Regarding baseline information:
 - o Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna – (p80) – Note that Areas of Special Scientific Interest are also protected in Northern Ireland. A map showing the location of protected sites is available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer>
 - o Details of protected areas in Northern Ireland can be found at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/protected-areas>

Landscape Team Comments

The Landscape team are content with the scope of the report, highlighting the potential of transboundary impacts on the landscape.

Water Management Unit Comments

The SEA should consider all issues in relation to the aquatic environment during all aspects / phases in relation to the implementation of the Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP). Impacts that should be considered include, (but may not limited to), those relating to water quality, water quantity, hydromorphology, and in addition any impact on NI/RoI migratory/mobile species such as salmon. Assessment should consider all potential impacts both direct and indirect.

It is important that cross border river basins are given special attention as ecological functionality cross jurisdictional boundaries.

After consideration, the SEA should clearly state whether, or not, any potential impacts to the aquatic environment in Northern Ireland have been identified and the nature of those impacts.

Plans and Programmes

River Basin Management Plans are the key tools for implementing the Water Framework Directive and to achieving its objectives. If the potential for transboundary impacts to Northern Ireland are identified, then the NI River Basin Management Plans must be considered during the SEA process.

DAERA has published the Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle period which runs from 2021-2027. The draft plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies) and sets out our targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years. The draft plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD.

The Draft River Basin Management Plan for the 3rd cycle contains information relating to Existing Plans & Projects (which are key for 3rd cycle RBMP), Links to new and forthcoming plans, policies and strategies and the Draft Programme of Measures for the 3rd cycle relevant to the aquatic environment.

The document can be downloaded from the consultation webpage:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-3rd-cycle-river-basin-management-plan-2021-2027>

Legislation

There are several key pieces of environmental legislation relating to the Water Environment and its protection in Northern Ireland.

A list of this environmental legislation including links to each individual piece of legislation is available at

[Water | NetRegs | Environmental guidance for your business in Northern Ireland & Scotland](#)

Baseline Information.

Several useful information sources are available that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level which could be referenced including the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report the latest of which (at the time of this response) is dated May 2024.

Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report>

DAERA issued a consultation document on Significant Water Management Issues to inform the development of the third cycle River Basin Management Plan (2021-2027). This gives further consideration of the pressures and their sources on water quality in Northern Ireland

Further details on these issues can be found at [Planning for the third cycle River Basin Management Plan 2021-2027 - Consultation on Significant Water Management Issues December 2019 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Also with regard to Northern Ireland Baseline Information and Data Sources DAERA have two map viewers in relation to the aquatic environment that may be of use, Water Information Request Web Viewer and NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer both of which can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

It is important that the most up to date information available is used in the formulation of the SEA.

Mitigation

Where adverse impacts on the aquatic environment are identified during the SEA process, and the nature of those potential impacts clearly identified, relevant and appropriate mitigation measures should be proposed. Mitigation measures must be proportionate to those risks identified.

Monitoring

Monitoring regimes should be identified (including where feasible, consideration of the monitoring body, frequency of monitoring, appropriate analysis, and reporting) to ensure both the efficacy of those mitigation measures and identify any unforeseen impacts to the aquatic environment that may arise from implementation of the LUSIP.

Monitoring should be subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data. The SEA should contain a commitment to actions should the monitoring regime identify adverse impacts during plan implementation despite the mitigation measures proposed.

Marine and Fisheries Division Comments

Marine Plan Team

Other Plans/Programmes that may influence or impact on the LUSIP (Section 2.3) and Relationship with Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Legislation – Cumulative Effects (Section 5.1)

Given this Scoping document and the forthcoming Environmental Report will give consideration to impacts on the marine area and its environment, it is suggested

that consideration should be given to including marine policy, legislation, plans and programmes within these sections.

From a transboundary perspective this includes the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, The Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013, the UK Marine Policy Statement 2011, the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland and the Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006-2026.

Links to these documents can be found via the following links:

[Towards an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006 - 2026 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

[Marine policy – UK Marine Policy Statement | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

[Marine Plan for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Scope of Environmental Baseline to be used in the assessment

Under Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity (Section 3.6) it is suggested the Mourne AONB is considered as part of any transboundary effects. In addition, consideration should also be given to those Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Areas within the 12nm scope of the SEA, such as, Foyle Estuary, Lough Foyle, Carlingford Lough and Mourne Coast being included in transboundary effects. Information on Northern Ireland's Regional Seascape Character Assessment can be found at [Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#). It is recommended that potential negative impacts on seascapes should be clearly recognised within the Key Considerations Relating to the Draft LUSIP section.

Under Water (Section 3.11) it is recommended consideration is given to the inclusion and consideration of bathing water quality and good environmental

status of coastal and marine waters in relation to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, given the SEA study area. In Northern Ireland, GES legislation and baseline information is included in the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 and the UK Marine Strategy. Further information can be found at [Marine Strategy | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#) and [About bathing water quality | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#). In coastal waters both MSFD and WFD apply. Some issues addressed by MSFD are not addressed by WFD, such as impacts on marine noise, litter, certain aspects of biodiversity and ensuring concentrations and effects of contaminants are kept within acceptable levels. Consequently, there may be potential pressures and impacts on bathing water quality and GES of coastal and marine waters, as a key consideration.

Strategic Environmental Objectives

It is suggested the environmental component column of Table 4.1 is amended from 'landscape and visual amenity' to 'landscape, seascape and visual amenity' to reflect the environmental baseline heading. In addition, it is unclear where the consideration of seascapes is captured within the SEO for landscape and visual amenity.

In relation to the Water SEOs, it is suggested (1) prevent impact upon the good environmental status of coastal and marine waters in line with the requirements of MSFD; and (2) maintain and/or improve of bathing water quality are also included within Table 4.1.

Conclusion

This will enable the SEA Environmental Report to take account of potential transboundary aspects in relation to Northern Ireland's marine environment.

Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Donna Whelan

Donna Whelan
Senior Scientific Officer
Countryside, Coast and Landscape
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Donna.WheLAN@daera-ni.gov.uk





Coillte,
Corrin,
Fermoy,
Co. Cork

12th May 2025

RE: SEA Scoping for Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (**DECC**) welcomes the opportunity to input into the scoping stage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (**SEA**) process relating to Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (**the Plan**).

Relevant Plans and Programmes

It is of critical importance that the analysis of climatic factors in the SEA process incorporates the latest quantitative data and analysis against which the proposed Plan can be assessed, in order to ensure that the Plan appropriately supports the State's climate ambition and legally binding target.

As such, we welcome the inclusion of the following relevant plans, programmes and policies and associated environmental assessments in the assessment of the Plan, which our Department has considered during previous SEAs of plans and programmes:

- [Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Plan 2023-2030](#) which sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.
- [The Clean Air Strategy for Ireland](#) provides the high-level strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote the integrated measures across government that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner ambient air, while delivering on wider national objectives. It outlines how we will enhance and protect the quality of the air that we breathe and realise the full environmental and health benefits of cleaner air.
- [Water Action Plan 2024 – A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland](#) which is committed to protecting and restoring Ireland's natural waters by complying fully with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.



This, soon to be published (early September 2024), Water Action Plan will accelerate the identification and implementation of the right measures in the right places to both restore and protect all waterbodies.

We further encourage consideration of the following relevant plans, programmes and policies and associated environmental assessments in the assessment of the Plan:

- The recently approved [Climate Action Plan 2025 \(CAP25\)](#), which is the third statutory annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. The CAP25 lays out the roadmap of actions to meet our national climate objective of pursuing and achieving the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050.
- The Government's new [National Adaptation Framework](#), which was approved in June 2024.
- The [National Peatlands Strategy](#)
- The [Land Use Review–Phase 1](#), published in 2023, which provides an evidence base to determine the environmental, ecological and economic characteristics of land types across Ireland. Phase 2 is due for completion and will go on to consider the policies, measures, and actions which will need to be taken in the context of the Government's wider economic, social and climate objectives.

The further suite of documents set out in the list below, can also provide useful and relevant baseline and benchmarks for quantitatively assessing the climate and environmental impacts of the proposed Plan.

- SEAI's report on the [National Energy Projections 2023](#) and associated [article](#)
- The Government's [Draft Updated National Energy & Climate Plan 2021-2023](#) (which will be finalised in the coming months)
- [Sectoral Emissions Ceilings](#)
- [Sectoral Adaptation Plans](#) made under the NAF
- The outputs from the [National Dialogue on Climate Action \(NDCA\)](#)
- EPA's reports [Climate Change in the Irish Minds \(CCIM\)](#)
- The EPA's report on [Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2022](#)
- Action 5.1 of the [Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023 – 2025](#)
- [The Sustainable Development Goals Implementation Plan 2022- 2024](#)
- The Government of Ireland's [Land Use Review](#).



- The EPA's [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050](#).
- The EPA's [Air Quality data](#), which details the locations of all monitoring stations currently in operation, along with real-time and historic data from each station.

Finally, the list of documents from Inland Fisheries Ireland set out in the list below, can also provide useful and relevant guidelines, baseline, benchmarks as a source of information for quantitatively assessing the climate and environmental impacts of the proposed Plan.

- [IUCN River Restoration and biodiversity](#)
- [IFISH River Restoration Guidance in an era of Climate Change](#)
- [Guidelines on protection of fisheries during construction works in and adjacent to waters](#)
- [IFI Urban Watercourses Planning Guide](#)
- [IFI's Open Data Portal](#)

We encourage the inclusion of the above listed reports as data sources and suggest they be included in the assessments to be set out in the Environmental Report. It is suggested that the Plan should be assessed in terms of its effects on the achievement of the objectives in the plans, policies and strategies in as detailed a manner as possible, by quantifying the impact of the Plan and its effects on the environment and climate objectives set out in them.

EU Legislation

In terms of EU Legislation, we recommend including reference to:

- The Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (the latest recast Renewable Energy Directive), Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy)
- The EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment)
- The Public Participation Directive 2003/35/EC (public participation in the process of drawing up certain plans and programs related to the environment).
- The [Soil Monitoring Law](#)
- The recently enacted [Nature Restoration Law](#)



We trust the above is of assistance in the scoping of the SEA process for the Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Planning Advisory Division

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Encl. Specific Comments on the SEA Scoping Report

Specific Comments on the SEA Scoping Report

Commenting on	Comment
List of other plans / programmes that may influence LUSIP on 9	Climate Action Plan 2025 has now been published. Consider including: • National Peatland Strategy • Land Use Review – phase 1 published 2023, phase 2 due for completion
P27 – second last paragraph re “threats to forest habitats” – also relevant for section 3.5.2, “Future trends (Evolution of the baseline)”	Windfall and storm damage presents a threat, given recent significant damage from storm Éowyn and threat of climate change
Re main threats to peatland areas, section 3.8.1.2, page 43	Drainage is not explicitly listed as a threat.
3.9.3 Key considerations relating to the draft LUSIP – in relation to achieving GHG emissions reductions under CAP 24	While our emission reductions targets and approach to the LULUCF sector is outlined in CAP 24, these are aligned with our requirements under the EU LULUCF Regulation.
3.12.1.1 – Forestry and Forestry Products and elsewhere there it references Coillte owning and managing 440,000 ha of lands	It would be useful in the document to state the proportion of this land that is forested, and for the area not forested, the relevant land use category
Page 75 section 3.12.2 – Line “It is expected that the forest land cover in Ireland will increase by approximately 8,000 ha per annum to meet the current targets”	Would consider changing to reflect that there is a target for 8,000 ha per annum, however, in recent years, less than 2,000 ha per annum has been afforested. Something along lines of: “To achieve this, there is a target for 8,000 hectares of afforestation per annum”
Page 78, section 3.14.1 – CAP 24 actions	This section should be updated to also refer to the recently published CAP 25 and the relevant actions therein (in addition to those listed from CAP 24): • Undertake a midterm review of the Forestry Programme 2023-2027.

	• Prepare a Land-Use Strategic Implementation Plan to deliver the Coillte Forest Estate Strategic Land-Use Plan. • Raise awareness among forest owners of the impact of timing when deciding to harvest their forest
Page 78, section 3.14.1 re “redesign of 30,000 ha of peatland forestry”	While there are numerous benefits, it is also important to bear in mind that in so far as forest to bog rewetting is concerned, there can be an initial spike in emissions, and it is also important to take into consideration the loss of the forest C sink.
Key Considerations relating to the draft LUSIP P 79	A key consideration also ought to be overall expected GHG flux from peatland forest redesign, considering both short term and long term impacts of both deforestation and peatland rewetting.
Page 9, section 2.3 re “other plans/programmes that may influence or impact on LUSIP”	Bioeconomy Action Plan 2023-2025 to be included in this list of plans.



Regional Inspectorate,
Inniscarra,
County Cork, Ireland
Cigireacht Réigiúnach, Inis Cara
Chontae Chorcaí, Éire
T: +353 21 487 5540
F: +353 21 487 5545
E: info@epa.ie
W: www.epa.ie
LoCall: 1890 33 55 99

By email to: lusip@coillte.ie

Ms Larissa Delazari
Strategic Planning Manager
Coillte
Corrin
Fermoy
Co. Cork

15th May 2025

Our Ref: SCP250402.1

Re. SEA Scoping for Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan

Dear Ms Delazari,

We acknowledge your notice, dated 14th April 2025, in relation to the Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (the 'LUSIP') and associated SEA Scoping Report.

The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the LUSIP and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the LUSIP. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.

Where we provide specific comments on plans and programmes, our comments will focus on the EPA's remit and areas of expertise (in particular water, air, climate change, waste, resource efficiency, noise, radon and the inter-relationships between these and other relevant topics e.g. biodiversity), as appropriate and relevant to the particular plan or programme.

This submission comprises two parts, this cover letter which highlights some key environmental issues relating to forestry and the SEA process and Appendix I provides additional comments regarding the SEA process and resources available to support the SEA. The EPA may also provide further comments upon receipt of the SEA Environmental Report and draft LUSIP at the next stage of the SEA process.

Business Area Unit Scale assessments

We note the six Business Area Units (BAU) set out in scoping report. We suggest that, while the Plan is a national plan, the maps (and assessments) in the SEA could focus more on the BAU scale. This would help focus on what key sensitivities in those areas, such as habitats/species, or water quality. These maps would also be useful to inform specific relevant mitigation and monitoring information in the SEA, that may be required in the respective BAU areas.



Utilising forest management at a BAU level could promote wider sustainable forestry practices and better coordinate, manage, and monitor activities and help target measures in those areas. To better assess and manage forestry and related activities within each BAU, it may be more appropriate to establish separate BAU-level plans. This would allow greater detail of the resources (and constraints) in those areas to be provided, and also consider any specific mitigation and monitoring measures required for forestry management and environmental protection.

Water Quality

The main issue which impacts on the quality of our waters and their biological health is increased concentrations of nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Human activities, such as agriculture, wastewater (domestic and urban) and forestry, are the primary cause of nutrient loss to our waters.

The EPA has developed a series of 'papers' which provide a summary of the impacts of a number of different pressures on water quality, including one on [forestry](#). These may be useful in preparing the SEA.

Despite there being significant rules, regulations and codes of practice available to prevent significant environmental impacts from occurring, additional focus is needed to ensure the effectiveness of the mitigation actions during operations. While this is especially important in sensitive High-status sites, it is important in all waterbodies.

The EPA's State of the Environment Report for 2024, describes that nearly half (46%) of our surface waters are not ecologically healthy, and this is primarily due to human activities. The latest EPA water quality report [Water Quality in 2023 – An indicators Report](#) (EPA, 2024) shows that water quality is not as good as it should be, and that any improvements made in recent years are being offset by declines elsewhere. Some summary highlights of the report are shown below.

- The proportion of rivers in satisfactory biological condition is relatively unchanged since 2018 and there is no indication yet of an improvement.
- Of the 1,459 river water bodies monitored in 2022 and 2023 there has been a further small net decline in biological quality of 45, with the number of declines (232) exceeding the number of improvements (187).

There has been a slight decline in the proportion of lakes with satisfactory (high and good) biological quality, driven by a reduction in the number of lakes with high biological quality.

Water quality impacts can arise due to acidification, nutrient and sediment mobilisation, and modifications to the physical habitat conditions of water courses through drainage. These impacts occur during forestry activities such as planting, thinning and clear-felling can cause a substantial decline in water quality, by as much as two or sometimes three status classes. Once the forests become stable, the water bodies can recover within a few years.

The LUSIP should emphasise how forestry can achieve multiple environmental benefits in a river basin catchment or sub-catchment context. For example, planting native woodland in low-lying poorly drained riparian zones can provide multiple environmental benefits.

Coillte has made progress in forest management by establishing policies and standards designed to address the impacts on water quality from forestry operations. However, forestry operations, particularly in legacy forestry sites, continue to impact on water quality. The LUSIP should focus on preventing water-related impacts from forestry activities, particularly in highly sensitive areas. Implementing '*the right tree in the right place*' approach, will be a key measure to mitigate against inappropriately sited forests.

High status waters are particularly sensitive to the impacts that can arise from forestry operations. Sediment losses from forestry operations in upland catchments is the most significant pressure impacting on our high-status waters. These water bodies are also impacted by nutrients and chemicals, and by alteration of the physical habitat conditions (hydromorphology) of streams. These impacts occur during afforestation, deforestation, and thinning operations, when ground conditions are disturbed, especially when the soils are organic as they are typically less stable than mineral soils. Drained organic soils also give rise to high ammonium in these waterbodies which is harmful to aquatic habitats and species. The potential impacts from forestry should also address the impacts of herbicides and pesticides (such as cypermethrin and acetamiprid) on both water quality and biodiversity.

Emissions

Current low afforestation rates (~2000 ha/annum) are well below the planned 8,000 ha foreseen annually, and as specified in *Ag-Climatise – A Roadmap towards Climate Neutrality* and the Forest Strategy. This, combined with increased timber harvest, will lead to further reductions in the ability of our national forests to contribute to removals of CO₂ emissions going forward. This is due to decreased afforestation rates and the maturity of the forest stand. The LUSIP must be explicit in how its interventions will contribute towards achieving a position of carbon neutrality for Ireland by 2050.

While the forestry sector plays an important role as a source of CO₂ removal from the atmosphere, there has been a noticeable reduction in the absolute value of this sink / removal activity due to the current age profile of our national forest stock.

Quantifying the extent of forestry that will be needed, to be consistent with Ireland's climate commitments, to help deliver a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is important. The 8,000 hectares per annum afforestation goal set out in the Ireland's Forestry Strategy Implementation Plan does not appear to be consistent with supporting achievement of the climate neutrality goal based on EPA-funded research¹. This research found that between 13,000 hectares and 40,000 hectares per annum of afforestation would be needed from 2025 to 2050 to offset projected CO₂ and N₂O emissions from the agriculture sector. This should also be considered, as appropriate in the LUSIP.

The LUSIP should ensure the full implementation and enforcement of the relevant environmental requirements for afforestation, and increasing the level of oversight where operations may potentially be considered in high status catchment areas. The *Forests & Water – Achieving Objectives under Ireland's River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021* (DAFM, 2018), and any relevant measures in the Water Action Plan 2024 – Ireland's Third River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 (DHLGH) should be considered and integrated as appropriate.

¹ <https://www.plantagbiosciences.org/project/sequester/homepage/>



If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tadhg O'Mahony', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Tadhg O'Mahony
Senior Scientific Officer
Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring

Appendix I – Specific Comments on the SEA Scoping Report

Data & Knowledge Gaps

The LUSIP should identify any significant data and knowledge gaps, and include commitments to address these on a priority basis and where relevant, in association with other government departments/ organisations, during the implementation phase of the LUSIP. This is with a view to strengthening the evidence base for future reviews and iterations of the LUSIP.

Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024

In October 2024, we published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly [State of the Environment Report](#). This report should be considered, and relevant aspects integrated where appropriate, in implementing the LUSIP outputs/ recommendations. Specific chapters Chapter 4 ([Climate](#)), Chapter 5 ([Land](#)), Chapter 6 ([Soil](#)), Chapter 7 ([Nature](#)), Chapter 8 ([Water](#)), Chapter 10 ([Environment and agriculture](#)) and Chapter 14 ([Environment, health and wellbeing](#)) might be useful to review for any relevant recommendations.

Relationship with other plans and programmes

Consider also referring to the Water Action Plan 2024 – Ireland's Third River Basin Management Plan, Food Vision 2030, Revision to the National Planning Framework, CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 as well as any local authority landscape characterisation assessments.

We recommend including schematics in the LUSIP and SEA Environmental Report, showing the links and inter-relationships with other key relevant national, regional, sectoral and environmental plans.

Consultation

There is merit also in pointing to Article 13 of the SEA regulations (S.I. 435 of 2004, as amended) which relates to the consultations. The SEA regulations require that the draft LUSIP is sent to the statutory environmental authorities inviting written submissions. Coillte is required to publish a newspaper notice inviting submissions/observations from the public on both the LUSIP and the SEA environmental report. The SEA regulations refer to a public consultation period of not less than 4 weeks, however, given that the LUSIP is a key national plan, consideration should be given to undertaking a more appropriate consultation period in the order of 8-12 weeks. Submissions and observations received should be taken into consideration in finalising the LUSIP.

Transboundary consultation

Transboundary consultation should be undertaken with environmental authorities in Northern Ireland where the potential for likely significant transboundary effects have been identified. In this regard, the relevant requirements of the SEA protocol² under the ESPOO Convention should be considered, for any possible transboundary consultations with non-EU Member States.

Governance

We acknowledge that the vision and objectives of the LUSIP is to implement the measures/actions set out in the Forest Estate Land Use Plan (FESLUP), to develop and support commercial forestry activities while also delivering environmental benefits.

² UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.



Collaborating with key stakeholders (government departments, state agencies and forestry contractors) will help align the LUSIP with other national level environmental commitments set out in plans including the First Revision to the National Planning Framework, Climate Action Plan 2025, Water Action Plan 2024, CAP Strategic Plan and relevant forestry related plans/strategies. Coordinating national land use decision making should help minimise potential policy and environmental conflicts and maximise environmental co-benefits (water, air, climate, biodiversity) while also supporting sectoral and economic growth.

Scope of the SEA

The SEA should clearly set out the scope, remit and implementation related elements of the LUSIP. These will have implications for the SEA, in terms of guiding the level of assessment applicable at the appropriate level for the LUSIP. Where it is envisaged that measures proposed in the LUSIP will be implemented via other plans, which themselves have been or will be subject to SEA, this should be explained in the Environmental Report and considered in the assessment.

Where specific measures will be implemented directly, further detail should be provided in the Environmental Report and LUSIP on the relevant environmental assessments to be carried out at the project stage and relevant mitigation measures to be applied, as appropriate. There may be merit in exploring this issue further with the relevant Environmental Authorities during the LUSIP preparation and SEA processes.

There would be merit in including a matrix in the SEA environmental report to show the interrelationships between the various environmental topics. This should be accompanied by relevant explanatory text.

In *Section 3.2 Plan Boundary and Wider Study area*, while we note the LUSIP is of national importance, the scale of the maps is too large to show many of the environmental sensitivities easily. Consider splitting the national maps up into BAU level maps to provide for greater detail of the terrestrial areas covered by the LUSIP. Where potential significant effects on the marine environment are identified however, these should be discussed in greater detail. For example, where marine, coastal or transitional water quality might be impacted by forestry related activity arising from implementing the LUSIP, these aspects should be discussed in the SEA.

BAU maps areas should identify high conservation value forests (for example), to assist conservation management, as well as indicating areas considered for potential as possible forestry activity within or adjacent to those areas. The LUSIP should also take account of protected species such as freshwater pearl mussels, salmonids, hen harriers etc and their associated habitats, which may be more straightforward at BAU level.

Section 3.6 Landscape, Seascape and Visual Amenity, we suggest the EPA's [*Good practice guidance on SEA and Landscape*](#) (EPA, 2023) might be useful to refer to and take into account. Also, in this section, we suggest removing the reference to the ESM Sensitivity Mapping, as this project has now ceased. However, the spatial data inventory associated with this project is still being updated in 2025.

Section 3.8.2.2 Soils, it is advised to update the reference to the Seventh Environment Action Programme (EAP), to refer to the Eighth EAP, which looks to guide environmental policy until the end of the decade.

Section 3.9.2 Future trends (Evolution of Baseline) - Consider updating the reference to Food Harvest 2020 to Food Vision 2030.

Section 3.13 Tourism- The locations of Failte Ireland's Visitor Experience Development Plan areas, could be included in maps at a BAU scale. This could help promote the co-benefits of sustainable forestry and tourism/recreation activities.

Section 3.14 - Climate Change - This section states that Coillte has an ambition to redesign 30,000ha peatland forests by 2050 through rewetting or rewilding. It would also be useful to outline how this will be achieved and over what timeframe.

Where a specific plan or programme is proposed for this purpose, the requirements of the SEA and Habitats Directives should be considered. Additionally, this section should update references to the latest Climate Action Plan 2025.

Range of Effects

The SEA Environmental Report should refer to the full range of effects and of the area likely to be affected. This assessment should consider the duration and frequency of effects as well as short, medium and long-term, cumulative and synergistic effects of the LUSIP. The EPA's [*Good Practice Guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment in Strategic Environmental Assessment*](#) (EPA, 2020).

Sensitivity Mapping

The SEA and LUSIP would benefit from preparing a series environmental sensitivity maps for the different BAU areas. This would help identify areas of greater environmental sensitivity, which may limit the future use of lands or which may require specific mitigation/monitoring measures and arrangements for forestry applications in those areas. Sensitivity mapping can help indicate areas open to consideration for development/afforestation, or areas not suitable for development/afforestation etc., these will, however, rely largely on greater detailed maps and assessments lower in the forestry planning hierarchy. County level wind energy strategies (such as in Clare or Kerry for example) use this approach to guide wind energy development to preferred areas (avoiding environmentally sensitive areas).

Carrying out an opportunity / constraint mapping exercise, as done for plans such as the first Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan, could be useful. This would help inform which broad land types or areas may be best suited to certain types or scales of development covered under the LUSIP.

Landcover Mapping

While that the resolution of the new detailed EPA/Taillte Eireann land cover mapping information may be too detailed for the LUSIP, we suggest that a recommendation is included promoting its use within each BAU area for example.

Implementation, training and resources

The LUSIP should promote compliance with existing forestry guidelines and policies, including those relating to protection of water quality and biodiversity. The LUSIP should also support training/awareness activities of stakeholders to effectively implement the relevant guidelines and policies.

Integration of the SEA and the LUSIP

The integration of the SEA process into the LUSIP should reflect the overall objective of the SEA Directive “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes.”. The recommendations from the SEA, including mitigation measures, should be fully integrated and reflected in the LUSIP. This is key to strengthening the LUSIPs environmental commitments, while ensuring that any significant adverse effects of implementing the LUSIP are mitigated. The EPA has recently published a [Good practice guidance note on SEA and Integration](#) (EPA, 2025) that may help in this regard.

The SEA ER should include a chapter outlining how the recommendations and mitigation measures from the SEA have been incorporated into the LUSIP. A similar section should be included in the LUSIP. We recommend that the SEA ER includes relevant summary tables outlining the key findings of the SEA and linking the significant environmental effects identified to the proposed mitigation measures, monitoring measures and recommendations.

Monitoring, Implementation & Reporting

The existing SEA monitoring programme associated with the FESLUP, should be used to inform the preparation of a SEA monitoring programme for the LUSIP. The SEA could refer to the existing monitoring programme when discussing monitoring considerations.

The LUSIP should include a commitment to implement the SEA environmental monitoring programme and associated reporting. We suggest including a separate section on ‘*Environmental Monitoring, Implementation and Reporting*’ in the LUSIP, setting out the provisions for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the LUSIP. There may be merits, as appropriate, in aligning the periodic reviews of the LUSIP with existing cyclical reporting e.g. *Ireland’s Environment, National Planning Framework, Water Framework Directive*, etc.

In between review periods for the LUSIP, we recommend that progress-related implementation reports are published annually, or biennially, as appropriate. We recommend aligning LUSIP implementation monitoring/reporting with the associated environmental monitoring required under the SEA legislation. This will enable the environmental performance of the LUSIP to be evaluated on an ongoing basis and would also provide for increased transparency during implementation.

The SEA-related monitoring should address positive, negative and cumulative effects where they are likely to occur and should include provision for on-going review to facilitate an early response and the adoption of remedial action(s) to address any significant environmental issues that may arise. The Environmental Report should set out the monitoring frequency and responsibilities and include provisions for reporting on the monitoring.

The EPA has prepared [EPA guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring](#) (EPA, 2023) that might be useful to consider in preparing a monitoring programme. The high-level monitoring indicators proposed in Table 1 on page 23, could be helpful to consider.

Establishing an Environmental Working Subgroup would provide for oversight of the environmental monitoring and reporting and could be considered. The arrangements in place previously for the implementation stages of plans such as the Grid 25 Implementation Plan, Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA), Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme and Food Vision 2030 may be worth considering, as appropriate.



Available Guidance & Resources

The EPA has published guidance notes that may be of assistance in preparing the SEA environmental report.

Guidance on the SEA Scoping Process is included in the Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland (EPA, 2003).

You can access our [SEA process guidance](#) and [topic and sector specific guidance documents](#) along with other resources listed below.

- SEA process guidance and checklists;
- Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA;
- Topic and sector specific SEA guidance (including [SEA and Integration Guidance](#) (EPA, 2025), [Good practice guidance on SEA and Landscape](#) (EPA, 2023) [Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment](#) (EPA, 2020), [Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA](#) (EPA, 2015), and [Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment](#) (EPA, 2012)).

EPA SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool

Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated and is now available at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>. It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

Catchments.ie

Our <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water> website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.

EPA Appropriate Assessment GeoTool

Our [AA GeoTool](#) application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area.

SEA Statement (Information on the Decision)

The final stage of the SEA process relates to the publication of an SEA Statement when the LUSIP is adopted. This statement will include information on how submissions and observations and consultation feedback made to Coillte during the SEA process have been incorporated into the LUSIP. The EPA has prepared [EPA guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring](#) (EPA, 2023) that might be useful to consider in preparing the SEA Statement.

Environmental Authorities

Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications;
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.



Your Ref: : **Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan**

Our Ref: **Plan02382/2025**

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

16th May 2025

Larissa Delazari
Strategic Planning Manager
Coillte
Corrin
Fermoy
County Cork

Via email to lusip_sea@coillte.ie

Re: Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan - Consultation on SEA Scoping

A chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage related observations/recommendations of the Department co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading(s).

Archaeology

The National Monuments Service of the Department welcomes the opportunity to comment on Coillte's Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan: SEA Scoping Report. The Department has the following advice in relation to the SEA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

2.3 Other Plans/Programmes that may influence or impact on the LUSIP

The SEA Environmental Report should consider:

Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage 2019

This plan was prepared as part of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) and followed the methodology set out in the Sectoral Planning Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in 2018. The guidelines proposed a staged and proportionate approach to adaptation planning structured around a six-step planning cycle including: 1) preparing the ground; 2) climate impact screening; 3) prioritisation; 4) priority impact assessment; 5) develop the plan; and 6)



implement, evaluate and review. A public consultation process was held in the preparation of the CCSAP B&AH, details of which are published in a separate volume. The final plan underwent screening for SEA and AA. The plan consists of 48 actions arranged under five goals and includes illustrative case studies of the impacts of climate change on built and archaeological heritage. The goals include to improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate-change impacts; develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage; conserve Ireland's heritage for future generations; communicate and transfer knowledge; and exploit opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources. Implementation of the CCSAP B&AH is underway. An expert Advisory Group meets twice yearly and a series of six Working Groups of stakeholders focus on different work packages of actions. It is an action of CAP 2024 to develop a new NAF. It is anticipated that a number of sectors, including Built and Archaeological Heritage, will be instructed to draw up a new or revised CCSAP on foot of the publication of the new NAF.

3.7 Cultural Heritage - Archaeological and Architectural

4.4.10 Landscape and Cultural Heritage

The *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Government of Ireland 1999)* sets out national policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage in the course of development and in accordance with the aims and requirements of the 'Valletta Convention'—1992 Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage—to which Ireland is a party.

The specific national legislative code for protection of monuments, historic wrecks and archaeological objects is the *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014* (as noted in the scoping reports). However, the *Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act (2023)* will replace the *National Monuments Acts (1930–2014)*. This new Act will provide for the protection of historic and archaeological heritage. A new 'Register of Monuments' will be established, replacing several overlapping designation and registration systems currently in operation. Newly discovered archaeological sites will be afforded immediate legal protection, mirroring the existing system for archaeological objects and historic wrecks that are automatically protected without a need for formal designation or registration. This will be reinforced by a statutory reporting scheme for finds of monuments. Subject to certain exceptions, archaeological objects with no known owner will automatically become the property of the State. A new civil enforcement procedure can be used as an alternative to, or to supplement, criminal proceedings.

The Act makes explicit provision for the protection of World Heritage sites, including, for the first time, a definition in Irish law for "World Heritage Property". The new legislation enables the State to ratify or accede to certain international conventions, notably the 2001 *UNESCO*



Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the 1970 *UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* and the 1995 *UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects*. The Act gives further effect to the 1992 *Council of Europe European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (the “Valletta Convention”).

The Act introduces a new integrated licensing system whereby one licence can authorise a range of activities and, for the first time, a statutory appeals process will be established to review licensing decisions.

Note while this new legislation has been signed into law, most of the provisions of the Act have not yet been commenced. However, it is expected that substantive implementation will occur within the lifetime of this plan. For more detailed information on what sections of the new Act have been implemented and for future updates, please see our website: <https://www.archaeology.ie/advice-and-support/legislation/>

Chapter 5 Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

5.3.8 Cultural Heritage

The Department notes that this section of the draft SEA does include *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites (WHS)*. However, the provided information is inaccurate and out of date. It is true that currently there only two World Heritage properties within the state—Brú na Bóinne in County Meath and Skellig Michael in County Kerry. The Tentative List was updated in 2022 and now includes only the following sites:

- The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo
- Royal Sites of Ireland: Ancient Irish Sites of Royal Inauguration
- Transatlantic Cable Ensemble

Further information on UNESCO World Heritage properties within Ireland and those on the current tentative list can be found here: <https://worldheritageireland.ie/>

The Department notes that this section of the draft SEA does include a summary of the legal provisions for the protection of underwater and maritime archaeology and cultural heritage, it has not included the National Monuments Service's *Wreck Inventory of Ireland Database (WIID)*. The WIID includes 18,000 records of known wrecks, though only 4,000 have precise locations, these encompass sites located within Ireland's inshore waterways (lakes, rivers, etc) as well as its territorial waters. The WIID can be accessed here: <https://www.archaeology.ie/underwater-archaeology/wreck-viewer>



Under existing environmental pressures/problems relating to Cultural Heritage, the SEA notes that ‘a National Adaptation Framework (NAF) and its sectoral plan for built and archaeological heritage is urgently required’. The Department notes that the National Adaptation Framework was published in 2018, followed by a Built & Archaeological Heritage: Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan (published in 2019). Should this instead reference a need for new/updated NAF and Sectoral Adaptation Plans (while acknowledging the work already completed)?

Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage 2019

This plan was prepared as part of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) and followed the methodology set out in the Sectoral Planning Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in 2018. The guidelines proposed a staged and proportionate approach to adaptation planning structured around a six-step planning cycle including: 1) preparing the ground; 2) climate impact screening; 3) prioritisation; 4) priority impact assessment; 5) develop the plan; and 6) implement, evaluate and review. A public consultation process was held in the preparation of the CCSAP B&AH, details of which are published in a separate volume. The final plan underwent screening for SEA and AA. The plan consists of 48 actions arranged under five goals and includes illustrative case studies of the impacts of climate change on built and archaeological heritage. The goals include to improve understanding of each heritage resource and its vulnerability to climate-change impacts; develop and mainstream sustainable policies and plans for climate-change adaptation of built and archaeological heritage; conserve Ireland’s heritage for future generations; communicate and transfer knowledge; and exploit opportunities for built and archaeological heritage to demonstrate value and secure resources. Implementation of the CCSAP B&AH is underway. An expert Advisory Group meets twice yearly and a series of six Working Groups of stakeholders focus on different work packages of actions. It is an action of CAP 2024 to develop and new NAF. It is anticipated that a number of sectors, including Built and Archaeological Heritage, will be instructed to draw up a new or revised CCSAP on foot of the publication of the new NAF.

4.2 Proposed SEA Objectives

The Department notes the inclusion of a specific objective—Objective CH1—for the protection of archaeological heritage. Given the character of the LUSIP we strongly advise that an additional objective is included to:

- (i) *Promote opportunities to enhance or conserve places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, historical archaeological or architectural heritage where they arise*

It is important that a requirement to protect the setting and amenity of archaeological and cultural heritage sites is clearly articulated, in addition to protecting the physical integrity of



the sites themselves. The Department takes the view that appropriately deployed land use management measures may (in some instances) serve to enhance the setting of cultural heritage sites or assist in their conservation, so it is important to include this positive objective.

Architectural Heritage

The National Built Heritage Service (NBHS) of the Department has reviewed the “Strategic Environmental Assessment Report of the Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan”, and has the following observations:

1. The SEA Report should have regard to Ministerial Guidelines ‘Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ issued under Sections 28 and 52 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Ministerial Guidelines are a practical guide for planning authorities and all others who must comply with Part IV (Architectural Heritage) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
2. The Department draws particular attention to “Chapter 13 Curtilage and Attendant Grounds” of the Ministerial Guidelines which is likely to be relevant to this plan in terms of identifying and addressing curtilage, attendant grounds and designed landscapes associated with protected structures.
3. The National Inventory of the Architectural Heritage also includes over 6,000 records of historic gardens and designed landscapes. These are principally demesnes but also included are garden cemeteries and urban parks, all of which are available at www.buildingsofireland.ie
4. The relevant policies and development management objectives relating to protected structures and their curtilage, architectural conservation areas, designed landscapes and non-structural architectural features will be contained in the relevant built heritage chapter of each local authority Development Plan.
5. The curtilage of a protected structure (particularly country houses) can be expansive and therefore consultation with respective local authorities will be beneficial in establishing such boundaries, as these are not available within Development Plan maps.



Nature Conservation

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the department note that the scoping conclusion for the biodiversity section (3.5) is that biodiversity resources have the potential to be impacted by the Draft LUSIP and therefore scoped into the SEA assessment.

As validation, the key considerations in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna within the draft LUSIP scoping report are as follows:

- The potential effects of forestry activities (e.g. afforestation) on non-designated biodiversity features e.g. important habitats and species outside designated sites - particularly with regard to barriers to movement and displacement.
- The potential for effects on designated areas.
- The potential to spread invasive species.
- Potential impact of recreational development on flora species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 (S.I. No. 235 of 2022).
- Potential impact of renewable energy development on biodiversity.
- Opportunities to promote green infrastructure, ecological connectivity nature-based solutions, and biodiversity net gain through the LUSIP.
- Nature conservation and restoration will be an intrinsic component of the Plan. The Plan has the potential to support biodiversity protection and enhancement in alignment with nature legislation and policy (e.g., the Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan)

The Department notes and welcomes the consideration of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2030) along with other plans and programmes that may influence or impact on the LUSIP.

The Department notes and welcomes the list of designated ecological sites and protected species as listed in Table 3-3. The definition of High Conservation Value Forests within the Coillte estate is supported as they lie within statutory designated sites across the country. These areas along with the suite of old woodland sites within the Coillte estate are of great importance. The Department requests that such areas are afforded ongoing protection within current statutory requirements.

In addition, it is stated in section 3.5.2 that conservation objectives developed by the NPWS for European sites will contribute to the critical change needed to revive biodiversity decline. This is very much supported.

Table 3-4 of the draft scoping report lists categories of non-designated habitat relevant to the plan, such as ecological connectivity and networks, and sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance. The Department would ask how are ecological connectivity and networks to be considered in the plan?



Other non-designated sites with high biodiversity value are also stated as being of key consideration for Coillte. The Department agrees with this statement but would ask how such areas are being considered in the plan?

The Department welcomes and supports the ongoing use of available data sources for bird monitoring, especially for red and amber list species across all habitats. Furthermore, the indication of consideration outside of European sites on protected species such as bats, birds and badgers, as well as species listed within the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 is very welcome.

The Department supports the proposals for documenting the distribution of invasive alien species, especially as they can transform habitats, making them unsuitable for native species.

The Department also notes that the scoping conclusion for the water environment (3.11) is that the Draft LUSIP has the potential to impact on water resources. Therefore, Water is scoped into the SEA assessment.

As validation the key considerations in relation to Water within the draft LUSIP scoping report include the following:

- Potential pressures and impacts on water body status from forestry and renewable energy development works (i.e. increased use of fertilisers, potential sedimentation (during afforestation and felling in particular) and accidental spillage/run-off).

The Department welcomes the consideration of High Ecological Status waterbodies in the SEA scoping report. This is especially important in terms of good water quality for qualifying interest species within designated sites, including fish, molluscs and mammals. Furthermore, the scope of the SEA Environmental Report should outline a strategy for containing deleterious matter from entering surface waterbodies.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt, Oifigí an Rialtais, Bóthair an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Development Applications Unit, Government Offices, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90
manager.dau@npws.gov.ie
www.gov.ie/housing



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Cormac O'Flaherty', positioned above a horizontal line.

Cormac O'Flaherty
Development Applications Unit
Administration
Tel: 01-2376003



Larissa Delazari
lusip_sea@coillte.ie

06th June 2025

Coillte's draft SEA Scoping report for their Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP)

Dear Larissa,

Following your request for submissions and observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SEA Environmental Report for the Coillte Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP), please find the submission from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as follows.

The Department has made observations under three headings – Environment, Archaeology and Climate which are detailed below.

Environment

DAFM is of the opinion that Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna must be screened in for consideration in the SEA. Furthermore, the SEA should consider but is not limited to the following in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:

- The potential effects of forestry activities on non-designated biodiversity features must consider all forestry operations not just afforestation – felling, reforestation and roading are key activities that can impact habitats and species both within and outside of designated areas. Recreation is also likely to impact on these habitats and species and must be considered.
- It is important to consider under potential for effects on designated areas
 - o Approximately 96,000 ha of Coillte land is designated as SACs, SPAs, NHAs or pNHAs. The Nature objective in the 6 BAUs ranges from 23.73% (southern BAU with Kerry and part of Limerick and Cork) to 33.91% (counties Laois, Offaly, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan and part of Leitrim). The scoping document states “Coillte currently have 70,000 ha have space within its lands that is assigned for nature conservation”. The SEA needs to consider is this sufficient or will it have a negative impact on designated sites in Ireland. The Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for the European Sites outlines how the conservation objectives of the European sites will be maintained or restored. Is the LUSIP ensuring that the objective for the forests within European sites reflects this - timber production may still be compatible



within some designated areas, but the overall objective must be the achievement of the SSCOs.

- o Potential effects on European sites must take into account supporting habitats which may not be within the European site. This is particularly key for some bird species.
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel is a species under threat and is classified as critically endangered in Ireland [The Freshwater Pearl Mussel | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#). Does the LUSIP support measures to protect and restore this species including the development of plans for the Coillte estate on a catchment basis for the top 8 freshwater pearl mussel catchments?
- Invasive species are a key threat to biodiversity in Ireland. The SEA should not just be confined to consideration of the plan in relation to the spread of invasive species but whether the plan will contribute to the achievement of objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (Outcome 2H).
- Impacts on Flora Protection Order species is not just confined to recreational development, changes in forest management practices may impact on some of these species e.g. Killarney fern.
- The SEA should consider whether the plan addresses other threats to biodiversity such as fire and deer. Does the plan support the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan in relation to these areas e.g. work of the Irish Deer Management Strategy Group and the development of a national fire management strategy.
- There is a reference in the scoping document to other management plans for declining species under future trends. However, the SEA must consider does the LUSIP support plans already in place
 - o Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan (HHTRP) was launched on the 10th of September 2024. Coillte are key to the delivery of the HHTRP and this must be recognised and supported.
 - o Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan
- The SEA must consider does the LUSIP support the Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte and NPWS (signed 17/09/2024).
- The SEA must consider does the LUSIP support the Nature Restoration Regulations and the targets and objectives that Ireland must achieve.
- Coillte's road network (existing and future) does not appear to be considered as a potential pressure / threat in the themes listed, apart from Soils and Geology.
- The Scoping document refers to afforestation, but it is not clear from the document that reforestation is considered in conjunction with felling.



- The interactions of themes must also be considered in particular Water and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. Potential negative impacts on water are likely to affect the achievement of SSCOs for many European sites.

Archaeology

DAFM concurs with the conclusion on Page 40 that archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage has the potential to be impacted by the draft LUSIP and therefore should be scoped into the SEA assessment.

It has the following specific comments to make:

- **Page 39:** References 50 and 53 need to be updated in light of the commencement of certain provisions of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023

See: <https://www.archaeology.ie/advice-and-support/legislation/>

- **Page 40:** Reference 58 probably should now read The National Built Heritage Service (NBHS).

See: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/about-us/>

- **Page 40:**

Subsection 3.7.2

There are also a number of sites on the UNESCO tentative list that may be designated in the near future.

The SEA should give greater consideration to the Irish Government's stated vision for fostering World Heritage in Ireland, which involves the exemplary protection and management of World Heritage Properties, empowered local communities and stakeholders, enhanced awareness and understanding of World Heritage generally, and the inscription of further Irish properties on the World Heritage List.

In respect of the latter, specific consideration should be given to the current Tentative List of sites that Ireland has identified as demonstrating potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to humanity and therefore suitable for nomination to the World Heritage List and which actions proposed in the LUSIP, if any, have the potential to result in impacts (negative or positive) on these sites (in particular their OUV and any aspects that contribute to their authenticity, integrity, and/or distinctiveness) and any indicative / working core or buffer zones relating thereto.

See: [Tentative Property Archives - World Heritage Ireland](#)

- **Page 40:**

Subsection 3.7.3



The potential effects of Coillte afforestation/renewable energy projects on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures.

All licensable forestry activities undertaken by Coillte and private forest owners have the potential to impact on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures, namely initial afforestation, felling (and reforestation), forest road construction, and aerial fertilisation. Potential impacts include both direct (physical destruction, damage, disturbance) and indirect (dewatering, changes in soil chemistry, overshadowing, increasing the scope for burrowing animals, changes to access, setting and amenity).

New or enhanced recreational facilities are also likely to impact on these sites and structures and must be considered.

- **Page 84:**

Theme - Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural

The potential impact of the changing land use on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures.

It is not just land use change that has potential impacts on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures. Management interventions, such as thinning or felling (and reforestation) of existing forests (which is not land use change per se) can equally have potential impacts.

Climate

DAFM welcomes Coillte's SEA scoping report for the Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP) in terms of its ambition in relation to Forests for Climate. The LUSIP highlights how the Coillte forest estate can contribute to the mitigation of the impacts of climate change through the sequestration of greenhouse gases. We are pleased to see that the LUSIP recognises the need to deliver afforestation and forest management practices that protect and capture carbon in line with national targets.

The LUSIP is on the right track, and it aligns with the goals and objectives of Ireland's Forest Strategy in relation to emission reductions in the LULUCF sector, as per the EU LULUCF Regulation (EU 2023/839) and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The LUSIP takes account of the need to manage forests for a number of objectives in a way that best delivers multiple benefits to society. The LUSIP also acknowledges the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024, which outlines the range of forest management options available to Coillte to deliver on Ireland's climate commitments.



DAFM would also encourage the use of and reference to LULUCF actions in CAP25 as part of the LUSIP, as well as the Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (2023). These resources outline a number of potential forestry contributions to climate change mitigation and the Coillte estate can help to deliver on some of these pathways. Their inclusion can add to the content and robustness of the SEA process.

In addition, DAFM welcomes the emphasis of the LUSIP on Forest Products and Forest based Bioenergy. It acknowledges the role that wood products can play in the construction industry and the need to deliver the sustainable wood supply needed to meet housing requirements of local populations. A greater use of these harvested wood products (HWP) will make a significant contribution to carbon removal in the LULUCF sector. Thus, this objective aligns with the objective of Ireland's Forest Strategy in terms of expanding the forest estate to deliver lasting benefits for wood production and climate change.

DAFM Forestry is committed to working constructively and collaboratively with Coillte to assist in the implementation of plans and objectives that will maximise the Coillte estates contribution to Ireland's climate change targets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barry Delany', is placed over a faint, circular official stamp.

Barry Delany

Director of Forestry

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



Larissa Delazari
lusip_sea@coillte.ie

12th June 2025

Coillte's draft SEA Scoping report for their Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP)

Dear Larissa,

Following your request for submissions and observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SEA Environmental Report for the Coillte Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP), please find the submission from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as follows.

The Department has made observations under three headings – Environment, Archaeology and Climate which are detailed below.

Environment

DAFM is of the opinion that Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna must be screened in for consideration in the SEA. Furthermore, the SEA should consider but is not limited to the following in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:

- The potential effects of forestry activities on non-designated biodiversity features must consider all forestry operations not just afforestation – felling, reforestation and roading are key activities that can impact habitats and species both within and outside of designated areas. Recreation is also likely to impact on these habitats and species and must be considered.
- It is important to consider under potential for effects on designated areas
 - o Approximately 96,000 ha of Coillte land is designated as SACs, SPAs, NHAs or pNHAs. The Nature objective in the 6 BAUs ranges from 23.73% (southern BAU with Kerry and part of Limerick and Cork) to 33.91% (counties Laois, Offaly, Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan and part of Leitrim). The scoping document states “Coillte currently have 70,000 ha have space within its lands that is assigned for nature conservation”. The SEA needs to consider is this sufficient or will it have a negative impact on designated sites in Ireland. The Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) for the European Sites outlines how the conservation objectives of the European sites will be maintained or restored. Is the LUSIP ensuring that the objective for the forests within European sites reflects this - timber production may still be compatible



within some designated areas, but the overall objective must be the achievement of the SSCOs.

- o Potential effects on European sites must take into account supporting habitats which may not be within the European site. This is particularly key for some bird species.
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel is a species under threat and is classified as critically endangered in Ireland [The Freshwater Pearl Mussel | National Parks & Wildlife Service](#). Does the LUSIP support measures to protect and restore this species including the development of plans for the Coillte estate on a catchment basis for the top 8 freshwater pearl mussel catchments?
- Invasive species are a key threat to biodiversity in Ireland. The SEA should not just be confined to consideration of the plan in relation to the spread of invasive species but whether the plan will contribute to the achievement of objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan (Outcome 2H).
- Impacts on Flora Protection Order species is not just confined to recreational development, changes in forest management practices may impact on some of these species e.g. Killarney fern.
- The SEA should consider whether the plan addresses other threats to biodiversity such as fire and deer. Does the plan support the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan in relation to these areas e.g. work of the Irish Deer Management Strategy Group and the development of a national fire management strategy.
- There is a reference in the scoping document to other management plans for declining species under future trends. However, the SEA must consider does the LUSIP support plans already in place
 - o Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan (HH RTP) was launched on the 10th of September 2024. Coillte are key to the delivery of the HH RTP and this must be recognised and supported.
 - o Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan
- The SEA must consider does the LUSIP support the Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte and NPWS (signed 17/09/2024).
- The SEA must consider does the LUSIP support the Nature Restoration Regulations and the targets and objectives that Ireland must achieve.
- The SEA must consider does the LUSIP support Ireland in achieving its obligations under the Water Framework Directive. Additionally, it must consider if it supports the achievement of the ten forestry actions set out in the recently published Water Action Plan 2024.
- Regarding MA3 on page 88, in the section dealing with 'Material Assets & Infrastructure', greater emphasis should be placed on the need to liaise closely with



consenting authorities (including the 1st Authority and the 2nd Authority, where these arise) in relation to the specific regulatory requirements involved in the assessment of infrastructural developments.

- Coillte's road network (existing and future) does not appear to be considered as a potential pressure / threat in the themes listed, apart from Soils and Geology.
- The Scoping document refers to afforestation, but it is not clear from the document that reforestation is considered in conjunction with felling.
- The interactions of themes must also be considered in particular Water and Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. Potential negative impacts on water are likely to affect the achievement of SSCOs for many European sites.

Archaeology

DAFM concurs with the conclusion on Page 40 that archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage has the potential to be impacted by the draft LUSIP and therefore should be scoped into the SEA assessment.

It has the following specific comments to make:

- **Page 39:** References 50 and 53 need to be updated in light of the commencement of certain provisions of the Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023

See: <https://www.archaeology.ie/advice-and-support/legislation/>

- **Page 40:** Reference 58 probably should now read The National Built Heritage Service (NBHS).

See: <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/about-us/>

- **Page 40:**

Subsection 3.7.2

There are also a number of sites on the UNESCO tentative list that may be designated in the near future.

The SEA should give greater consideration to the Irish Government's stated vision for fostering World Heritage in Ireland, which involves the exemplary protection and management of World Heritage Properties, empowered local communities and stakeholders, enhanced awareness and understanding of World Heritage generally, and the inscription of further Irish properties on the World Heritage List.

In respect of the latter, specific consideration should be given to the current Tentative List of sites that Ireland has identified as demonstrating potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to humanity and therefore suitable for nomination to the World Heritage List and which actions proposed in the LUSIP, if any, have the potential to result in impacts (negative or positive)



on these sites (in particular their OUV and any aspects that contribute to their authenticity, integrity, and/or distinctiveness) and any indicative / working core or buffer zones relating thereto.

See: [Tentative Property Archives - World Heritage Ireland](#)

- **Page 40:**

Subsection 3.7.3

The potential effects of Coillte afforestation/renewable energy projects on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures.

All licensable forestry activities undertaken by Coillte and private forest owners have the potential to impact on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures, namely initial afforestation, felling (and reforestation), forest road construction, and aerial fertilisation. Potential impacts include both direct (physical destruction, damage, disturbance) and indirect (dewatering, changes in soil chemistry, overshadowing, increasing the scope for burrowing animals, changes to access, setting and amenity).

New or enhanced recreational facilities are also likely to impact on these sites and structures and must be considered.

- **Page 84:**

Theme - Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural

The potential impact of the changing land use on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures.

It is not just land use change that has potential impacts on existing and unknown archaeological sites, architectural heritage sites, and protected structures. Management interventions, such as thinning or felling (and reforestation) of existing forests (which is not land use change per se) can equally have potential impacts.

Climate

DAFM welcomes Coillte's SEA scoping report for the Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP) in terms of its ambition in relation to Forests for Climate. The LUSIP highlights how the Coillte forest estate can contribute to the mitigation of the impacts of climate change through the sequestration of greenhouse gases. We are pleased to see that the LUSIP recognises the need to deliver afforestation and forest management practices that protect and capture carbon in line with national targets.

The LUSIP is on the right track, and it aligns with the goals and objectives of Ireland's Forest Strategy in relation to emission reductions in the LULUCF sector, as per the EU



LULUCF Regulation (EU 2023/839) and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The LUSIP takes account of the need to manage forests for a number of objectives in a way that best delivers multiple benefits to society. The LUSIP also acknowledges the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024, which outlines the range of forest management options available to Coillte to deliver on Ireland's climate commitments.

DAFM would also encourage the use of and reference to LULUCF actions in CAP25 as part of the LUSIP, as well as the Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve (2023). These resources outline a number of potential forestry contributions to climate change mitigation and the Coillte estate can help to deliver on some of these pathways. Their inclusion can add to the content and robustness of the SEA process.

In addition, DAFM welcomes the emphasis of the LUSIP on Forest Products and Forest based Bioenergy. It acknowledges the role that wood products can play in the construction industry and the need to deliver the sustainable wood supply needed to meet housing requirements of local populations. A greater use of these harvested wood products (HWP) will make a significant contribution to carbon removal in the LULUCF sector. Thus, this objective aligns with the objective of Ireland's Forest Strategy in terms of expanding the forest estate to deliver lasting benefits for wood production and climate change.

DAFM Forestry is committed to working constructively and collaboratively with Coillte to assist in the implementation of plans and objectives that will maximise the Coillte estates contribution to Ireland's climate change targets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barry Delany', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barry Delany

Director of Forestry

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



APPENDIX 3

Detailed Evaluation of the
Environmental Effects of Plan
Implementation



Approach and Methodology for the Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation

A detailed evaluation of the potential effects of the Plan on the baseline environment has been carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines. An evaluation matrix template has been developed to facilitate the evaluation of the Plan on Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) relevant to each Environmental Component.

A dedicated evaluation matrix has been prepared for each Pillar in the Plan. Plan Actions are listed on one axis of this matrix. The corresponding potential environmental effects of the actions are then described. An evaluation of the environmental effects of Actions on Environmental Components, having regard to the SEOs relevant to each Environment Component, was then carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. Potential effects of the Plan on Environmental Components/SEOs have been categorised as follows:

- Potential Positive Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '+').¹⁰²
- Potential Negative Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '-').¹⁰³
- Potential Positive and Negative Environmental Impacts (indicated in the matrix by a '+/-').
- Uncertain Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '?').
- Neutral, No or Insignificant Environmental Impact (indicated in the matrix by a '0').

The following should be noted in relation to the evaluation undertaken:

- Environmental effects of the Plan have been described in accordance with descriptive terminology defined in the Environmental Protection Agency's guidance document entitled '*Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*' (2022).
- The evaluation considers all potential direct, indirect/secondary, cumulative,¹⁰⁴ synergistic,¹⁰⁵ short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative environmental effects.
- The evaluation considers inter-relationships and interactions between one Environmental Component and another which can result in an environmental impact.
- The evaluation considers all potential environmental effects arising from unforeseen abnormal events.
- The evaluation considers potential transboundary effects.
- The potential environmental effects described are the potential effects that could occur without the adoption of any environmental mitigation measures.

Detail on the SEOs associated with Environmental Components which the environmental effects of the Plan have been measured against is provided in Table 1.

¹⁰² Potential Positive Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to support the achievement of an SEO.

¹⁰³ Potential Negative Environmental Impacts are defined as having the potential to hinder the achievement of an SEO.

¹⁰⁴ The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.

¹⁰⁵ The addition of effects to create a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects so that the nature of the final impact is different to the nature of the individual impact.

Completed Evaluation Matrices are then presented.

Transboundary environmental effects were a fundamental and intrinsic consideration during the carrying out of the environmental assessment.

Table 1: Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, that lower-level plans and projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the LUSIP.
Population, Human Health & the Economy	PHH1	Minimize impacts from development and operations on population and human health.
	PHH2	Minimize impacts from development and operations on economic activity and growth.
	PHH3	Engage with local communities and provide areas for amenity and recreational uses to promote wellbeing and human health.
	PHH4	Contribute positively to the well-being of workers and local populations.
	PHH5	Promote economic growth within the forestry sector and contribute to job creation and business development in rural areas.
	PHH6	Provide sustainable, high-quality timber products to the Irish market to meet demand and in support of housing development.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives, with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ¹⁰⁶ as well as corresponding Northern Irish legislation.
	B2	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B3	To avoid significant adverse impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; in compliance with wildlife and invasive species legislation.
	B4	Go beyond biodiversity protection to deliver biodiversity enhancement and forest management for nature - in response to the biodiversity emergency and in line with the National Biodiversity Plan and its targets.
	B5	Manage old and ancient woodlands to enhance their biodiversity value.

¹⁰⁶ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity	L1	Contribute to the conservation, protection, enhancement and management of the character and quality of Ireland's distinctive landscape and seascape.
	L2	Minimise development impacts on sensitive and/or important landscapes/seascapes, including those designated under the land use planning framework.
	L3	Minimise adverse visual effects, including effects on sensitive visual receptors and views and prospects designated under the land use planning framework.
Cultural Heritage	CH1	Protect and conserve archaeological heritage features, and the settings surrounding these features that are part of or contribute to the character and value of these features, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), the prospective Register of Monuments and the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR).
	CH2	Protect and conserve architectural heritage features, and the settings surrounding these features that are part of or contribute to the character and value of these features, including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), industrial heritage, Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and features/conservation areas designated in Northern Ireland.
	CH3	Promote opportunities to enhance or conserve places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, historical archaeological or architectural heritage where they arise.
Geology and Soils	GS1	Minimise adverse effects on soil functions and deliver soil enhancement.
	GS2	Minimise adverse effects on the physico-chemical properties of soil.
	GS3	Increase uptake of sustainable soil management practices that contribute to the preservation of soil and peatlands, aiding in achieving good soil quality and stability.
Land use	LU1	Minimize effects on other land use activities/objectives and promote sustainable land use.
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Minimize effects on local air quality.
	AQN2	Minimise adverse noise impacts on sensitive receptors.
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface water bodies, in line with Water Framework Directive requirements.
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters, in line with Water Framework Directive requirements.
	W3	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.
	W4	Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective
	W5	Prevent impacts upon drinking water quality.
	W6	Prevent impacts upon the status of transitional, coastal and marine waters in line with the requirements of the WFD, the MSFD and Northern Ireland's Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.
	W7	Maintain and/or improve bathing water quality.
Material Assets & Infrastructure	MA1	Minimise effects on or conflicts with local, regional and national material assets and infrastructure, including future, planned infrastructure.
	MA2	Promote sustainable travel and transport
	MA3	Promote the effective and sustainable use of forest products.
	MA4	Enable the delivery of renewable energy projects for the benefit of national energy demands - through its joint venture FuturEnergy Ireland and via land agreements with other renewable energy developers.
	MA5	Promote sustainable waste/material management and the circular economy.
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise adverse effects upon tourism and recreation amenities, and enhance tourism and recreation, where possible.
Climate Change	CC1	Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the delivery of renewable energy projects in line with national objectives and targets.
	CC2	Promote carbon sequestration in line with national objectives and targets.
	CC3	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forestry related transport operations.
	CC4	Integrate sustainable and low/zero carbon design solutions into Coillte development projects, where possible.
	CC5	Contribute to sectoral adaptation to the effects of climate change.
	CC7	Consider and appropriately manage the effects of climate change during development and forest planning processes.

Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation

The detailed evaluation of the environmental effects of Plan implementation is presented overleaf.

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	CO3.A1	Support and facilitate those public bodies who are committed to pursuing opportunities for afforestation on publicly owned land by supplying key afforestation management and planning services.	National	NA	2026-2035	Afforestation hectares enabled on Public Land.	This action supports the carrying out of afforestation by public bodies. Afforestation will increase forest cover in the country and generated a wide range of positive environmental effects - on climate (through carbon sequestration), biodiversity, the water environment (through water regulation and filtration improving water quality), air quality, soils, material assets (through provision of wood product to the market for use in construction) and population and human health. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Water Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Action plan) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment. However, afforestation has the potential to also negatively affect environmental components where poor forest development approaches/practices and management techniques are used. The range of activities associated with forestry, including road construction, afforestation, harvesting and reforestation may negatively effect population and human health (through visual impacts, nuisance etc.), biodiversity (habitat loss/fragmentation, species disturbance, changes in environmental features/quality essential for ecological functions etc.), landscape/seascape (if	Yes	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	CO4.A1	Consider proposals to help promote farmer-led afforestation and collaborate with key stakeholders.	National	NA	2026-2030	Proposal(s) developed.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to farmer-led afforestation. It will contribute to the effective delivery of the national aim under The Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 to increase the current area of land under forest cover in Ireland. This action supports the carrying out of afforestation by farmers. Afforestation will increase forest cover in the country and generated a wide range of positive environmental effects - on climate (through carbon sequestration), biodiversity, the water environment (through water regulation and filtration improving water quality), air quality, soils, material assets (through provision of wood product to the market for use in construction) and population and human health. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Water Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Action plan) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment. However, afforestation has the potential to also negatively affect environmental components where poor forest development approaches/practices and management techniques are used. The range of activities associated with forestry, including road construction, afforestation, harvesting and	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
							By collaborating and engaging with farmers and key stakeholders, Coillte can provide best practice guidance for farmers, allowing for better knowledge and skill sharing. Owing to Ireland's mosaic nature of farmlands, afforestation on these properties will contribute towards reducing fragmentation of forest habitats, increasing green corridors within the landscape which will have a positive effect on biodiversity, particularly farmlands birds which are in serious decline in Ireland and the EU. There are, however, potentially negative impacts on the landscape and visual amenity from Coillte encouraging this afforestation as it may disturb the traditional composition of the Irish agricultural landscape (if no appropriate sited or designed.													
	CO5	Secure the necessary investment to achieve this ambition by exploring all sources of available funding.																		

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	CO5.A1	Develop new funding models to deliver nature and climate-based credits and create projects that will deliver new afforestation and continue to support investors in Irish forestry by providing afforestation, woodland management and other important services to investor funds that promote afforestation.	National	NA	2026-2035	Funding model developed.	This action will support and drive nature and climate positive afforestation. The knowledge sharing proposed under this action will result in more effective and appropriately planned afforestation. This action supports the carrying out of afforestation. Afforestation will increase forest cover in the country and generated a wide range of positive environmental effects - on climate (through carbon sequestration), biodiversity, the water environment (through water regulation and filtration improving water quality), air quality, soils, material assets (through provision of wood product to the market for use in construction) and population and human health. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Water Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Action plan) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment. However, afforestation has the potential to also negatively affect environmental components where poor forest development approaches/practices and management techniques are used. The range of activities associated with forestry, including road construction, afforestation, harvesting and reforestation may negatively effect population and human health (through visual	Yes	+/ -	+/ -	-	-	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
hectares of Peatland Forests for climate and ecological benefits by 2050.	CO6.A1	Review existing in-house information to identify potential locations for the redesign of ca. 15,000 ha of peatlands and engage with external stakeholders. Redesign of Peatland Forests will ultimately be delivered over the longer term through a combination of rewetting/rehabilitation (“Forest-to-Bog” projects) and through transiting commercial forests to semi-natural forests with open spaces as appropriate.	National	15,000 ha	2026-2030	Ha identified for redesign.	This action supports the carrying out of peatland forest restoration projects nationally.													
Peatland restoration projects have the potential to generate a positive effects on climate (through increasing carbon sequestration and reducing LULUCF sectoral emissions), biodiversity (through the restoration of peatland habitat), landscape/seascape, soils (through enhanced soil structure and stability), land use, water quality and hydrology (through reduced nutrient run-off, better filtration, improved water retention), cultural heritage (given the cultural value associated with peatlands in Ireland) and tourism and recreation.																				
This action aims to identify suitable areas for peatland forest redesign. The site-selection process supported by this action will better ensure that the most appropriate sites are selected for peatland restoration. This will contribute to maximising positive effects associated with these projects.																				
							These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the National Peatlands Strategy, the Water Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Action plan) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment.													
							Peatland restoration projects													

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective of peatland forest restoration. This action promotes increased engagement with the external stakeholders, and the enhancement of peatland related expertise within Coillte. This will maximise the potential positive effects that may occur due to the implementation of this and minimise the likelihood of negative effects occurring due to these projects.												
	CO7	Continuously develop guidelines for the redesign of peatlands based on best Irish and international practice informed by suitably qualified professionals.																	
	CO7.A1	Engage with experts and practitioners undertaking large scale peatland rehabilitation programmes in Ireland and continue to review the international literature and develop best practices on the redesign of peatland at scale.	National	NA	2026-2035	Peatland Rehabilitation Guidelines developed.	This action supports the development and implementation of best practices in peatland restoration projects. this process will be informed by engagement with experts and practitioners currently undertaking peatland restoration projects. This action promotes increased the enhancement of peatland	Yes	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+	+/-

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	CO8	Establish and implement monitoring and management frameworks for redesigned peatlands. Such monitoring and management frameworks shall be designed by suitably qualified, multidisciplinary professionals.																	
	CO8.A1	Develop monitoring and management frameworks for redesigned peatlands using earth observation and on-site measurement techniques.	National	NA	2026-2030	Framework developed.	This action supports the development of monitoring and management frameworks for peatland redesign. This will have a positive effect on peatland restoration processes as it allows for increased knowledge on the current state of the environment and allows for the effectiveness of current management actions to be assessed and improved. This will improve peatland restoration processes and contribute to maximising positive effects associated with these projects and minimising the likelihood of negative effects occurring due to these projects. However, if on-site measurements are mis-managed this could inadvertently lead to negative effects on biodiversity, water or soil environments at or connected to peatlands. These effects have the potential to be transmitted across borders and combine with the effects of other plans, programmes or projects to create more significant, negative cumulative effects.	No	0	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	0	0
Ambition 3: Manage the existing Forest Estate to increase	CO09	Utilise land use planning models to deliver balanced carbon mitigation management options to achieve the 10m tonnes of CO2 storage target.																	

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
the carbon store by 10m tonnes of CO2 by 2050.	CO9.A1	Update land-use planning model to generate GHG profile using up-to-date inventory and harvest volume data and undertake analysis to ensure proposed management options implemented within the timeframe of this plan supports the delivery of the longer-term ambition.	National	c.3M tonnes CO2 sequestered.	2026-2035	Planning models updated and reporting GHG profile.	This action will facilitate increased knowledge on the current state of the GHG profile of Coillte and will analyse the effects of the proposed management options within this plan to be implemented on this profile. This action will help in understanding the expected effects of future management practices within Coillte and evaluating how they will contribute to the ambition of CO2 storage. This will lead to more effective action towards achieving this ambition and will thus have a positive effect on climate (also resulting in various co-benefits to other environmental components). This action in and of itself will not cause the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects.	No	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+
	CO10	Undertake continued refinement and analysis of the impact of forest management and mitigation measures to improve forest productivity, including, managing the age profile to improve the estate’s carbon efficiency.																	
	CO10.A1	Continually review and analyse forest management practices that can support climate mitigation, and where appropriate engage with scientific experts in the field to further understand the data and knowledge of carbon dynamics. Consider how they can be incorporated into reporting requirements such as SBTi and GHG protocol.	National	NA	2031-2035	Planning models updated and reporting GHG profile.	The continued review and analysis of forest management practices that support climate mitigation will have a positive effect on climate change. A constant review and analysis process allows for the most update to date knowledge and principals to be applied and provides an iterative feedback process wherein current management practices can be improved upon. By engaging with scientific experts, Coillte are fostering a collaborative approach to climate mitigation, taking under advisement the best applicable expertise and guidance. This expertise will help better inform Coillte's	No	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	CO13	Deepen our understanding of the potential of product substitution from harvested wood and undertake additional analysis related to fossil fuel displacement and value chain emissions.																	
	CO13.A1	Review and update analysis on product substitution based on up-to-date wood supply and usage figures to produce new displacement factors.	National	NA	2030	Product substitution analysis updated. Report generated.	This action will result in the production of new displacement factors through the review and updated analysis of product substitution. This action will provide enhanced knowledge on the value of wood products and fuels in reducing GHG emissions by replacing fossil fuels. By having this knowledge at hand it enables a greater understanding of the carbon value of Coillte's products. This will have a positive effect on climate change (also contributing to multiple co-benefits). This action will not in and of itself cause the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effect.	No	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+
Ambition 4: Generate an additional 1 Gigawatt of renewable wind energy to power 500,000 homes by 2030.	CO14	Support FuturEnergy Ireland and third-party renewable energy developers in their current and future renewable energy endeavours, in full consideration of protection of the environment including Appropriate Assessment screening where necessary.																	
	CO14.A1	Continue to enable FEI and non-FEI projects where appropriate through providing land agreements to facilitate renewable energy projects.	BAU	NA	2026-2035	Number of new renewable energy projects.	This action will support the carrying out of renewable energy development projects at the Coillte estate (which would be undertaken by FuturEnergy Ireland, which Coillte are part owner off, or other renewable energy developers). The carrying out of renewable energy development may generate a variety of positive environmental effects, including positive effects on climate (through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Energy sector), air quality, materials	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	CO15.A1	Coillte will support FEI and third-party developers in seeking improvements in the planning process by actively engaging in relevant public consultations and making submissions as opportunities arise throughout the duration of the plan.	National	NA	2026-2035	Number of planning permissions approved.	This action promotes Coillte engaging in public consultation processes with a view to enhancing the planning process for renewable energy development. It has the potential to support, to some degree, to the streamlined delivery of renewable energy projects nationally, in line with national climate objectives and energy needs. This action has the potential to contribute to and drive the carrying out renewable energy development. The carrying out of renewable energy development may generate a variety of positive environmental effects, including positive effects on climate (through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Energy sector), air quality, materials assets and population and human health (through the provision of reliable and renewable energy supply). Such development will contribute to the generation of multiple climate co-benefits across a range of environmental components (i.e. minimising the effects of climate change will have positive effects for people, biodiversity, the water environment etc.). The action will support the national goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Climate Action Plan,) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment.	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
							ecological receptors at peatlands, aquatic habitats and species). Where improperly designed, managed or maintained renewable energy projects occur in proximity to the border, these effects may be transmitted to Northern Irish environmental receptors (via transboundary environmental pathways and affecting transboundary environmental receptors e.g., shared or connected water bodies, mobile species etc.).													
	CO16	Develop a clear policy and explore opportunities for both onshore and offshore grid infrastructure, rollout and services to support ongoing development, in full consideration of protection of the environment including Appropriate Assessment screening where necessary.																		

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	CO16.A1	Coillte will develop a policy outlining Coillte's role as a Landowner in the facilitation of grid infrastructure.	National	NA	2026-2030	Policy developed.	This action has the potential to support, to some degree, to the streamlined delivery of renewable energy projects at Coillte's estate, in line with national climate objectives and energy needs. This action has the potential to contribute to and drive the carrying out renewable energy development. The carrying out of renewable energy development may generate a variety of positive environmental effects, including positive effects on climate (through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Energy sector), air quality, materials assets and population and human health (through the provision of reliable and renewable energy supply). Such development will contribute to the generation of multiple climate co-benefits across a range of environmental components (i.e. minimising the effects of climate change will have positive effects for people, biodiversity, the water environment etc.). The action will support the national goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Climate Action Plan,) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment. This action however, supports the carrying out of renewable energy development (e.g. wind farms), which, in the absence of appropriate	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	CO16.A2	Consider proposals in relation to grid solutions (such as long duration energy storage) received from FEI and third-party developers as they relate to Coillte property for the timeframe of the plan.	National	NA	2026-2031		This action has the potential to contribute to and drive the carrying out grid infrastructure development. The carrying out of grid infrastructure development, which renewable energy development is reliant on, may generate a variety of positive environmental effects, including positive effects on climate (through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Energy sector), air quality, materials assets and population and human health (through the provision of reliable and renewable energy supply). Such development will contribute to the generation of multiple climate co-benefits across a range of environmental components (i.e. minimising the effects of climate change will have positive effects for people, biodiversity, the water environment etc.). The action will support the national goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Climate Action Plan,) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment. This action however, supports the carrying out of grid infrastructure (such as BESS projects), which, in the absence of appropriate mitigation, has the potential to generate negative construction and operational phase effects on a range of environmental receptors,	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Climate

[illegible]

Forest for Nature

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Ambition 5: Enhance and restore biodiversity by increasing the area of our estate managed primarily for nature from 20% to 30% by 2025.	NO1	Classify additional biodiversity areas on the estate, focusing on habitats of the best ecological quality, and/or which have the best habitat restoration potential.																	
	NO1.A1	Coillte will identify an additional c.44,000ha across the estate to be managed primarily for nature. The BioClass system will be used to rank the ecological value of these new biodiversity areas and to assign a target habitat, which indicates the overall management goal.	National	44,000 ha	2026-2030	Ha new biodiversity areas.	This action supports the mapping and identification of biodiversity areas within Coillte's estate. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity as it facilitates increased knowledge on the current state of biodiversity on Coillte lands. By using the BioClass system it allows for the identified biodiversity areas to be classes in categories from those of the highest ecological value (BioClass 1) to those that are currently of moderate/low value but have the potential to be developed to habitat of high ecological value (BioClass 4). By doing this, certain areas can be prioritised and more effective, focused management can occur as a result. This action supports biodiversity enhancement which has indirect positive effects such as human induced benefits from biodiversity, improvements to water quality, soil quality, air quality and climate, as well as improvements to tourism offerings in terms of nature-based tourism products. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.	No	+	+/-	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
	NO2	Continue the process of producing and implementing management plans for biodiversity areas, combining both ecological and forestry perspectives and expertise in the effort to improve biodiversity found within the Coillte estate, subject to Appropriate Assessment screening, as necessary.																	

Forest for Nature

[illegible]

Forest for Nature

[illegible]

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	NO2.A2	Develop markets and supply chain to optimise timber produced from CCF management actions. Diversifying end markets will support CCF implementation.	BAU	NA	2026-2030	M3 timber produced.	This action promotes using CFF to produce timber. The promotion of CCF has the potential to generate positive environmental effects on a range of environmental components, as biodiversity, the soils environment, water quality and hydrology, climate (through increased carbon sequestration, and the displacement of more carbon intensive timber products from the market, such as imported timber), and population and human health/material assets (through the reliable provision of sustainable timber product to support construction of housing). This action acts as a driver for growth in forestry. Afforestation will increase forest cover in the country and generated a wide range of positive environmental effects - on climate (through carbon sequestration), biodiversity, the water environment (through water regulation and filtration improving water quality), air quality, soils, material assets (through provision of wood product to the market for use in construction) and population and human health. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Water Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Action plan) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the environment. However, afforestation has the potential to also negatively affect environmental components where poor forest development approaches/practices and	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Nature

[illegible]

Forest for Nature

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	NO2.A3	Innovate and explore ways of leveraging Coillte's forest management planning systems and capability to incorporate biodiversity objectives and prioritise sites of highest ecological value.	National	NA	2026-2030	Bio Planning model developed.	This action will have a positive effect on biodiversity by exploring ways in which to incorporate biodiversity objectives into Coillte's forest management planning. This will have an indirect positive effect on other environmental components such as water, air and soil quality, population and human health, tourism and recreation, and climate. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.	Yes	+	+/-	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+
	NO3	Create a framework for the selection, appropriate restoration and conservation of ancient and long-established woodland, and engage with key regulatory bodies to promote the approach.																	
	NO3.A1	Coillte will map ancient forests on the estate, assess their ecological value using BioClass procedure and develop appropriate management approach.	National	NA	2026-2030	Ha ancient forests mapped.	This action supports the mapping and identification of ancient forests within Coillte's estate. Ancient forests in Ireland are key habitats as they are areas of high biodiversity value that provide many ecosystem services. Mapping and subsequently managing these forests will have a positive effect on biodiversity as it facilitates increased knowledge on the current state of these ancient forests on Coillte lands. By using the BioClass system it allows for the identified biodiversity areas to be classes in categories from those of the highest ecological value (BioClass 1) to those that are currently of moderate/low value but have the potential to be developed to habitat of high ecological value (BioClass 4). By doing this, certain areas can be prioritised and more effective, focused management can occur as a result. This action supports biodiversity enhancement and protection which has indirect	Yes	+	+/-	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
							positive effects such as human induced benefits from biodiversity, improvements to water quality, soil quality, air quality and climate, as well as improvements to tourism offerings in terms of nature-based tourism products. Ancient forests are important cultural and heritage features within Ireland. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.													
	NO3.A2	Lead engagement with relevant stakeholders to demonstrate and promote our management approach.	National	NA	2026-2030	N/A	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective of restoration and conservation of ancient and long-established woodlands in Coillte's estate, having a positive effect on biodiversity and cultural heritage. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant stakeholders, allowing for enhanced expertise and knowledge on Coillte's management approach. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.	Yes	0	+/-	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Forest for Nature

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							adverse environmental effects in and of itself.												
	NO5.A3	Explore approaches to mapping change in sites of high ecological value/sensitivity.	National	NA	2031-2036		This action will allow for changes within sites of high ecological value/sensitivity to be mapped. This will provide a metric against which management practices of these habitats can be compared to evaluate the effectiveness of these practices. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity and this action in and of itself will not results in the occurrence of real, significant adverse environmental effects.	No	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NO5.A4	Develop a process for recording and reporting species (flora and fauna) to build our knowledge of their occurrence across the estate and to better inform appropriate protection measures.	BAU	NA	2031-2037	Process developed.	This action will have a positive effect on biodiversity through the development of a process for reporting and recording species across the Coillte estate to better understand their occurrence. This action increase knowledge on the current state of flora and fauna which will underpin and support effective implementation of the plan and potentially lead to more focused and targeted biodiversity improvements. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself. By improving protection measures for these species, there is an indirect positive effect on other environmental components.	No	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+
	NO6	Continue to identify portions of the estate with potential to make a greater contribution to biodiversity and explore opportunities to transform them to improve their nature conservation value.																	

Forest for Nature

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	NO6.A1	Develop criteria for defining the target habitat of forests managed primarily for climate (forest re-design) and develop protocols to define the silvicultural systems and management approaches that will improve their value for nature.	National	NA	2026-2030	Criteria developed.	This action will have a positive effect on both climate change and biodiversity. By developing a criteria to define the target forest habitats to be managed primarily for climate, it ensures the right management approaches are being taken for this habitat to best carry out its intended function. By developing protocols for management of these habitats that improve their value for nature, it will facilitate focused procedures that take biodiversity into account. This action will give rise to more focused action with regards to climate change and biodiversity improvement. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented. There is potential for a conflict between biodiversity and climate objectives. Approaches taken to promote carbon sequestration may conflict with the best approaches for protecting and enhancing biodiversity.	Yes	0	+/-	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
	NO6.A2	Continue to engage with DAFM, NPWS, IFI and other bodies in a process of knowledge exchange to agree protocols for managing forest re-design sites for the benefit of habitats and species.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number engagements of	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective to improve the nature conservation value of portions of the estate that have the potential to contribute to biodiversity. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant bodies with in-depth biodiversity related knowledge, allowing for enhanced expertise on Coillte's management approach. Engaging with qualified specialists ensures greater knowledge sharing and aids in the transfer of nature management skills to employees within Coillte. This action will not result in the	No	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	

Forest for Nature

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
							occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself. By engaging with these specialists, there is greater potential for effective forest management and re-design which will have indirect positive benefits on other environmental components.													
	NO7	Engage with key regulatory and other bodies to develop a common vision for how these sites (ref NO6) should be managed.																		
		Refer to NO6 Actions.																		
	NO8	Develop protocols for managing these sites (ref NO6), appropriate to their scale, habitat connectivity and site type, that will improve their nature conservation value.																		
		Refer to NO6 Actions.																		
Additional Nature Objectives	NO9	Review and update, as appropriate, Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) standards and procedures to inform planning and operations, in line with ongoing and emerging best practice.																		
	NO9.A1	Review existing ERA procedures, implement changes as required, and integrate into planning and operations.	National	NA	2026-2030	ERA procedure updated.	This action will have a positive effect on environmental systems as it will enforce procedures that encourage the protection of the environment. This will reduce the impacts of planning and operations within Coillte on the environmental components within their estate.	No	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	
	NO10	Identify and implement ways of improving the advance planning of biodiversity management actions and integration into business planning, where appropriate and feasible.																		
		Refer to NO2 Actions.																		
	NO11	Identify and implement methods to improve inventory processes and data-gathering, to expand our knowledge of nature on the estate and our reporting capacity.																		
		Refer NO5 Actions.																		

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	NO12	Review and improve methods for how biodiversity features and other important environmental features are recorded across the estate. Methods shall be informed by the input of suitable specialists in ecology.																		
		Refer to NO9 Actions.																		
	NO13	Enhance guidance for the management of habitats and species relevant to Coillte’s estate and activities, with the input of suitably qualified specialists.																		
	NO13.A1	Maintain and update the existing protocols for protected species and habitats adopted in Coillte appropriate assessment and develop action plans for key species on the estate (e.g. lesser horseshoe bat).	National	NA	2026-2030	Protocol updated. Action plans developed.	This action calls for the maintenance and update of existing protected species and habitats procedures adopted in Coillte's appropriate assessment and develop action plans for key species on the estate. This action will have a positive effect on biodiversity, specifically protected species and habitats, as it promotes enhanced and focused management. The review of these protocols should be done with the input of a suitably qualified specialist to ensure the best possible management actions are being utilised. This action makes no mention of this specifically but there are other actions and objectives with the plan that mitigate for this.	Yes	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	NO13.A2	Continue engagement and partnership projects with NPWS and other relevant agencies e.g. IFI, to deliver management actions to enhance species and habitats, moving them towards more favourable conservation status.	National	NA	2026-2031	NA	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective related to the management of habitats and species relevant to Coillte's estate and activities. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant agencies with in-depth biodiversity related knowledge, allowing for enhanced expertise on Coillte's management approach. Engaging with qualified specialists ensures greater knowledge sharing and aids in the transfer of nature management skills to employees within Coillte. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity and PHH. This action will not result in the	No	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.												
	NO14	Engage with the relevant regulatory agencies on the measures required to move statutory designated sites to favourable conservation status.																	
		Refer to NO13 Actions.																	
	NO15	Engage with relevant agencies to improve a science-based understanding of the interaction between forests and water.																	
	NO15.A1	Continue engagement with relevant agencies and stakeholders to explore how forest management can play a role in enhancing water quality and catchment status.	National	NA	2026-2030	NA	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective related to improving the science-based understanding of the interactions between forests and water. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant agencies and stakeholders with more in-depth knowledge within the area of interest, allowing for enhanced expertise on Coillte's management approach. Engaging with relevant agencies and stakeholders ensures greater knowledge sharing and aids in the transfer of nature management skills to employees within Coillte. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity and PHH. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself. this action will have positive effects on water quality and thus also biodiversity.	No	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

Forest for Nature

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	NO15.A2	Participate in projects such as Blue Dot, EU Waters for Life and HydroSed, to deliver and promote positive forest management actions.	National	NA	2026-2031	NA	Participation in projects that promote positive forest management actions with relation to water quality are positive in nature and will have a positive effect on water quality. The participation in these projects will have an indirect positive effect on biodiversity through improved water quality. There is an element of public engagement in the projects mentioned under this action. This engagement will add in increasing public awareness in nature and has the potential to increase engagement with local communities. This will contribute positively to PHH.	No	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
	NO16	Engage with relevant agencies and stakeholders to explore how Coillte can play a role in delivering programmes and measures aimed at enhancing water quality in catchments.																	
		Refer to NO15 Actions.																	
	NO17	Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop national strategies towards the management of invasive species.																	

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	NO17.A1	Develop best practice for controlling invasive species on Coillte sites and engage with other agencies to share experiences and knowledge.	National	NA	2026-2030	Best practice developed.	This action will prevent and minimise the spread of invasive species in the plan area by developing best practice guidance. This action has the potential to have positive effects for biodiversity, such as native species and habitats, that are at risk due to invasive species spread. The management of invasive species within Irish landscapes is a key requirement going forward with regards to biodiversity protection as under climate change predictions it is expected that invasive species will have more opportunities to outgrow and out-compete native Irish wildlife. By better protecting native Irish fauna and flora, this action contributes positively towards maintain the character of Ireland's landscape. This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective of invasive species management. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant agencies with more in-depth knowledge about invasive species, allowing for enhanced expertise on Coillte's management approach. Engaging with relevant agencies ensures greater knowledge sharing and aids in the transfer of invasive species management skills to employees within Coillte. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity and PHH. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.	Yes	+	+/-	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	NO18	Collaborate and engage as a key partner with the ongoing preparation of the Deer Management Strategy and seek to implement once published, in so far as possible and appropriate.																	
	NO18.A1	Through the Deer Management Forum, assist in the development of Irish Deer Management Strategy and once developed, update processes to implement the recommended measures.	National	NA	2026-2030	Update internal processes when strategy is developed.	The development of an Irish Deer Management Strategy will have a positive effect on biodiversity as it will lead to a decrease in environmental damage and degradation within Coillte's estate as a result of deer grazing. Better management of deer will contribute towards better economic outlooks within the forestry sector as unmanaged grazing by deer can cause biotic damage that negatively effects the natural regeneration of stock within forest lands. This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective of deer management. This action promotes increased engagement with the Deer Management Forum, allowing for enhanced expertise on Coillte's management approach. Engaging with relevant agencies ensures greater knowledge sharing and aids in the transfer of deer management skills to employees within Coillte. This will have a positive effect on biodiversity and PHH. Collaboration with other agencies mitigates against the development of poor management practices that can be harmful to deer populations. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.	Yes	+	+/-	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	NO19	Identify and target appropriate funding mechanisms that will enable the implementation of conservation and protection measures at scale.																	
	NO19.A1	Identify and create packages of work to enable delivery of biodiversity goals relevant to the Coillte estate, improving habitat quality in biodiversity areas and benefiting key species on the estate.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number projects. of	This action relates to the creation of packages of work to deliver biodiversity goals within Coillte's estate. The creation of these packages will aid in biodiversity enhancement, thus having a positive effect. Biodiversity enhancement has an indirect positive effect on other environmental components. Habitat enhancement also has a positive effect on recreation and tourism as it improvement tourism offerings in terms of nature-based tourism products. This action in and of itself will not result in the occurrence of real, significant environmental effects. There is potential for significant effects on biodiversity should management practices be mis-designed or poorly implemented.	Yes	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+
	NO19.A2	Develop partnerships with appropriate funding partners.	National	NA	2026-2031	Projects funded.	This action relates to the development of funding partnership to aid in the creation packages of work to deliver biodiversity goals within Coillte's estate. Funding will enable these packages to be delivered which will have a positive effect on biodiversity through enhancement and better management. Biodiversity enhancement has an indirect positive effect on other environmental components. Habitat enhancement also has a positive effect on recreation and tourism as it improvement tourism offerings in terms of nature-based tourism products. This action in and of itself will not result in the occurrence of real, significant environmental effects.	No	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	+	+

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
Ambition 7: Produce 25m cubic metres of certified Irish timber, to support the construction of 300,000 homes by 2030.	WO1	Maintain production capacity to harvest and supply certified roundwood to support the wood processing industry.																	
	WO1.A1	To produce c.30 - 33 million m3 of certified timber between 2026 - 2035, of which c.26 - 28 million from clear fell, c.3 - 4 million m3 from thinning's and c.0.5 - 1 million m3 from Continuous Cover Forestry. Restocking of approximately 55 - 60 thousand hectares, and the construction of approximately 800km of new roads.	BAU	Between 30-33M m3 certified timber. c.800 km new roads	2026-2035	M3 timber harvested. Ha planted. M3 Standing volume. Km roads.	This action promotes the production of timber and all associated forestry activities, including land clearance, road construction afforestation, harvesting and reforestation. It has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health and material assets (through employment creation, the provision of sustainable timber to the market etc.). The promotion of CCF has the potential to generate positive effects on various environmental components (e.g., climate, biodiversity, water, soils etc.) This action supports the carrying out of afforestation. Afforestation will increase forest cover in the country and generated a wide range of positive environmental effects - on climate (through carbon sequestration), biodiversity, the water environment (through water regulation and filtration improving water quality), air quality, soils, material assets (through provision of wood product to the market for use in construction) and population and	Yes	+/ -	+/ -	-	-	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	+/ -	-

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CO
							and their surrounding setting, or previously uncovered or unrecorded features of archaeological significance), soils (through compaction, sealing, erosion, loss of organic matter etc.), the air and noise environments, water quality and hydrology (through increase eutrophication, sedimentation, changes in hydrology etc.), material assets (e.g., existing or planned infrastructure), or tourism and recreation (through visual effects on scenic routes, for example). These potential negative effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes driving development and economic activity (e.g., Local Planning Authority Land Use Plans, the CAP Strategic Plan, Food Vision etc.) to exacerbate existing pressures on and risks to environmental components. Where improperly managed forestry activities occur in proximity to the border, these effects may be transmitted to Northern Irish environmental receptors (e.g., air quality, ecology, shared water bodies, landscape/seascape).												
	WO2	Maintain independent environmental certification of Coillte-managed forests.																	

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	WO2.A1	Undertake surveillance and compliance audits and address any non-compliances as necessary to maintain forest certification.	National & BAU	NA	2026-2035	Audit report produced.	This action calls for investigating compliances to environmental certification of Coillte-managed forests. By addressing non-compliances this will have a positive effect on environmental receptors as a results of more effective management. Better management practices also have a positive effect on land-use. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	No	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0
	WO3	Work with other contributors to produce a medium-term all-Ireland roundwood forecast on a regular basis.																	
	WO3.A1	To continue Coillte's contribution to the All-Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast.	National	NA	2026-2030	COFORD forecast published.	This action will result in increased knowledge on the future of Roundwood Production in Ireland. This will allow for a better understanding in future trends, thus allowing for enhanced planning and more efficient management of roundwood supply. This will have a positive effect on material assets. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
	WO4	Introduce a three-year rolling plan for roundwood supply that addresses all the short-term and medium planning requirements to make roundwood available in each planned year of operations.																	

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.												
	WO6	Ensure that access to the forest estate for the purpose of Roundwood removals is maintained through Forest Industry Transport Group collaboration with partners and stakeholders.																	
	WO6.A1	The Forest Industry Transport Group will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to optimise haulage routes, schedules and highlight the importance of maintaining access to the forest estate.	National	NA	2026-2035	NA	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to implementing the objective related to the maintenance of forest estate access for Roundwood removal. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant stakeholders who can aid in the optimisation of Roundwood removals, thus allowing for greater knowledge and skill sharing. This will have a allow for more efficient harvesting of Roundwood, thus having a positive effect on material assets. As this action calls for the maintenance of access and not the development of new access, no negative effects on environmental receptors are predicted. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
	WO7	Monitor forest health and condition to detect and mitigate against the potential impact of pests and diseases and guide management interventions to ensure that the estate can continue to deliver under the pillars of Climate, Nature, Wood and People.																	

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	WO7.A1	Continue annual forest health monitoring across the estate, engage with DAFM and other Irish, UK and EU counterparts, to update and review contingency planning in response to any evolving abiotic or biotic threats.	National	NA	2026-2035	Forest Health report produced.	The annual monitoring of forest health across Coillte's estate increases the knowledge on the current state of the environment, allows potential problems identified to be dealt with early on, and allows for the effectiveness of current management actions to be assessed and improved. This increases understanding on the state of Coillte's forest estate health and provides a wide range of ecosystem benefits, having a positive effect on other environmental components. Healthier forests have a positive effect on climate change as less trees are lost to disease and a healthy ecosystem can work together more effectively leading to increased carbon sequestration. This action will also have a positive effect on recreation and tourism as it improvement tourism offerings as healthy forests provide more appealing nature-based tourism products. This action also has a positive effect on material assets as less trees are lost and healthy trees experience greater growth. By engaging with relevant agencies on contingency plans this allows for a collaborative approach that fosters enhanced planning protocols when responding to any threats identified. This will have a positive effect on forest	No	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							management and environmental components.												
	WO8	Maintain timber security measures including the geofencing of all forests and tracking of roundwood removals from the Coillte Estate.																	
	WO8.A1	Maintain and enhance existing physical infrastructure and apply geo fencing technology to ensure that timber removals are conducted in line with Coillte's code of practice for timber removals.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number of barriers, locks, and HU geo fences.	This action promotes the use of geo-fencing within the Coillte estate. Geofencing technology is used to create virtual fencing within areas of land to better facilitate the management of that land. It can be used to map sensitive habitats and the movement of protected species. This allows for enhanced knowledge relating to the interaction between anthropogenic activities and sensitive habitats and wildlife. This has a positive effect on biodiversity as it prevents undesired interaction with areas of importance to biodiversity. It can be used during timber removals to avoid negative effects on key habitats and species. It also has a positive effect for population and human health and materials (through the	Yes	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	0	-	0	+	0	0

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							protection of timber production and supply). This action also supports the development of physical infrastructure - in the form of forest barriers (which prevent vehicle access but allow for mammal passing). The construction of such infrastructure may result in environmental effects, such as effects on biodiversity (through vegetation clearance, noise etc.) or population and human health (by preventing/limiting access to areas).												
	WO9	Support innovation and the adoption of new technologies and practices to enhance the efficiency of the roundwood supply chain, including mechanisms for monitoring roundwood stocks in the forest.																	
	WO9.A1	Continue to adopt new technological solutions and work with industry partners to enhance the efficiency of the roundwood supply chain.	National	NA	2026-2035	NA	The adoption of new technological improvements to enhance the efficiency roundwood supply chain has the potential to generate positive environmental effects, including positive effects on population and human/material assets (through the provision of an efficient roundwood supply chain to the market) and climate (increased efficiency may reduce the carbon intensity of forestry operations and the supply chain). Certain emerging	Yes	+/-	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	+	0	+

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CO	
							technologies may pose an environmental risk and result in unintended consequences if inappropriately adopted, designed or used, potentially leading to negative effects on environmental components.													
	WO10	Support government and other stakeholders to expedite the approval and granting of forestry licences to ensure that sufficient and consistent volumes of roundwood supply are available.																		

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	WO10.A1	Continue to engage with DAFM, Forestry Appeals Committee, and relevant stakeholders to make the licencing application, approvals, and appeals process more efficient.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number of approvals outside standard approval time. Length of time for FAC to decide appeals.	This action promotes engagement with relevant bodies and stakeholders on increasing the efficiency of licencing applications, approvals and appeals processes. This will support the efficient delivery of forestry projects, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health and material assets. This action supports the carrying out of afforestation. Afforestation will increase forest cover in the country and generated a wide range of positive environmental effects - on climate (through carbon sequestration), biodiversity, the water environment (through water regulation and filtration improving water quality), air quality, soils, material assets (through provision of wood product to the market for use in construction) and population and human health. These potential positive effects may combine with the effects of other plans and programmes promoting environmental protection and enhancement (e.g., the Water Action Plan, the National Biodiversity Action plan) to create more significant, cumulative, positive effects on the	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CO	
benefits of wood products to increase the level of timber homes from 20% to 80% by 2050.	WO12.A1	Develop evidence-based reports to support initiatives aimed at increasing the use of timber in construction and disseminate key findings to effectively promote and highlight the benefits of increased timber usage.	National	NA	2026-2030	Report published.	This action supports developing evidence-based reports that communicate the benefits of increased timber use and that support initiatives aimed at increasing the use of timber in construction. This will raise awareness of the importance of the forestry sector in providing a more sustainable material for construction within Ireland. This has the potential to lead to increased use of sustainable timber products, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health, material assets and climate. This action, in combination with various other actions and measures supporting timber production/forestry activity, can lead to the increased demand for timber which can drive increased forestry/harvesting, resulting in negative environmental effects (if forestry activity is not planned and managed appropriately). This increased demand may also reduce the total quantum of forestry providing carbon sequestration and biodiversity related services.	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-
	WO13	Engage with government and relevant bodies to revise regulations concerning the use of wood in construction.																		

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	WO13.A1	Conduct a comprehensive analysis of current wood construction regulations to identify barriers and opportunities, develop evidence-based proposals for regulatory change.	National	NA	2026-2030	Completion of analysis of current wood construction regulations.	Better understanding the barriers and drivers of wood construction regulations allows for evidence-based proposals for regulatory change. This enhanced knowledge will lead to regulations that better allow for the increased use of timber in construction. This has the potential to lead to increased use of sustainable timber products, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health, material assets and climate. This action, in combination with various other actions and measures supporting timber production/forestry activity, can lead to the increased demand for timber which can drive increased forestry/harvesting, resulting in negative environmental effects (if forestry activity is not planned and managed appropriately). This increased demand may also reduce the total quantum of forestry providing carbon sequestration and biodiversity related services.	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	WO13.A2	Collaborate with industry associations, environmental groups, and academic experts to advocate for these changes through strategic communication while monitoring progress with government bodies.	National	NA	2026-2031		This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to revising current regulations for wood-use in construction. This action promotes increased engagement with relevant agencies and stakeholders that will facilitate enhanced knowledge sharing that will allow for new regulations which are based on the best available advice. Collaboration with experts will allow for updated regulations which take into account many potential impacts related to the use of wood products in construction, therefore mitigating against some potential negative effects. This collaboration will strengthen the case for revising current regulations. This has the potential to lead to increased use of sustainable timber products, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health, material assets and climate. This action, in combination with various other actions and measures supporting timber production/forestry activity, can lead to the increased demand for timber which can drive increased forestry/harvesting, resulting in negative environmental effects (if forestry activity is not	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CO	
							planned and managed appropriately). This increased demand may also reduce the total quantum of forestry providing carbon sequestration and biodiversity related services.													
	WO14	Engage with government and relevant bodies to introduce green procurement guidelines for new public buildings and to introduce sustainability mechanisms in construction to reduce the carbon footprint of new builds.																		

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	WO14.A1	Research and compile best practices on green procurement policies and collaborate with government, industry experts to promote procurement and sustainable construction practices.	National	NA	2026-2030	Completion of research on best practice.	This action is related to the promotion of wood product use in construction as a form of green procurement and the development of policies for this procurement. By promoting wood-product use in such a way it will aid in the increased uptake of this more sustainable material. This has the potential to lead to increased use of sustainable timber products, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health, material assets and climate. This action, in combination with various other actions and measures supporting timber production/forestry activity, can lead to the increased demand for timber which can drive increased forestry/harvesting, resulting in negative environmental effects (if forestry activity is not planned and managed appropriately). This increased demand may also reduce the total quantum of forestry providing carbon sequestration and biodiversity related services.	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-
	WO15	Support the demonstration of new forms of timber-based construction in Ireland.																		

Forest for Wood

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	WO15.A1	Collaborate with industry and academia to establish partnerships for high-impact pilot projects that demonstrate sustainable timber construction techniques and effectively promote the outcomes to target stakeholders.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number of projects implemented.	This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to establishing projects that demonstrate sustainable timber construction techniques. This action promotes increased engagement with experts that will facilitate enhanced knowledge and skill sharing that will allow for the demonstration of techniques that follow best practices. By having projects to demonstrate timber construction techniques that are informed by expert advice, it will aid in not only increasing the use of timber in construction but will ensure that this increased use is complimented with people having appropriate skills and knowledge to apply construction techniques relating to sustainable timber. This has the potential to lead to increased use of sustainable timber products, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health, material assets and climate. This action, in combination with various other actions and measures supporting timber production/forestry activity, can lead to the increased demand for timber which can drive increased forestry/harvesting, resulting in negative environmental effects (if	Yes	+	-	0	0	-	0	-	-	+	0	+/-

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Forest for Wood

[illegible]

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
Ambition 9: Enable the investment of €100 million in world-class Visitor Destinations to support growth in tourism and recreation by 2030.	PO1	Identify priority site locations and develop masterplans for future Visitor Destinations, in full consideration of the protection of the environment and subject to Appropriate Assessment screening where necessary.																		
	PO1.A1	Assess potential new visitor destinations sites. Select 3 sites for Strategic Development Planning (SDP).	National	3 sites	2026-2030	Framework to assess and classify destination sites developed. SDP produced.	This action promotes the development of visitor destination sites within the Coillte estate. The development of such sites has the potential to generate positive environmental effects, including positive effects on population and human health (through increased economic activity, increased recreation/engagement with nature), cultural heritage (by creating synergies between the development and cultural heritage features) and tourism and recreation. The site-selection process will support the development of such sites at appropriate locations, potential maximising positive environmental effects. The action does however support visitor destination development that may have negative construction or operational phase environmental effects in the absence of appropriate design/mitigation, such as effects on biodiversity (through increased human interaction with sensitive ecological receptors, noise, land-take, lighting etc.), population and human health (due to construction dust, noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics), landscape and visual amenity (through the construction of sizeable built development at visually sensitive locations), cultural heritage (due to interactions between the development and the physical integrity and/or setting of unknown or recorded heritage features), soils, the air and noise environment, the water environment (due to construction phase run-off,	Yes	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	0	-	-	0	+	0	

[illegible]

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							estate. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.												
	PO3	Engage with Local Authorities to identify opportunities to create recreational projects of scale, in line with local and national development plans.																	
	PO3.A1	Work with Local Authorities to identify projects of scale and to source funding.	BAU	NA	2026-2030	Number of projects identified.	This action promotes engagement with local authorities to identify recreational projects and to source funding for these projects. This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to providing more recreation facilities. By collaborating with local authorities, it allows for more in-depth knowledge of local areas and communities. This leads to the selection of projects that will be of the most benefit to these communities, ensuring effective use of time and resources to deliver the most positive results. This action has the potential to generate positive environmental effects, including positive effects on population and human health (through increased economic activity, increased recreation/engagement with nature), cultural heritage (by creating synergies between the development and cultural heritage features) and tourism and recreation. The action does however support tourism and recreation related development that may have negative construction or operational phase environmental effects in the absence of appropriate design/mitigation, such as effects on biodiversity (through	Yes	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	0	-	-	0	+	0

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							increased human interaction with sensitive ecological receptors, noise, land-take, lighting etc.), population and human health (due to construction dust, noise, changes in traffic and transport dynamics), landscape and visual amenity (through the construction of sizeable built development at visually sensitive locations), cultural heritage (due to interactions between the development and the physical integrity and/or setting of unknown or recorded heritage features), soils, the air and noise environment, the water environment (due to construction phase run-off, changes in hydrology or additional wastewater loading in an wastewater catchment/agglomeration), material assets or climate (e.g., from construction embodied carbon, or due to the creation of unsustainable transport/travel patterns). Such effects (positive and negative) may be transmitted to Northern Ireland, in the case of development occurring in proximity to the border. These effects may also combine with effects from other plans, programmes or projects (such as Faillte Ireland or Local Authority plans) to create more significant cumulative effects.												
	PO4	Monitor visitor numbers and measure impact, to protect the environment and enhance customer experience.																	
	PO4.A1	Develop sustainability plan at key destinations and report on the visitor numbers and associated sustainability factors annually.	BAU & National	NA	2026-2030	Recreation report produced.	This action requires the development of a sustainability plan for key destinations and the annual reporting of visitor numbers and sustainability factors. The creation of a plan aids in increasing the effectiveness of management practices by providing actionable goals and targets. Annual reporting allows for the	No	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	0

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							current state of matters to be assessed and provides an iterative process against which management strategies under the sustainability plan can be improved upon. This will have an overall positive effect on tourism and recreation as well as environmental receptors which may be affected by tourism and recreation.												
	PO5	Develop commercial partnerships that support investment to deliver Outstanding Visitor Destinations.																	
	PO5.A1	Develop bespoke partnerships to design and build new visitor destinations based on the requirements of each project.	BAU	NA	2026-2030	Contract in place. Visitor Destination delivered.	This action is related to the development of bespoke partnerships to design and build new visitor destinations. This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to providing more recreation facilities. By collaborating with commercial partners to support investments it will allow for the provision of necessary funding resources need to deliver outstanding visitor destinations. This action acts as a driver for the development of visitor destination sites within the Coillte estate. The development of such sites has the potential to generate positive environmental effects, including positive effects on population and human health (through increased economic activity, increased recreation/engagement with nature), cultural heritage (by creating synergies between the development and cultural heritage features) and tourism and recreation. The site-selection process will support the development of such sites at appropriate locations, potential maximising positive environmental effects. The action does however act as a driver for visitor destination development that may have	No	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	0	-	-	0	+	0

[illegible]

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
Areas to 500, to benefit local communities and people's wellbeing.	PO6.A1	Develop a classification system and criteria for recreation areas describing the recreational offering and facilities.	National	NA	2026-2030	Framework to assess and classify destination sites developed.	This actions calls for the development of a classification system and criteria for recreational areas. This will lead to increased knowledge on the offerings within Coillte's estate for recreation, leading to more efficient and informed decisions on the future provisions of recreational facilities with the estate. This will have a positive effect on tourism and recreation. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
	PO7	Develop assessment criteria to identify locations for future Recreational Areas.																		
		Refer to PO6 Actions.																		
	PO8	Develop a community model to enable public and local authority involvement in the development of Recreation Areas.																		
	PO8.A1	Create a community engagement model that facilitates public and local authority participation in the development and maintenance of Recreation Areas while providing opportunities for local communities to contribute and benefit.	National	NA	2026-2030	Community engagement model developed.	This action is related to the creation of a community engagement model. This will facilitate increased engagement with the public and local authorities on development and maintenance of recreation areas, therefore fostering a more collaborative approach. By collaborating with local communities, it allows for more in-depth knowledge of the local area. This leads to actions that will be of the most benefit to these communities, ensuring effective use of time and resources to deliver the most positive results. This will have a positive effect on PHH and tourism and recreation. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	No	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
PO9	Develop methods to measure and quantify the social and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation.																			

[illegible]

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	PO9.A2	Expand the Woodlands for Health programme.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number of Programme participants.+G21	The Woodlands for Health Programme supports the use of Coillte's recreational forests by adults availing of mental health supports in Ireland, as a way to get out in nature to boost mental health and well-being. it has the potential to have positive effects on population and human health and tourism and recreation. The expansion of this programme may lead to increased human interaction with environmental receptors, resulting in negative effects on biodiversity (e.g. through litter, noise, trampling) or soil or water	Yes	+	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	+	0
	PO10	Develop a community model to support public engagement, identify the emerging social and recreational needs and provide meaningful opportunities for local communities to support the development of Recreation Areas.																	
		Refer to PO8 Actions.																	
	PO11	Develop deeper relationships with local authorities to identify and execute local recreational opportunities and leverage funding.																	

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)											
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC	
	PO11.A1	Partner with local authorities and development companies to develop and support Outdoor Recreation Committees.	BAU	NA	2026-2035	Recreation opportunities identified.	This action is related to the engagement with local authorities and development companies to support and develop Outdoor Recreation Committees. This action will create and foster a collaborative approach to providing more recreation facilities. By collaborating with local authorities and development companies to create these committees, it allows for local knowledge and input to be heard in forestry recreation management and allows for input from those with experience in the development sector. This allows for more meaningful knowledge sharing. This leads to outdoor recreation management that will be of the most benefit to communities, ensuring effective use of time and resources to deliver the most positive results. This will have a positive effect on PHH and tourism and recreation. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.	No	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
	PO12	Expand digital services to support the mapping and analysis of Recreational Areas and improve efficiencies in monitoring and management.																		
	PO12.A1	Partner with external provider of digital recreation services to develop a process to map and analyse recreation areas.	National	NA	2026-2030	Database developed.	By partnering with an external provider to develop a process to map and analyse recreational areas, this will allowed for expertise input that will lead to the creation of a system that is efficient and productive. Being able to map and analyse recreation areas allows for the best management practices to be used, based on the increased level of information available. This will have a positive effect on environmental receptors such as biodiversity, water, and soil. It will also have a positive	No	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
							effect on tourism and recreation. This action will not result in the occurrence of a real, significant adverse environmental effects in and of itself.												
Ambition 11: Create 1,200 new jobs in rural communities to support the just transition to a low carbon economy.	PO13	Support businesses of different types and scale to develop and grow markets for value-added wood products, forest tourism and recreation opportunities.																	
	PO13.A1	Support RD&I and demonstrator projects that advance new value-added wood products and timber-based building systems.	National	NA	2026-2030	Number demonstration projects implemented.	This action aims to increase support for RD&I (Research, Development and Innovation) and demonstrator projects that advance new value-added wood products and timber-based building systems. This support will help to increase the timber and wood product industry within in Ireland. The growth and diversification of this market allows for greener wood-products to be used within the Irish market and can replace the use of fossil-fuel based products. This has the potential to lead to increased use of sustainable timber products, potentially creating positive effects for population and human health, material assets and climate. This action, in combination with various other actions and measures supporting timber production/forestry activity, can lead to the increased demand for timber which can drive increased forestry/harvesting, resulting in negative environmental effects (if forestry activity is not planned and managed appropriately). This increased demand may also reduce the total quantum of forestry providing carbon sequestration	Yes	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	-

[illegible]

Ambition	Ref.	Objective/Action	Geographic Reporting Scale	Target	Time Frame	Monitoring Indicator	Assessment of Likely, Significant Effects on the Environment (in the absence of Environmental Mitigation) - including Cumulative and Transboundary Environmental Effects	Likely, Significant Environmental Effect/s Requiring Mitigation Identified?	Relationship with SEA Environmental Components and SEOs (prior to mitigation)										
									PHH	BFF	L	CH	S	LU	AQN	W	MA	TR	CC
	PO13.A2	Partner with IAAT (Irish Association for Adventure Tourism) to promote forest recreation opportunities for service providers and operators.	National	NA	2026-2030	Recreation opportunities identified.	This action aims to promote forest recreation activities for service providers and operators by partnering with IAAT. This partnership fosters a collaborative approach to expanding recreation services and facilities within Coillte's estate, and has the potential to generate positive effects on population and human health and tourism and recreation. This action may lead to increased human interaction with environmental receptors, resulting in negative effects on biodiversity (e.g. through litter, noise, trampling) or soil or water quality. It may also drive the carrying out of tourism and recreation development, which can result in a range of construction and operational phase effects on the environment.	Yes	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	0	-	-	0	+	0
	PO14	Support the operational contractor base to grow and diversify, so that it has the capacity to deliver Coillte's afforestation, peatland redesign and nature ambitions.																	
	PO14.A1	Through the Workforce Capacity Project, Focus on sourcing new contractors to meet our demands. Ensure contractors are equipped with the skills needed to align with Coillte's ambitions.	National	NA	2026-2030	Workforce Capacity Project report.	This action focuses on sourcing new contractors with the relevant skills to support Coillte's capacity to deliver its future ambitions. This increase will aid in helping to achieve the forest-related targets set out by Coillte in this plan. The achievement of these targets will have a positive effect on environmental receptors (biodiversity, soil, water, air), PHH, and climate change. The use of skilled contractors helps ensure best practices are followed, minimising potential negative impacts on forests. This action will not result in the	No	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	+

[illegible]

[illegible]



**DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

www.fehilytimoney.ie

 **Cork**

 **Dublin**

 **Carlow**

