



**HABITATS DIRECTIVE**  
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT &  
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

# **CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022**



**Comhairle Contae Chorcaí**  

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**Cork County Council**



# CONVENTS

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CHAPTER 1  
**INTRODUCTION**

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 Cork County Council has finalised the preparation of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028. This is a plan which will guide the development of the country for the next decade. It will largely inform where new houses will be built and where investment in employment and associated infrastructure including roads and water services will be directed.
- 1.1.2 This is the Appropriate Assessment Report for the County Development Plan. It describes how the Planning Authority of Cork County Council fulfilled its obligations in relation to the protection of European Sites during each stage of plan making. This report should be read in conjunction with the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Report which were prepared for the Draft Plan, the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment Report which was prepared in respect of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan and the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment Report which was prepared in respect of the Adopted Amendments made at the final stage of plan making.

## 1.2 Appropriate Assessment and Land Use Planning

- 1.2.1 In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as provided for in part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (Natura Sites or European Sites <sup>1</sup>), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting the plan. This is to determine whether the implementation of plan policies could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant or animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called Appropriate Assessment (AA) and must be integrated into all stages of the plan making process.
- 1.2.2 The requirement to carry out appropriate assessment derives from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive which states the following:

### **Habitats Directive Article 6(3)**

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

- 1.2.3 EU and National Guidance breaks the requirements of this article down into two stages. These are
- Screening; and
  - Appropriate Assessment
- 1.2.4 **Screening:** The purpose of screening is to determine whether a plan or project needs to be subject to appropriate assessment. The screening process requires a determination be made as to whether, in view of best scientific knowledge, the plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites. For land use plans, this involves examining the policies of the plan and considering whether their implementation could have the potential to give rise to significant negative effects on one or more European sites. The assessment must include consideration as to the potential for the plan to contribute to significant effects when considered 'in combination' with effects arising from other plans or projects.
- 1.2.5 **Appropriate Assessment:** Appropriate assessment is an assessment of the potential for a plan or project to adversely affect the integrity of one or more European Sites. It is required where a screening determination fails to exclude the potential that the plan could give rise to significant negative effects on one or more European site. It is informed by scientific data and evidence which is presented in a Natura Impact Statement (projects) or a Natura Impact Report (plans). The assessment is made taking account of the conservation objectives which have been established for the qualifying interests of all relevant European sites.

<sup>1</sup> European sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands.

- 1.2.6 In relation to the appropriate assessment of land use plans, where the assessment process identifies that a draft plan may give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, alterations to the plan should be made through the amendments process. In the event that adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites cannot be ruled out, the plan may not be adopted. The Habitats Directive provides for a derogation procedure (set out in Article 6(4)) which can allow a plan or project to proceed despite a finding that it would give rise to adverse effects on the overall integrity of one or more Natura 2000 sites. Derogation procedures can only be progressed in very limited circumstances and are not discussed further here.

### 1.3 1.3 Appropriate Assessment Requirements in the Planning and Development Act

- 1.3.1 Most of the requirements for screening and carrying out appropriate assessment of development plans are set out in Part XAB, Section 177 of the Planning and Development Act as amended. The relevant sections of the act and their summary requirements/definitions are set out in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Planning and Development Act, Part XAB AA Requirements for the Making of Land Use Plans	
Reference	Summary Requirement/Definition
S177S(2)(c)	Identifies the competent authority for the completion of Appropriate Assessment of draft land use plans to be the Planning Authority for whose area the development plan is made.
S177T(1)(a)	Defines a Natura Impact Report to be 'a statement for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, of the implications of a land use plan, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites'.
S177T(2)	Requires a Natura Impact Report to 'include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for one or more than one European sites in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites'
S177T(3)	Specifies that the Planning Authority for whose area the draft plan is made is responsible for preparing the Natura Impact Report.
S177U(1)	Sets out requirement for the competent authority to carry out screening for appropriate assessment of a draft land use plan to assess in view of best scientific knowledge, if that land use plan individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
S177(U)4	Sets out requirement for the competent authority to determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft land use plan is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft land use plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.
S177(U)5	Sets out requirement for competent authority to determine that appropriate assessment is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft land use plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.
S177(U)7	Requires the competent authority to make available for inspection in public offices and on the internet, by members of the public, any screening determination that it makes in relation to a draft land use plan and the reasons for that determination.
S177(V)(1)(a)	Specifies that an appropriate assessment shall include a determination by the competent authority under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not the draft land use plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. Requires that the appropriate assessment (where determined to be required) is carried out by the competent authority before the draft land use plan is made.
S177(V)(2)	Requires that the appropriate assessment be informed by the Natura Impact Report, any supplemental information and any other relevant information.

Table 1.1 Planning and Development Act, Part XAB AA Requirements for the Making of Land Use Plans	
Reference	Summary Requirement/Definition
S177(V)(3)	Specifies that the competent authority shall make the land use plan only after having determined that it shall not affect the integrity of a European site.
S177(V)(6)	Requires the competent authority to make available for inspection in public offices and on the internet, as soon as possible after the plan is made, any determination that it makes under S177(V) (1) in relation to the draft land use plan and the reasons for that determination.

1.3.2 Part II Section 12 of the Act includes summary details of AA requirements relating to the making of material alterations to County Development Plans (the Amendments Stage). These are set out in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Planning and Development Act, Part II AA Requirements for the Making of Land Use Plans	
Reference	Summary Requirement/Definition
S12(7)(aa)	Requires the planning authority to determine if an appropriate assessment is required as respects one or more than one proposed material alterations to the draft development plan.
S12(7)(ab)	Requires the Chief Executive to specify the period he or she considers necessary as being required to complete the appropriate assessment (period must be specified within two weeks of the making of the determination).
S12(7)(ac)	Requires the publication of a notice that the proposed material alteration and aa screening determination are available for inspection for a period of not less than 4 weeks and inviting submission of observations on material alteration and determination.
S12(7)(ae)	Requires the completion of the appropriate assessment of the proposed material alteration within the specified period.

## 1.4 Consultation

1.4.1 The making of the County Development Plan included three stages of public consultation when members of the public and other interested stakeholders and statutory consultees were invited to make comments or observations on the plan and the associated Environmental Reports including AA Screening Assessment Reports and the Natura Impact Report for the draft plan. All submissions were considered, and amendments and minor modifications were made in accordance with the prescribed procedures for the making of the County Development Plan which are summarised in Table 2.1 below. All of the documents and reports, including the AA Screening and NIR documents are available to view at [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie).

## 1.5 1.5 Gaps, Limitations and Difficulties

1.5.1 The information contained in this report and the AA reports which preceded this report were based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. References and data used are cited in the back of this report.



CHAPTER 2  
**INTEGRATION  
OF AA INTO  
PLAN MAKING**

## 2 Integration of AA into Plan Making

- 2.0.1 Appropriate assessment is intended to be an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs the plan making process. It involves analysis and review of draft policies as they emerge during each stage of plan making, to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats or species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard is had to the potential for policies and zoning proposals set out in the plan to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans, programmes, policies or projects.
- 2.0.2 The process may result in the development of new policy areas and/or the modification or removal of certain policies to be presented in the final plan. The results of this analysis and review are presented in reports which are produced as necessary for at each stage of the plan making process.
- 2.0.3 Appropriate Assessment reporting for the Cork County Development Plan 2022 was completed by the Ecology Office of Cork County Council. In addition to AA reporting the Ecology Office advised on biodiversity and green infrastructure policy development and also advised the Strategic Environmental Assessment Team in relation to ecological issues as part of the SEA process. Table 2.1 below sets out the stages involved in the making of the County Development Plan and includes the detail of the inputs which were provided by the Ecology Office at each stage of plan making.

Table 2.1 Integration of AA process and Ecology Issues with Plan Making Process		
Date	Stages	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 Network were considered.
12th Mar 2020	<b>Commencement of process to make the County Development Plan.</b> The Planning Authority published a notice of its intention to review the existing Development Plan and to prepare a new plan. An Issues Paper including information on key topics and the SEA Scoping Report were also published with a view to stimulating discussion. The issues paper included information relating to biodiversity, green infrastructure, Maritime Cork, climate change and the environment generally. Members of the public and statutory authorities were invited to make submissions as to what they would like to see included in the new County Development Plan.	Support and advice was provided by the Ecology Team to the CDP Planning Team on the preparation of the biodiversity section of the Issues Paper.
12th Mar-2nd Jul 2020	1st round of Public Consultation - 16 weeks. Submissions and observations on the new County Development Plan were received, processed and assessed during this period. The legislation allows for an 8 week period for this consultation, however this period was extended due to Covid restrictions. Total submissions on 1st round of public consultation received: 608	
3rd July-28th Aug 2020	<b>Submissions review and report writing</b> - 16 weeks. During this period, the Planning Authority considered all submissions received during the first round of public consultation and prepared a report for Council members on these. The report (Section 11(4) Chief Executive Report), which was published on 28th August, included recommendations in relation to each submission.	A number of submissions raised concern about the health of the environment and the need to protect habitats and species and the need to be proactive and ambitious in protecting nature. The Ecology Office worked with the CDP Planning Team to assess these submissions and consider how concerns raised within them could be addressed in the County Development Plan. The Ecology Office assisted with the development of responses and recommendations around the protection of Natura sites and biodiversity generally, for inclusion in the Section 11(4) Chief Executive Report.

Table 2.1 Integration of AA process and Ecology Issues with Plan Making Process

Date	Stages	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 Network were considered.
28th Aug-6th Nov 2020	<p><b>Elected members review period - public consultation submissions and Chief Executives Recommendations</b> - 10 weeks. This period was used by elected members to consider the Section 11(4) Chief Executive Report and the recommendations contained therein. A series of meetings were held with the members to discuss the report and the draft plan during this period. At the end of the period, the elected members issued a direction to the Chief Executive to prepare the draft plan.</p>	
6th Nov 2020-5th Feb 2021	<p><b>Preparation of draft plan</b> - 12 weeks. The draft plan was prepared by the Chief Executive during this period. The SEA Environment Report and Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan were prepared in tandem with the preparation of the draft plan.</p>	<p>The Ecology Office drafted the biodiversity chapter including policies relating to the protection of Natura 2000 sites for the draft County Development Plan. Other chapters of the plan were reviewed by the Ecology Office as they were drafted, and advice was provided in relation to the proposed wording of many proposed objectives with a view minimising potential conflict with the protection of Natura sites particularly and biodiversity generally. As the draft plan was finalised, the AA screening assessment and Natura Impact Report for the draft plan were prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 177U and 177T of the Planning and Development Act.</p>
8th Feb-6th April 2021	<p><b>Elected members review period – draft plan, SEA Report and NIR</b> - 8 weeks. This period was used by elected members to consider the Draft Plan, SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Report. A series of meetings were held with the members to discuss the draft plan and associated environmental documents. The draft plan was accepted by elected members at the end of this period.</p>	
7th Apr-21st Apr 2021	<p><b>Finalisation of draft plan</b> - 2 weeks: This period was used to finalise and publish the draft plan, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report and to issue it to relevant bodies.</p>	<p>All final modifications to the draft plan arising from consultations with elected members were reviewed by the Ecology Office and the Natura Impact Report was finalised and published at the same time as the publication of the draft plan and Environmental Report. The <b>AA Screening Report and Natura Impact Report</b> for the draft plan are contained in Volume 6 Environmental Reports for the draft development plan. The NIR included recommendations for amendments to be made to a number of policy objectives included in the draft plan in the interests of strengthening the protection of EU sites and ensuring the avoidance of risk of causing significant negative impacts on any such sites. The Ecology Office also provided inputs and advice to the SEA team on biodiversity matters including matters relating to AA for inclusion in the Environmental Report.</p>

Table 2.1 Integration of AA process and Ecology Issues with Plan Making Process

Date	Stages	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 Network were considered.
22nd Apr - 1st Jul 2021	<p><b>Public Consultation Draft Plan</b> - 10 weeks. The Draft Development Plan, SEA Environment Report, AA Screening Report, Natura Impact Report were placed on display for inspection and receipt of written submissions and observations. Submissions and observations on the draft plan and environmental reports were received, processed and assessed during this period. Total submissions relating to draft plan received: 1,251</p>	
2nd Jul 2021 - 24th Sep 2021	<p><b>Submissions review and report writing</b> - 12 weeks. During this period, the Planning Authority considered all submissions received during the second round of public consultation and prepared a report for council members on these (Section 12(4) Chief Executive Report). The report included a summary of all submissions received. It also included recommendations as to whether amendments should be made to the plan to deal with issues raised in the submissions as well as the text of the proposed amendments.</p>	<p>A number of submissions to the draft plan raised issues in relation to Chapter 15 Biodiversity. Other submissions raised site specific biodiversity related issues. Two submissions directly referred to the Natura Impact Report for the draft plan.</p> <p>The Ecology Office worked with the CDP Planning Team to assess these submissions and consider how issues raised could be addressed. The Ecology Office assisted with the development of responses to submissions around the protection of Natura sites and biodiversity generally for inclusion in the Section 12(4) Chief Executive Report.</p> <p>The Ecology Office advised the CDP Planning Team and the SEA team on draft text of all proposed amendments prior to inclusion in the Chief Executive Report.</p>
24th Sept - 17th Dec 2021	<p><b>Elected members review period (Chief Executives Report and Recommendations Submissions to Draft Plan)</b> – 12 weeks. This period was used by elected members to consider the recommendations of the Chief Executives Section 12(4) Report including the proposed amendments. A series of meetings were held with the members to discuss the report and proposed amendments during this period. Elected members considered all proposed amendments at a Special Full Council meeting at the end of this period and voted to accept or reject each of these. Members also voted to allow some additional amendments proposed by themselves to be put forward for consideration at the third round of public consultation.</p>	<p>The Ecology Office commenced the preparation of the AA Screening Report for the proposed amendments. The Ecology Office also provided ecological advice and inputs to the SEA team on proposed amendments during this period</p>
17th Dec 2021 - 17th Jan 2022	<p><b>Finalisation of proposed amendments</b> – 2 weeks. This period was used to finalise the drafting of the proposed amendments as agreed by the members, to complete SEA and AA screening of the finalised amendments and to prepare the SEA and AA screening reports for the proposed amendments.</p> <p>Total proposed amendments included in the Section 12(4) Chief Executive Report: 1,600 approx.</p>	<p>Following the conclusion of the elected members review period, the Ecology Office finalised the <b>AA Screening Report for the Proposed Amendments</b> to include an assessment of all additional amendments or alterations to amendments proposed by elected members.</p> <p>With the exception of one amendment (ref 4.3.8.3), the AA Screening Report ruled out risk of likely significant effects to EU sites. In the case of amendment 4.3.8.3, the recommendation of the AA Screening Report was that the amendment not be adopted.</p>

Table 2.1 Integration of AA process and Ecology Issues with Plan Making Process

Date	Stages	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 Network were considered.
18th Jan - 15th Feb 2022	<p><b>Public Consultation Proposed Amendments – 4 weeks.</b> The proposed amendments to Draft Plan and the associated environmental reports were put on display for inspection and receipt of written submissions or observations during this period. Submissions and observations on the proposed amendments were received, processed and assessed during this period. Total submissions relating to proposed amendments received: 1,172</p>	
16th Feb- 16th Mar 2022	<p><b>Submissions review and report writing - recommendations on submissions– 8 weeks.</b> During this period the Planning Authority considered all submissions received during the third round of public consultation and prepared a report for council members on these (Section 12(8) Chief Executive Report). The report included recommendations as to whether the amendments should be accepted, modified or rejected in light of the received submissions.</p>	<p>Some of the submissions relating to the proposed amendments raised issues relating to biodiversity and EU sites. Two submissions referred to the Natura Impact Report for the draft plan.</p> <p>The Ecology Office worked with the Planning Team to assess these submissions and consider whether proposed amendments could or should be adopted, modified or rejected having regard to same. The Ecology Office assisted with the development of responses to submissions relating to the protection of Natura sites and biodiversity generally for inclusion in the Section 12(8) Chief Executive Report.</p> <p>All recommendations included in the Section 12(8) Chief Executive Report were screened for Appropriate Assessment. The outcome of that assessment is included in Chapter 7 of this report.</p>
18th Mar-25th Apr 2022	<p><b>Elected members review period (Chief Executives recommendations on submissions relating to proposed amendments) - 6 weeks.</b> This period was used by elected members to consider the recommendations of the Chief Executive in respect of the proposed amendments. A number of meetings were held with the members to discuss the report during this period.</p>	
25th April	<p><b>Making of the Cork County Development Plan</b> by resolution of the Members. Elected members voted make the County Development Plan. Most of the proposed amendments were adopted in full, some were adopted with minor modifications and a number of the proposed amendments were not adopted.</p>	<p>All amendments adopted by Council were reviewed by the Ecology Team and screened to determine if they could have the potential to negatively affect Natura 2000 sites. The outcome of the screening assessment of the adopted amendments is contained in the <b><u>Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Adopted Amendments.</u></b></p>
25th Apr-6th June 2022	<p><b>Compilation of County Development Plan, SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</b> This period was used to amalgamate all amendments as agreed into the County Development Plan and to prepare the final SEA report and Natura Impact Report and AA Determination for the County Development Plan. The new County Development Plan and environmental reports were published, and the plan comes into effect on June 6th 2022.</p>	<p>The Ecology Office compiled the Appropriate Assessment Report (this report), the Appropriate Assessment Screening Assessment of the Adopted Amendments and the Appropriate Assessment Determination for the County Development Plan.</p>



CHAPTER 3  
**DESCRIPTION  
OF THE PLAN**

## 3 Description of the Plan

3.0.1 The County Development Plan has five volumes:

- Volume One: County at Large – includes development, economic and environmental policies;
- Volume Two: Heritage and Amenity – includes lists of sites and places to which policy in volume one applies;
- Volume Three: North Cork – includes settlement specific policies for the towns and villages of the Fermoy and Kanturk Mallow Municipal Districts.
- Volume Four: South Cork - includes settlement specific policies for the towns and villages of the Carrigaline, Cobh, East Cork and Macroom Municipal Districts.
- Volume Five: West Cork - includes settlement specific policies for the towns and villages of the Bandon Kinsale and West Cork Municipal Districts.

### Volume 1 – County At Large Main Text and Objectives

#### Chapter 1 Introduction

3.0.2 This chapter details the principles on which the draft plan is based, the National and Regional Planning Policy and the legislative context within which the draft Plan was prepared. It describes the structure of the plan and the process for completing the plan making process.

#### Chapter 2 Core Strategy

3.0.3 The Core Strategy identifies a target growth in population of 60,913 for the county for the period 2016-2028 and sets out the target distribution of this population growth with 25% of the total new housing units allocated to the villages and rural areas and 75% to the towns. The county is divided into four Strategic Planning Areas.

3.0.4 Priority is given to the development of the Metropolitan Strategic Planning Area which is around the city and 51.3% of total population growth is assigned to this area, equivalent to 31,286 persons. A corresponding need for 13,543 additional housing units is also recognised. The Ring Strategic Planning Area is assigned 27.3% of total population growth, equivalent to 16,614 persons with a housing requirement of 8,765 units; the North Strategic Policy Area gets 11.7% of total population growth equivalent to 7,132 persons with a need for 3,701 housing units, while in the West population growth is equivalent to 9.7% of the total for the county at 5,881 persons and there is a requirement for 3,343 housing units.

3.0.5 In the previous Plan a single household occupancy size was used for the entire County. In preparing this Core Strategy a more refined approach to average household size has been applied at a Strategic Planning Area Level. A key consideration of this Core Strategy is to aim to reach an average household size of 2.5 by 2040. It is expected that the average household size in 2028 will be 2.63 for Cork County as a whole.

3.0.6 This chapter observes the potential of settlement networks including the North Cork Agri-Food Network which is made up of Charleville, Fermoy, Mitchelstown with Mallow as the Key Town leveraging significant potential from food and beverage and agri-tech assets; and West Cork Marine Network which is a network based on the N71 West Cork to South Kerry Corridor across settlements of Clonakilty as the Key Town with Skibbereen, Bantry, Schull and Castletownbere, leveraging significant marine economy, tourism, food and beverage, digital and other assets with strategic transport connections to the Cork Metropolitan Area. The planned new town of Monard is included in the Urban Expansion Area, in which it is planned to establish a suburban rail network. Some lands use proposals in this area, including the commencement of the Strategic Development Zone at Monard will be delivered after the lifetime of the Plan.

3.0.7 This chapter also sets out the Settlement Hierarchy for the county comprising the Metropolitan Area Towns, Key Towns, Ring Towns, County Towns, Key Villages, West Cork Island Communities, Villages, and other locations, and the strategic objectives for the development of each Strategic Planning Area.

3.0.8 The plan also outlines policy considerations including: Joint Retail Policy; Rural Housing Strategic Policy; Economic Strategy; Environmental Strategy; Climate Change Strategy; Transport Strategy; and Marine Spatial Planning / National Marine Planning Framework. Further details on these strategies in the relative chapters in Volume 1 on the draft Plan.

#### Chapter 3 Settlements and Placemaking

3.0.9 This chapter describes the settlement network of the County and includes strategic aims for the various settlement types including the Metropolitan Towns – Carrigaline, Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Midleton, Monard and Passage West; Hub Town – Mallow; Ring Towns – Bandon, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom and Youghal; County Towns – Buttevant, Charleville,

Kanturk, Millstreet, Mitchelstown, Newmarket, Bantry, Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull and Skibbereen; as well as the Key Villages and Other Locations - 164 no settlements. The broad objectives for these settlements are to support significant growth in population and employment primarily in the Metropolitan Towns and in Mallow; and support a better balance of development between the towns and their hinterland, improving and supporting the retention of key services and supporting levels of growth which reflect the character of each place where water and waste-water services permit in the ring towns, county towns and key villages.

- 3.0.10 The chapter also references networks of settlements including the North Cork Agri-Food Network incorporating the towns of Charleville, Fermoy, Mitchelstown and Mallow where investment food and beverage and agri-tech assets is the target to stimulate economic growth; the West Cork Marine Network incorporating Clonakilty, Skibbereen, Bantry, Schull and Castletownbere, where investment in the marine economy, tourism, food and beverage, digital and other assets is the target to stimulate economic growth; and the County Ring Network incorporating Mallow, Bandon, Kinsale, Fermoy, Macroom and Youghal, all towns with strong links into the Metropolitan area where the potential for sustainable employment led growth is identified as a target.
- 3.0.11 The chapter includes an introduction to the concept of placemaking and emphasizes the need and desire to achieve compact urban growth requiring 30% of new housing development to be delivered within the built envelope of towns and villages. It includes objectives to support the delivery of high-quality public realm across the settlement network in Cork through the delivery of healthy placemaking.

#### Chapter 4 Housing

- 3.0.12 This chapter sets out the general planning policies and principles for the provision of housing in County Cork. The chapter also gives guidance on appropriate housing densities and housing mix in the towns and villages, making provision for specialised housing requirements providing for the needs of communities. The chapter includes objectives requiring the reservation of 10% of lands zoned for residential/housing or lands zoned for a mixture of residential/housing and other uses to be made available for social and affordable housing. It also addresses the provision of student accommodation and accommodation for travellers.

#### Chapter 5 Rural

- 3.0.13 This chapter outlines the Council's objectives and principles for the sustainable management, protection and renewal of rural communities. Different types of rural area are identified and described, and the chapter identifies the persons who will qualify to build new houses within each of the given types of rural area which are also identified on the County Development Plan Map Browser. In accordance with policy set out in this chapter, all houses built within rural areas must also comply with other relevant plan policies and take account of site suitability from an environmental and landscape perspective.
- 3.0.14 The chapter describes the City/Metropolitan Greenbelt as well as individual town greenbelts and sets out the planning principles which will apply in these.
- 3.0.15 The chapter includes objectives which discourage urban generated housing in rural areas and which are supportive of facilitating the provision of housing for people with a rural generated housing need within their rural communities. The chapter includes policy supportive of agri-tourism. It is supportive of locating holiday home accommodation within existing settlements, and of locating new holiday home accommodation outside existing settlements only in a limited way. The chapter also sets out the principles for redevelopment/refurbishment of old and derelict buildings.

#### Chapter 6 Social and Community

- 3.0.16 The chapter presents the Council's objectives of supporting and providing social and community facilities across the county. These include community, educational, social, health, childcare, cultural, religious, recreation and leisure buildings and facilities that serve the needs of the public. The chapter also supports the protection and provision of local services such as local shops and post offices. The chapter includes objectives to secure land to provide social and community services and to support the HSE to provide healthcare facilities. It also includes policy to support the implementation of the Cork Age Friendly County programme and policy to support the provision of residential care, assisted living, group/community housing and other forms of accommodation for older persons.

#### Chapter 7 Marine, Coastal and Islands

- 3.0.17 The chapter includes a description of the hierarchy of national marine planning and policy documents and their linkages to national planning policy documents. It includes objectives supporting the implementation of the National Marine Planning Framework and the use of Integrated Coastal Zone Management approaches to planning in the coastal zone (with particular reference to Cork Harbour).
- 3.0.18 It includes objectives supporting industries associated with marine and coastal zones including marine related tourism,

fishing and aquaculture, and objectives supporting development on the islands and the development of coastal marine leisure facilities and amenities at beaches, where such developments are sustainable and compatible with nature conservation objectives.

- 3.0.19 The chapter also includes proposed policy for defending coastal areas against rising sea levels, prioritising the use of natural assets as defences in the first instance.

### **Chapter 8 Economic Development**

- 3.0.20 This chapter sets out the planning policies and objectives in support of the economic development of the County and seeks to inform and guide the plans and strategies of the various agencies involved in economic development in Cork. The chapter includes objectives supporting significant increases in population (+59,000 people to 2028) and employment growth (+55,500 jobs to 2028) as well as investment in transport infrastructure in the Metropolitan Area including in accordance with national and regional policy including the Cork Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) and the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS). It also sets out objectives for growth and development of other settlements and identified networks of town, largely based on settlement size, traditional function and location, with focus on the agri-food sector for North Cork and tourism for West Cork but also encouraging and supporting diversification and innovation.
- 3.0.21 The chapter includes objectives supporting investment in sustainable development around Cork Harbour and three Strategic Employment Locations located within the harbour area, recognising its role as a key economic driver within the region. It includes support for the protection of Port facilities for the fishing industry. The chapter also includes policy supporting traditional rural and marine linked industries including fishing, forestry and agriculture as well as support for the renewable energy industry, as well as policy protecting mineral reserves.

### **Chapter 9 Town Centres and Retail**

- 3.0.22 The chapter includes objectives relating to the diversification of uses within town centres, the improvement of the public realm and sets out strategies to address the issue of vacant properties in town centres.
- 3.0.23 It also sets out the quantum and type of retail development which will be permitted settlements, which accords with the retail hierarchy as set out in the Joint Retail Strategy (City and County Retail Strategy). It is a primary objective of the plan to locate new retail development within existing town centres in so far as possible and to discourage the development of out of town retail parks. The chapter also includes policy to align transport infrastructure with retail strategy, to encourage the sensitive redevelopment of old buildings in towns and to promote high quality design for new retail and other development in towns.

### **Chapter 10 Tourism**

- 3.0.24 This chapter outlines the objectives and policies for the development of the tourism sector in Cork. The overall vision for the plan is to promote a sustainable and well managed tourism industry with associated benefits for the county and to identify and develop new and diverse tourism products, particularly focused on heritage & environment and arts & culture. The plan also supports development of tourism enterprise outside established resorts and larger towns and into rural areas. The plan includes objectives to support the Wild Atlantic Way and Irelands Ancient East brands, to support the marine tourism industry and to support the development of long distant walking routes, Greenways and Blueways. There is also support in the plan for the development of sustainable agri-tourism developments and tourism retail developments and for the development of audience facilities for festival type events at appropriate locations. The plan includes objectives to support the development of tourism related facilities and accommodation within settlements. It also includes an objective to protect the natural, built and cultural heritage resources upon which the tourism industry depends.

### **Chapter 11 Water Management**

- 3.0.25 The overarching aims for water management as set out in this chapter are to provide and improve water, wastewater, surface water and flood alleviation services to facilitate development, support the delivery of population, housing and growth targets to protect public health and to protect, restore and improve the receiving environment and water quality.
- 3.0.26 Included in the chapter are references to locations within the County where issues relating to drinking-water supply and waste-water treatment capacity, and the impact of same on the protection of aquatic European Sites, has arisen as an issue of concern.
- 3.0.27 The plan includes objectives supporting the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures. It also includes support for local collaborative approaches to catchment management and includes objectives to protect surface water, ground water and drinking water sources, including objectives preventing development within riparian zones and flood plains as well as objectives requiring the use of SuDS measures in new developments.

- 3.0.28 The objectives set out in this chapter seek to prioritise the provision of water services infrastructure in areas prioritised for future growth and development, particularly in the Metropolitan area and for settlements where there are services are not meeting current needs and where there are issues of non-compliance with license conditions or EU Water or Nature Directives.
- 3.0.29 The chapter includes a table which sets out the current status of water services infrastructure by settlement, identifying locations where deficiencies or shortcomings and where investment will be required to facilitate additional development to progress. It sets out policy requiring new development within settlements to connect to public waste-water services, requiring developments in rural areas to comply with EPA codes of practise and requiring that at least secondary treatment is provided to all wastewater discharges.
- 3.0.30 The chapter includes policy which will require all new developments to incorporate SuDS measures and an objective to provide adequate storm water infrastructure in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth expected for the county.
- 3.0.31 The chapter also supports the implementation of national flood risk policy by primarily avoiding development in flood risk areas and ensuring that proposed development within flood risk zones is compatible with national flood risk guidelines.

## Chapter 12 Transport and Mobility

- 3.0.32 The overarching aims for the delivery of transport infrastructure as set out in this chapter are to deliver an efficient transport system supporting connectivity and competitiveness, and to make sustainable travel modes an attractive and convenient choice. There is an emphasis on sustainable active travel, and the plan also supports the delivery of new strategic road infrastructure and the delivery of improvements in the existing road and rail networks.
- 3.0.33 The chapter commits to the integration and alignment of new development with the provision of sustainable transport links, maximising accessibility to public transport, walking and cycling. It also includes support for the implementation of the Cork Cycle Network Plan incorporating the Lee to Sea Greenway, as well as support for the delivery of cycle routes including greenway and blueway corridor projects as well as new cycling corridors within the existing road network where possible.
- 3.0.34 It also includes objectives supporting improved bus and rail services and improvement of links connecting such services to new developments and a commitment to implement the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy.
- 3.0.35 The chapter includes a commitment to support the delivery of certain road infrastructure projects including:
- N/M20 Cork to Limerick;
  - M8/N25 Dunkettle Interchange;
  - N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy Road;
  - N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road;
  - N71/72 Mallow Relief Road;
  - N25 Carrigtwohill to Midleton
  - Cork Northern Ring Road;
  - Improvements to N71, N72, N73, N77, N78 inter-regional and intra-regional corridors;
  - Access to Monard;
  - N27 Cork Airport;
  - Cork Northern Distributor Road;
  - Carrigaline Western Distributor Road;
  - Upgrade of the R624 (link from N25 to Marino Point and Cobh);
  - Upgrade of the R630 Regional Road linking Midleton to Whitegate;
  - Upgrade of the R586 Regional Road from Bandon to Bantry via Dunmanway; and
  - Upgrade of the R572 linking Castletownbere Port to the N71.
  - Upgrading of the R585 between Cork City and Bantry via Crookstown, Cappeen and Kealkill.
- 3.0.36 The chapter includes commitments to create an efficient freight network, and to protect the potential for rail-freight facilities to Marino Point and North Esk, Glounthaune.

- 3.0.37 The chapter includes objectives supporting the expansion of Port facilities in Ringaskiddy and Marino Point and supports the upgrade of roads to facilitate transport connectivity to the Port area, as well as road transport links to Castletownbere Port. It also supports the role of ferries and other forms of water based transport providing access to the islands.
- 3.0.38 The chapter includes objectives relating to the protection of public safety zones around Cork Airport and also includes car and cycle parking standards which will be applied for various development types.

### **Chapter 13 Sustainable Energy and Digital Economy**

- 3.0.39 This chapter sets out policies that are aimed at supporting investment in sustainable energy production and infrastructure in Cork including wind, solar, bioenergy and hydrogen energy. It also includes policy relating to gas storage facilities and telecommunications. The chapter includes policy supporting continued development of renewable energy development proposals, including those co-located with energy storage facilities, which are compatible with principles of proper planning and sustainable development. It includes details of the onshore wind energy strategy which sets out large scale wind energy development policy for identified locations of the county where wind energy development will be encouraged, where new proposals for wind energy development will be open to consideration and where new proposals for wind energy development will be normally discouraged. It includes policy supporting the development of solar energy projects and hydroelectric power generation in accordance with principles of proper planning and sustainable development, as well as the development of the transmission grid, storage and distribution network infrastructure. It also includes policy supporting the development of small-scale wind, solar and hydro-electric renewable energy projects.
- 3.0.40 The chapter includes a section supporting the development of off-shore wind and ocean energy projects and includes an objective to provide land-based infrastructure to support the assembly, deployment and maintenance of wind and ocean energy infrastructure, with reference to Cork Harbour and Castletownbere as potential locations.
- 3.0.41 The chapter supports the development of bioenergy plants on brownfield sites adjacent to urban areas and the development of green hydrogen as a fuel for power generation and includes an objective supporting the potential provision of Carbon Capture and Storage development at the Kinsale Head gas field. It also includes an objective encouraging innovated new building design and the retrofitting of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and energy conservation.
- 3.0.42 The chapter includes objectives supporting the development of new electricity transmission and gas networks and the proposed new Celtic Interconnector which will create an electrical grid connection linking Ireland to France.

### **Chapter 14 Green Infrastructure and Landscape**

- 3.0.43 This chapter introduces the concept of green and blue infrastructure planning which recognises the value of identifying, protecting and managing green spaces and watercourses in urban areas to enhance and maximise their environmental, biodiversity, heritage, cultural, landscape and recreational benefits. It sets out key principles for the protection and management of green and blue infrastructure resources and identifies the cross linkages to objectives set out in other chapters of the plan, particularly objectives relating to the protection of biodiversity and water resources and objectives contained in the climate chapter, which will help to achieve these principles.
- 3.0.44 It also includes objectives relating to the standards to be applied in the design and provision of public and private open space in new residential developments, supporting the development of new recreational opportunities in the wider countryside, the recording of Public Rights of Way and the protection of high -value landscapes..
- 3.0.45 The chapter includes objectives encouraging the retention of green space in urban, urban fringe and adjacent countryside areas, supporting the development of a green infrastructure network, supporting the protection of water resources, and enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of green spaces in urban settings and supporting the development and enhancement of green corridors linking existing open spaces in settlements.
- 3.0.46 The chapter links to settlement specific policy and maps which identify the green and blue infrastructure resources of the main towns and sets out objectives relating to same. It includes objectives requiring new local area plans and masterplans to include detailed green infrastructure proposals and new development and re-development proposals to incorporate landscape/green/blue infrastructure plans with their planning proposals. The chapter includes a commitment to consider preparing a guidance note for best practise on integrating green and blue infrastructure into new development proposals.
- 3.0.47 The chapter includes objectives supporting the provision of recreation and amenity facilities in new developments and also includes one supporting the protection and enhancement of existing recreational facilities and public open space. It also includes objectives relating to the provision of private and public open space within new residential developments and the standards which will be required in terms of quantum and quality of same which must accord with the Councils Recreation and Amenity Policy.

- 3.0.48 The chapter includes a section on countryside recreation and includes an objective to support the diversification of the rural economy through the development of the recreational potential of the countryside. It also includes an objectives relating to the preservation of public rights of way, protection of the high value landscapes in accordance with the draft Cork County Landscape Strategy, the protection of scenic routes as identified in the Volume 2 of the plan, the protection of approaches to towns and the protection of prominent open hill tops and valley sides within the Metropolitan Greenbelt.

#### **Chapter 15 Biodiversity and Environment**

- 3.0.49 This chapter sets out the Councils objectives for the protection of biodiversity resources including sites proposed or designated for nature conservation, protected species and habitats of high natural value outside protected sites.
- 3.0.50 The chapter includes objectives committing the Council to the incorporation of consideration of protection and enhancement of biodiversity resources across all elements areas of Council activity including plan making, development, land management, the permitting and licensing of new development and other activities, and through its work with communities and other groups as well as other agencies.
- 3.0.51 The chapter includes objectives supporting the implementation of the National and County Biodiversity Action Plans and to All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- 3.0.52 It also includes broader environmental objectives relating to the protection of soils and air quality, to the control of noise and light emissions and the management and control of waste.

#### **Chapter 16 Heritage**

- 3.0.53 This chapter describes the built heritage of the County and sets out objectives for protecting same. The chapter includes objectives relating to the protection of archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, zones of archaeological potential in historic towns, industrial and post medieval archaeology, battlefield, siege and ambush sites and burial grounds. It also includes an objective to develop a management plan for the archaeology of the county.
- 3.0.54 The chapter references the Record of Protected Structures contained in Volume 2 of the plan and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and includes objectives to identify and include structures on the Record of Protected Structures, to extend the record and to protect the structures contained within the record. It also includes objectives to have regard and to consider structures included on the National Inventory and to protect non-structural elements of the built heritage including parks and gardens and to establish and provide protection of Architectural Conservation Areas. The chapter also includes objectives supporting the protection of vernacular heritage buildings, historic and designed landscapes. It includes an objective supporting community led approaches to village improvement projects using village design statements.
- 3.0.55 The chapter includes commitments to protect and promote the cultural heritage of the county, including placenames, Irish language and unique cultural elements of Gaeltacht areas.
- 3.0.56 The chapter includes a short section on the arts and includes an objective to provide for the development of arts infrastructure and facilities to support creative activity at local level.

#### **Chapter 17 Climate Action**

- 3.0.57 This chapter sets out the context for county level climate policy, linking back to International, National and Regional Policy. It also identifies the policy areas included across all chapters of the plan which will help to mitigate the impacts of Climate Change. These include policies which are intended to deliver compact growth, improved public and active transport opportunities, encouragement of development of more renewable energy facilities and the protection of biodiversity resources. It includes objectives to support National and Regional climate policy and to support the implementation of Cork Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, to enhance awareness of climate action issues, to support the Regional Climate Office and to prepare Climate Action Plans if required.

#### **Chapter 18 Zoning and Land Use**

- 3.0.58 This chapter provides technical guidance and clarifies the types of development which will be permitted within land zoned for particular uses e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, business, community or mixed uses in Volumes 3, 4 and 5.
- 3.0.59 The chapter also includes a description of the proposed new approach to zoning of green space within urban settlements identifying areas whose primary function will be active recreational use, those areas whose primary functions will relate to protection of the environment, landscape and biodiversity and open space areas whose primary function will be to provide for more passive recreational uses.

- 3.0.60 The chapter provides for the zoning of Residential Reserve land, which is land which may not be required to be developed during the planning period, but which was zoned in previous plans and is being protected to facilitate the long-term expansion of certain settlements in large towns.

## **Chapter 19 Implementation and Delivery**

- 3.0.61 This chapter of the plan sets out details as to how it is proposed to implement the plan. It includes details as to how the required roads, water and other infrastructure will be funded and built to allow for the development of zoned land and it also includes details as to how plan implementation will be monitored.

## **Volume 3 North Cork**

- 3.0.62 This volume of the plan includes settlement specific policy and zonings for the towns, villages and other locations in the Kanturk Mallow and the Fermoy Municipal Districts. The relevant settlements in the Kanturk – Mallow MD are Mallow, Charleville, Kanturk, Buttevant, Newmarket, Ballydesmond, Banteer, Boherbue, Dromina, Grenagh, Knocknagree, Milford, Newtownshandrum, Ballyclough, Ballyhea, Bweeng, Castlemagner, Cecilstown, Cullen, Freemount, Glantane, Kilbrin, Kiskeam, Liscarroll, Lismire, Lombardstown, New Twopothouse, Rathcoole, Rockchapel, Tullylease and Dromalour (31). The relevant settlements in the Fermoy Municipal District are Fermoy, Mitchelstown, Rathcormack, Ballyhooly, Castlelyons, Bridebridge, Castletownroche, Conna, Doneraile, Glanworth, Glenville, Kildorrery, Kilworth, Ballynoe, Bartlemy, Clondulane, Killavullen, Shanballymore and Collagowan (19).

## **Volume 4 South Cork**

- 3.0.63 This volume of the plan includes settlement specific policy and zonings for the towns, villages and other locations in the Carrigaline, Cobh, East Cork and Macroom Municipal Districts. The relevant settlements in the Carrigaline Municipal District are Carrigaline, Passage West, Ringaskiddy, Crosshaven and Bays, Ballygarvan, Halfway, Minane Bridge and Waterfall (8). The relevant settlements in the Cobh Municipal District are Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Little Island, Monard, Carrignavar, Glounthaune, Watergrasshill, Knockraha, Whitechurch, Fota Island, Haulbowline Island, Marino Point and Spike Island (13). The relevant settlements in the Macroom Municipal District are Macroom, Millstreet, Killumney/Ovens, Ballingeary, Ballymakeery/Ballyvourvey, Coachford, Aghabullogue, Aherla, Ballynora, Cloghdub, Clondrohid, Courtbrack, Crookstown, Inchigeelagh, Kilmurray, Kilnamatyra, Model Village (Dripsey), Rylane/Seiscne, Stuake/Donoughmore, Upper Dripsey, Gougane Barra and Inniscarra (22). The relevant settlements in East Cork are Youghal, Middleton, Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Killeagh, Whitegate and Aghada, Ballincurrag, Ballycotton, Ballymacoda, Dungourney, Lady'sbridge, Lisgoold, Mogeely, Saleen, Shanagarry/Garryvoe, Trabolgan and Redbarn (17).

## **Volume 5 West Cork**

- 3.0.64 This volume of the plan includes settlement specific policy and zonings for the towns and villages and other locations, including the islands in the West Cork and the Bandon Kinsale Municipal Districts. The settlements referred to in West Cork are Bantry, Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull, Skibbereen, Ballineen-Enniskeen, Ballydehob, Baltimore, Drimoleague, Durrus, Glengarriff, Leap, Rosscarbery, Union Hall, Bere Island, Dursey Island, Heir Island, Long Island, Oileán Chláire, and Ahakista, Allihies, Ardfield, Ballinascarthy, Ballylickey, Castletownshend, Crookhaven, Drinagh, Eyeries, Glandore, Goleen, Kealkill, Kilcrohane, Shannonvale, Barleycove, Inchydoney, Owenahinchy and Tragumna (38). The settlements referred to in Bandon Kinsale are Bandon, Kinsale, Ballinspittle, Belgooly, Courtmacsherry, Inishannon, Riverstick, Timoleague, Ballinadee, Ballinhassig, Butlerstown, Crossbarry, Kilbrittain, Newcestown, Oldchapel, Garrettstown/Garrylucas, Oysterhaven and Dunderrow (18).



**CHAPTER 4**  
**EUROPEAN SITES**  
**OF RELEVANCE FOR**  
**THE APPROPRIATE**  
**ASSESSMENT**  
**PROCESS**

## 4 European Sites of Relevance For the Appropriate Assessment Process

- 4.0.1 The County Development Plan covers Cork County excluding the administrative area of the City. The County hosts a diverse range of ecosystem types, including marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems, reflecting its geographical position on the southern coast of the country, its geology which is dominated by sandstone ridges and limestone valley floors, and the influence of the people who have settled here. The county supports thirty sites which have been designated or proposed for designation as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive, and a further eighteen sites which have been designated as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive. AA reporting at all stages of plan making has focused on these sites and on European sites in adjacent counties within 15km of the Co. Cork border. Consideration was also given to potential for the plan to impact negatively on other European Sites occurring beyond 15km from the county bounds. No such sites were identified.
- 4.0.2 The county also supports one hundred and fifteen proposed Natural Heritage Areas which are proposed to be designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and eight Natural Heritage Areas which have been through the designation process. These sites, and other areas or habitat types which have been identified to be of high biodiversity importance. Consideration of potential for the plan to impact on these sites was included as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process.
- 4.0.3 Tables 4.1 and 4.2 list the European sites which were subject to review at all stages of the plan making process and these are shown in Figure 1. This includes all European sites within the County and all European sites within 15km of the County boundary. The habitats and species for which these sites are designated are also included in the tables.

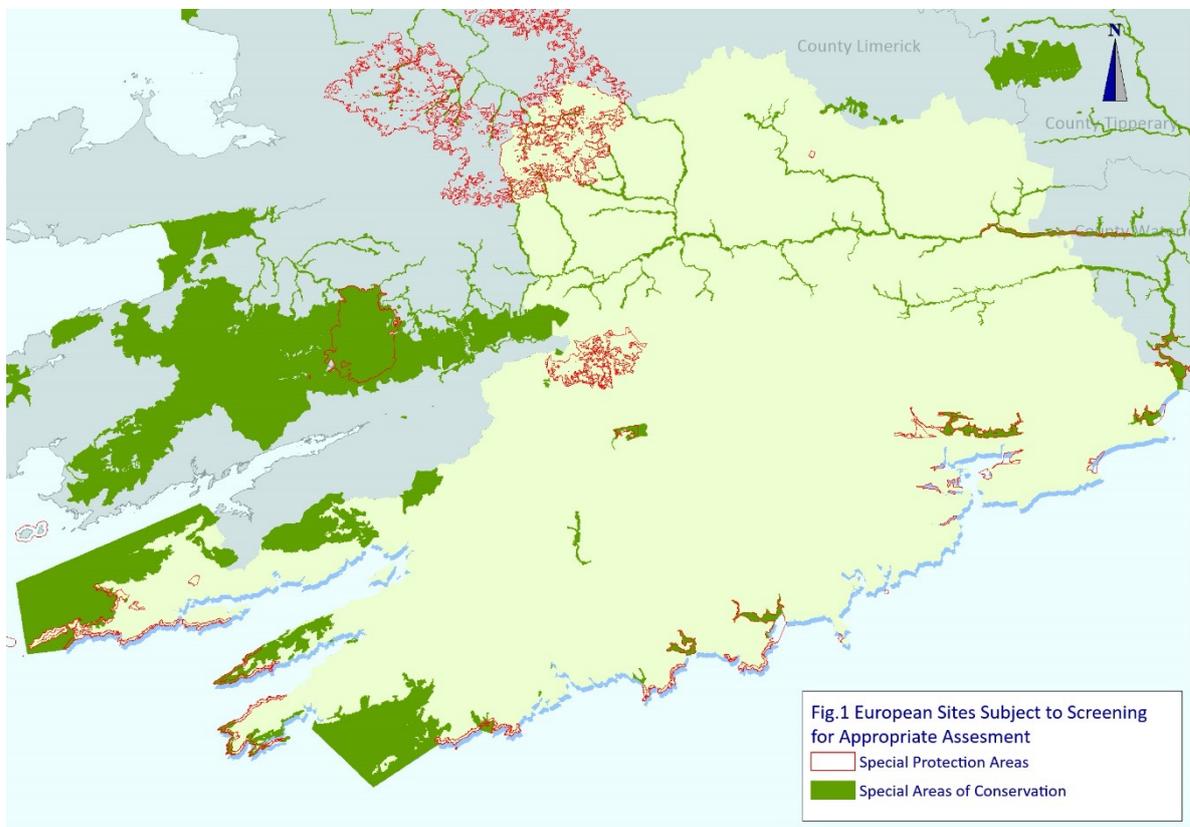


Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
0077	<a href="#">Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] *</li> </ul> <p>*listed but not included in Conservation Objectives document.</p>
0090	<a href="#">Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</li> <li>• <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>• <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Common Seal) [1365]</li> </ul>
0091	<a href="#">Clonakilty Bay SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) [2150]</li> </ul>
0093	<a href="#">Caha Mountains SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> <li>• <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>
0097	<a href="#">Lough Hyne Nature Reserve &amp; Environs SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• European Dry Heaths {4030}</li> <li>• Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>).</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
0101	<a href="#">Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</li> <li>• Phocoena phocoena (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]</li> <li>• Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>• Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]</li> </ul>
0102	<a href="#">Sheep's Head SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]</li> </ul>
0106	<a href="#">St. Gobnet's Wood SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</li> </ul>
0108	<a href="#">The Gearagh SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidentium p.p. vegetation [3270]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</li> <li>• Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>
0109	<a href="#">Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
0365	<a href="#">Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]</li> <li>• Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]</li> <li>• <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> <li>• <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833]</li> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax killarnensis</i> (Killarney Shad) [5046]</li> </ul>
1040	<a href="#">Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395] *</li> </ul> <p>*not included in conservation objectives</p>
1043	<a href="#">Cleanderry Wood SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
1058	<a href="#">Great Island Channel SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]</li> </ul>
1061	<a href="#">Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal lagoons [1150] *</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul>
1070	<a href="#">Myross Wood SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>
1230	<a href="#">Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> </ul>
1547	<a href="#">Castletownshend SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>
1873	<a href="#">Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> </ul>
1879	<a href="#">Glanmore Bog SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</li> <li>• Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>
1890	<a href="#">Mullaghanish Bog SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
2036	<a href="#">Ballyhoura Mountains SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> </ul>
2037	<a href="#">Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>
2158	<a href="#">Kenmare River SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] *</li> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]</li> <li>• Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]</li> <li>• Vertigo angustior (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]</li> <li>• Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> <li>• Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>• Phoca vitulina (Common Seal) [1365]</li> </ul> <p>*Not included in conservation objectives</p>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
2165	<a href="#">Lower River Shannon SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]</li> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]</li> <li>• Reefs [1170]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) [6410]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>
2170	<a href="#">Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries [1130]</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> <li>• <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
2171	<a href="#">Bandon River SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]</li> <li>• Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> </ul>
2189	<a href="#">Farranamanagh Lough SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal lagoons [1150]</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> </ul>
2280	<a href="#">Dunbeacon Shingle SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> </ul>
2281	<a href="#">Reen Point Shingle SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]</li> </ul>
4021	<a href="#">Old Head of Kinsale SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]</li> <li>• Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199]</li> </ul>
4022	<a href="#">Ballycotton Bay SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]</li> <li>• Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]</li> <li>• Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169]</li> <li>• Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182]</li> <li>• Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>
4023	<a href="#">Ballymacoda Bay SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigeon (Anas penelope) [A050]</li> <li>• Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]</li> <li>• Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]</li> <li>• Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]</li> <li>• Sanderling (Calidris alba) [A144]</li> <li>• Dunlin (Calidris alpina) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]</li> <li>• Redshank (Tringa totanus) [A162]</li> <li>• Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (Chroicocephalus ridibundus) [A179]</li> <li>• Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182]</li> <li>• Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
4028	<a href="#">Blackwater Estuary SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>
4030	<a href="#">Cork Harbour SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]</li> <li>• Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</li> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>• Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</li> <li>• Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</li> <li>• Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</li> <li>• Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>• Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>• Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</li> <li>• Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</li> <li>• Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>
4066	<a href="#">Bull and the Cow Rocks SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]</li> <li>• Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]</li> <li>• Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]</li> </ul>
4081	<a href="#">Clonakilty Bay SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>
4094	<a href="#">Blackwater Callows SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>
4095	<a href="#">Kilcolman Bog SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</li> <li>• Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>

Table 4.1 European Sites In Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
4109	<a href="#">The Gearagh SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</li> <li>• Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</li> <li>• Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]</li> <li>• Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>
4124	<a href="#">Sovereign Islands SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> </ul>
4155	<a href="#">Beara Peninsula SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>
4156	<a href="#">Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>
4161	<a href="#">Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mountain Eagle SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]</li> </ul>
4162	<a href="#">Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]</li> </ul>
4190	<a href="#">Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>
4191	<a href="#">Seven Heads SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>
4219	<a href="#">Courtmacsherry Bay SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003]</li> <li>• Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>• Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]</li> <li>• Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</li> <li>• Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>• Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</li> <li>• Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>• Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>• Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>• Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</li> <li>• Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul>

Table 4.2 European Sites Within 15km of Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
0353	<a href="#">Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>
0364	<a href="#">Kilgarvan Ice House SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>
0646	<a href="#">Galtee Mountains SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]</li> <li>• Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]</li> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> <li>• Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> </ul>
1342	<a href="#">Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]</li> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]</li> <li>• Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> <li>• Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]</li> <li>• Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]</li> </ul>
1881	<a href="#">Maulagowna Bog SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]</li> </ul>
2041	<a href="#">Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>
2098	<a href="#">Old Domestic Building, Askive Woods SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>
2123	<a href="#">Ardmore Head SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>

Table 4.2 European Sites Within 15km of Co. Cork Which Were Subject to AA Screening

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests
2137	<a href="#">Lower River Suir SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]</li> <li>• Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]</li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]</li> <li>• Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]</li> <li>• <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]</li> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>
2173	<a href="#">Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> <li>• <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]</li> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]</li> <li>• <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]</li> </ul>
2257	<a href="#">Moanour Mountain SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]</li> <li>• European dry heaths [4030]</li> </ul>
2315	<a href="#">Glanlough Woods SAC</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</li> </ul>
4038	<a href="#">Killarney National Park SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098]</li> <li>• Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</li> </ul>
4154	<a href="#">Iveragh Peninsula SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> <li>• Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199]</li> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>
4175	<a href="#">Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]</li> <li>• Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013]</li> <li>• Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]</li> <li>• Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</li> <li>• Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194]</li> </ul>
4192	<a href="#">Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>• Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]</li> <li>• Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]</li> <li>• Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]</li> <li>• Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]</li> </ul>



**CHAPTER 5**  
**DRAFT PLAN**  
**SCREENING FOR**  
**APPROPRIATE**  
**ASSESSMENT**

## 5 Draft Plan Screening for Appropriate Assessment

5.0.1 All of the policies in the draft plan were screened to determine whether they could have implications for any of these sites. Each policy was examined having regard to these sites to see whether they could have the potential to give rise to

- direct loss of habitat within any Natura 2000 site;
- indirect impacts on any Natura 2000 site which could affect quality of habitats within any Natura 2000 site;
- disturbance to species for which any Natura 2000 site is designated;
- a reduction in richness or density of species for which any Natura 2000 site is designated;
- negative changes in indicators of conservation value (eg water quality) in any Natura 2000 site.

5.0.2 Table 5.1 below summarises the screening assessment made for each EU site. Table 5.2 provides additional information identifying at high level the issues which required furthermore detailed assessment for relevant sites where the requirement for AA was screened in. The high-level screening assessment did not take account of policies in the draft plan which were intended to protect the environment, water quality and European sites. The detailed site-specific screening assessments are available to view in Appendix I of the **Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan**.

Table 5.1 Summary of Screening Assessment (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening)

Site Code	Site Name	Policies which could give rise to direct effects on the site	Policies which could give rise to indirect effects on habitat quality within the site	Policies which could cause disturbance to qualifying interest species	Policies which could cause a reduction in qualifying interest species richness/diversity	Policies which could cause changes in indicators of conservation value	Screening conclusion
0077	Ballymacoda (Clon-priest and Pillmore) SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	Possible – water quality	AA required.
0090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	None	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
0091	Clonakilty Bay SAC	Possible	Yes	N/A	N/A	Possible – water quality	AA required.
0093	Caha Mountains SAC	None	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
0097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC	Possible	Yes	N/A	N/A	None	AA required.
0101	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible – water quality	AA required.
0102	Sheep's Head SAC	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
0106	St. Gobnet's Wood SAC	None	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	AA required.
0108	The Gearagh SAC	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
0109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	Possible	AA required.
0365	Killamey National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	None	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
1040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
1043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	None	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.

Table 5.1 Summary of Screening Assessment (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening)

Site Code	Site Name	Policies which could give rise to direct effects on the site	Policies which could give rise to indirect effects on habitat quality within the site	Policies which could cause disturbance to qualifying interest species	Policies which could cause a reduction in qualifying interest species richness/diversity	Policies which could cause changes in indicators of conservation value	Screening conclusion
1058	Great Island Channel SAC	None	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes	AA required.
1061	Kilkeran Lake and Castletrefreke Dunes SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	Possible	AA required.
1070	Myross Wood SAC	None	Possible	None	None	None	AA required.
1230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	Possible	Yes	N/A	N/A	Possible – water quality	AA required.
1547	Castletownshend SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
1873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
1879	Glanmore Bog SAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Possible	AA required.
1890	Mullaghanish Bog SAC	None	Possible	None	None	None	AA Required.
2036	Ballyhoura Mountains SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	Possible	AA required.
2037	Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC	None	Possible	None	None	None	AA Required.
2158	Kenmare River SAC	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
2165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
2170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.

Table 5.1 Summary of Screening Assessment (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening)

Site Code	Site Name	Policies which could give rise to direct effects on the site	Policies which could give rise to indirect effects on habitat quality within the site	Policies which could cause disturbance to qualifying interest species	Policies which could cause a reduction in qualifying interest species richness/diversity	Policies which could cause changes in indicators of conservation value	Screening conclusion
2171	Bandon River SAC	Yes	Yes	Possible	Yes	Possible	AA required.
2189	Farranamagh Lough SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	Possible	AA required.
2280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	None	AA required.
2281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	None	Possible	N/A	N/A	None	AA required.
4021	Old Head of Kinsale SPA	None	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	AA required.
4022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4030	Cork Harbour SPA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4066	Bull and the Cow Rocks SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4081	Clonakilty Bay SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4094	Blackwater Callows SPA	None	Possible	None	None	None	AA required.
4095	Kilcolman Bog SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.

Table 5.1 Summary of Screening Assessment (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening)

Site Code	Site Name	Policies which could give rise to direct effects on the site	Policies which could give rise to indirect effects on habitat quality within the site	Policies which could cause disturbance to qualifying interest species	Policies which could cause a reduction in qualifying interest species richness/diversity	Policies which could cause changes in indicators of conservation value	Screening conclusion
4109	The Gearagh SPA	None	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4124	Sovereign Islands SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4155	Beara Peninsula SPA	Possible	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4156	Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	AA required.
4161	Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mountain Eagle SPA	Possible	None	Yes	Yes	Possible	AA required.
4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA	Possible	None	Possible	Yes	Possible	AA required.
4190	Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA	None	Possible	Yes	None	None	AA required.
4191	Seven Heads SPA	None	Possible	Yes	None	None	AA required.
4219	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	Possible	Yes	Possible	None	Possible	AA required.
0353	Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
0364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
0646	Galtee Mountains SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
1342	Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.

Table 5.1 Summary of Screening Assessment (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening)

Site Code	Site Name	Policies which could give rise to direct effects on the site	Policies which could give rise to indirect effects on habitat quality within the site	Policies which could cause disturbance to qualifying interest species	Policies which could cause a reduction in qualifying interest species richness/diversity	Policies which could cause changes in indicators of conservation value	Screening conclusion
1881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2123	Ardmore Head SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2137	Lower River Suir SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2098	Old Domestic Building, Askive Woods SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2257	Moanour Mountain SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
2315	Glanlough Woods SAC	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4038	Killamey National Park SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4175	Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.
4192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	None	None	None	None	None	No potential for impact on this site identified.

Table 5.2 Summary Screening By Issue (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening).

Site Code	Site Name	Vol 1 Chap 18 & Vols 3, 4 & 5 - Zonings		Settlement Level Population Targets: Vol 1 Chaps 2, 3 and 4. Population targets increasing pressure on water quality and on natural hydrological processes in freshwater and marine catchments linked to EU Sites			Vol 1 Chap 5	Vol 1 Chap 7	Vol 1 Chap 8	Vol 1 Chap 10	Vol 1 Chap 12	Vol 1 Chap 13
		Land zoned for development within or near EU sites	Settlement specific infrastructure/ utility policy	Waste-water	Surface water	Drinking water	Rural Housing Policies	Marine Policies	Economic Policies	Tourism Policies	Transport Policies	Sustainable Energy Policies
0077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest & Pillmore) SAC			✓			✓					✓
0090	Glengarriff Harbour & Woodland SAC	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
0091	Clonakilty Bay SAC	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
0093	Caha Mountains SAC						✓			✓		✓
0097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
0101	Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC	✓	✓ *	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
0102	Sheep's Head SAC	✓					✓			✓		✓
0106	St. Gobnet's Wood SAC	✓	✓ *				✓			✓		✓
0108	The Gearagh SAC			✓								✓
0109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC						✓			✓		✓

Table 5.2 Summary Screening By Issue (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening).

Site Code	Site Name	Vol 1 Chap 18 & Vols 3, 4 & 5 - Zonings		Settlement Level Population Targets: Vol 1 Chaps 2, 3 and 4. Population targets increasing pressure on water quality and on natural hydrological processes in freshwater and marine catchments linked to EU Sites			Vol 1 Chap 5	Vol 1 Chap 7	Vol 1 Chap 8	Vol 1 Chap 10	Vol 1 Chap 12	Vol 1 Chap 13
		Land zoned for development within or near EU sites	Settlement specific infrastructure/ utility policy	Waste-water	Surface water	Drinking water						
0365	Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC									✓		
1040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
1043	Cleanderry Wood SAC						✓		✓	✓		✓
1058	Great Island Channel SAC	✓	✓ *	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1061	Kilkeran Lake & Castletreke Dunes SAC			✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
1070	Myross Wood SAC											✓
1230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	✓	✓ *	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
1547	Castletownshend SAC											
1879	Glanmore Bog SAC	✓					✓			✓		✓
1890	Mullaghanish Bog SAC											✓

Table 5.2 Summary Screening By Issue (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening).

Site Code	Site Name	Vol 1 Chap 18 & Vols 3, 4 & 5 - Zonings	Vol 3, 4 & 5	Settlement Level Population Targets: Vol 1 Chaps 2, 3 and 4. Population targets increasing pressure on water quality and on natural hydrological processes in freshwater and marine catchments linked to EU Sites			Vol 1 Chap 5	Vol 1 Chap 7	Vol 1 Chap 8	Vol 1 Chap 10	Vol 1 Chap 12	Vol 1 Chap 13
		Land zoned for development within or near EU sites	Settlement specific infrastructure/ utility policy	Waste-water	Surface water	Drinking water	Rural Housing Policies	Marine Policies	Economic Policies	Tourism Policies	Transport Policies	Sustainable Energy Policies
2036	Ballyhoura Mountains SAC									✓		✓
2037	Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC											✓
2158	Kenmare River SAC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓
2165	Lower River Shannon SAC	✓		✓	✓		✓					✓
2170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	✓	✓ * †	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
2171	Bandon River SAC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓
2189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC		✓ *							✓		✓
2280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC									✓		
2281	Reen Point Shingle SAC									✓		
4021	Old Head of Kinsale SPA									✓		

Table 5.2 Summary Screening By Issue (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening).

Site Code	Site Name	Vol 1 Chap 18 & Vols 3, 4 & 5 - Zonings	Vol 3, 4 & 5	Settlement Level Population Targets: Vol 1 Chaps 2, 3 and 4. Population targets increasing pressure on water quality and on natural hydrological processes in freshwater and marine catchments linked to EU Sites			Vol 1 Chap 5	Vol 1 Chap 7	Vol 1 Chap 8	Vol 1 Chap 10	Vol 1 Chap 12	Vol 1 Chap 13
		Land zoned for development within or near EU sites	Settlement specific infrastructure/ utility policy	Waste-water	Surface water	Drinking water	Rural Housing Policies	Marine Policies	Economic Policies	Tourism Policies	Transport Policies	Sustainable Energy Policies
4022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4030	Cork Harbour SPA	✓	✓ *	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4081	Clonakilty Bay SPA	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4094	Blackwater Callows SPA		✓ †	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4109	The Gearagh SPA	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4155	Beara Peninsula SPA	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4156	Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA	✓	✓ *				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4161	Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills & Mountain Eagle SPA	✓					✓		✓	✓		✓

Table 5.2 Summary Screening By Issue (ref Appendix I of NIR for draft Plan to review detailed screening).

Site Code	Site Name	Vol 1 Chap 18 & Vols 3, 4 & 5 - Zonings	Vol 3, 4 & 5	Settlement Level Population Targets: Vol 1 Chaps 2, 3 and 4. Population targets increasing pressure on water quality and on natural hydrological processes in freshwater and marine catchments linked to EU Sites			Vol 1 Chap 5	Vol 1 Chap 7	Vol 1 Chap 8	Vol 1 Chap 10	Vol 1 Chap 12	Vol 1 Chap 13
		Land zoned for development within or near EU sites	Settlement specific infrastructure/ utility policy	Waste-water	Surface water	Drinking water	Rural Housing Policies	Marine Policies	Economic Policies	Tourism Policies	Transport Policies	Sustainable Energy Policies
4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA						✓			✓		✓
4190	Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA						✓			✓		✓
4191	Seven Heads SPA		✓ *				✓			✓		✓
4219	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	✓	✓ *				✓			✓		✓



**CHAPTER 6**  
**APPROPRIATE**  
**ASSESSMENT**  
**DRAFT PLAN**

## 6 Appropriate Assessment Draft Plan

6.0.1 The screening process identified a number of policies which were considered to have the potential to have negative effects on EU sites and these policies were considered further as part of the Appropriate Assessment process (see Chapter 7 of the **Natura Impact Report**). Regard was had in the completion of the appropriate assessment to policies of the draft plan which were intended to provide protection to the environment generally as well as to biodiversity and European sites. These included the following:

**Table 6.1 Environmental Policies in draft County Development Plan**

Policy No	Policy Aim
WM 11-1	Protection of water resources and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan.
WM 11-2	Controls development at settlement level tied to availability of appropriate waste-water infrastructure.
WM 11-3	Groundwater protection policy.
WM 11-5	Requires new development outside settlements to provide on-site waste-water treatment systems which comply with EPA Code of Practice.
WM 11-6	Requires new agriculture developments to comply with EU (Good Agriculture Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations.
WM 11-7	Requires new water services infrastructure to be designed to take account of impacts of climate change.
WM 11-9	Controls development at settlement level tied to availability of appropriate waste-water infrastructure and adequate assimilative capacity in receiving waters.
WM 11-10	Requires new developments to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) with emphasis on nature-based solutions and require pollution controls on discharges of surface water to watercourses and waterbodies.
WM 11-11	Protection of watercourses – requirement for set back from river and stream banks. Discourages use of culverts.
WM 11-13	Protection of flood plains, wetlands and coastal areas.
WM 11-14	Requires proposals for new development to comply with National Flood Risk Management Guidelines.
GI 14-1	Protecting, enhancing existing and developing new green infrastructure resources at settlement level.
GI 14-2	Providing for the protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure at settlement level.
GI 14-3	Providing for the protection and enhancement of green and blue infrastructure at settlement level.
BE 15-1	Compliance with national biodiversity protection policies and support and implement the National and County Biodiversity Action Plans.
BE 15-2	Protect sites designated or proposed to be designated for the conservation of biodiversity, to protected species and to habitats and areas identified to be of local biodiversity value.
BE 15-3	Protect biodiversity - Local Authority plan making.
BE 15-4	Protect biodiversity - Local Authority developments and projects.
BE 15-5	Protect biodiversity – Local Authority owned and managed land.

Table 6.1 Environmental Policies in draft County Development Plan	
Policy No	Policy Aim
BE 15-6	Protect biodiversity - Regulation of new development.
BE 15-7	Control of spread of invasive alien species.
BE 15-8	Tree protection and encouragement for planting of new trees.
BE 15-9	Support communities and other stakeholders in community led initiatives to protect biodiversity.
BE 15-10	Protect soils.
BE 15-12	Protect air quality.
BE 15-13	Control noise and light emissions.

- 6.0.2 The assessment process included consideration of boundary issues, population targets for individual settlements, rural housing policies, marine policies, economic policies, energy and telecommunications policies and biodiversity policies.
- 6.0.3 As a result of that assessment, a number of recommendations were made for changes to be made to the draft plan to clarify or strengthen protection for EU sites. These recommendations and a summary of how they were responded to is set out in Tables 6.2 and 6.3 below.

Table 6.2: Vol 1, Recommendations of Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan, Response and Outcomes					
Chapter	Rec No.	Recommendation in NIR Draft Plan	Policy Ref No. Draft Plan	CE Recommendation	Outcome
2	2.1	It is recommended that a new overarching objective be included for the County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area as follows: To sustainably manage future development within this planning area, taking account of its environmental, ecological, heritage and landscape values, particularly within the Cork Harbour area.	n/a	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.2.1.	Amendment adopted.
7	7.1	It is recommended that a new overarching objective be included: To sustainably manage development within the coastal zone taking account of its environmental, ecological, heritage and landscape values.		Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.7.2.	Amendment adopted.

Table 6.2: Vol 1, Recommendations of Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan, Response and Outcomes

Chapter	Rec No.	Recommendation in NIR Draft Plan	Policy Ref No. Draft Plan	CE Recommendation	Outcome
	7.2	It is recommended that objective 7-4 (Coastal Protection) include a commitment to the implementation of a county level strategic approach (subject to SEA and AA) to the deployment of coastal defences.	MCI 7-4	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.7.3.	Amendment adopted.
8	8.1	It is recommended that the strategy for Marino Point be amended to acknowledge its sensitive location within the harbour adjoining the Great Island SAC and Cork Harbour SPA as follows:  Marino Point is well placed to play a key strategic enabler role for the NPF/RSES in providing for the relocation of existing industrial uses from docklands and other strategic urban sites within the Cork Metropolitan Area in order to facilitate regeneration and redevelopment of such sites to help deliver compact growth and placemaking - subject to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directive and to the Seveso III Directive.	Table 8.4 Employment Network	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.8.22.	Amendment adopted.
	8.2	It is recommended that objective EC 8-13 Mineral Reserves include a commitment to say that the strategy will be prepared taking account of environmental, nature conservation, heritage, landscape and other planning considerations.	EC 8-13 (b) Mineral Reserves Strategy	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.8.23.	Amendment adopted.
	8.3	It is recommended that this objective (EC 8-15 fishing and aquaculture) include an overarching commitment supporting the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture industries ensuring that new development is compatible with the protection of the environment, nature conservation areas and fish stocks.	EC 8-15 Fishing and Aquaculture.	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.8.12.	Amendment adopted.

Table 6.2: Vol 1, Recommendations of Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan, Response and Outcomes

Chapter	Rec No.	Recommendation in NIR Draft Plan	Policy Ref No. Draft Plan	CE Recommendation	Outcome
10	10.1	It is recommended that the Marine Leisure Sector objective include a commitment that the development of the marine leisure sector be informed by a county level Marine Leisure Strategy and that the strategy would include a commitment to incorporating consideration of impacts on the environment, biodiversity, water resources, landscape and other planning issues through SEA and AA processes.	TO 10-4	Recommendation not accepted. No amendment proposed as there are existing Marine Strategies for West and South Cork.	No amendment.
	10.2	It is recommended that the draft plan would include a commitment to develop a County Greenway, Walking and Cycling Strategy to encompass the development of recreational, tourism related and inter-urban, regional/rural walking and cycling routes and that the strategy would include a commitment to incorporating consideration of impacts on the environment, biodiversity, water resources, landscape and other planning issues through implementation of SEA and AA processes.	TO 10-7, 10-8 and 10-9	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed – ref 1.10.13.	Amendment adopted.
12	12.1	It is recommended that Objective TM 12.1 (Integration of land use and transport) include a commitment to sensitive design of new paths and cycleways and upgrades to existing paths and cycleways within settlements having regard to environmental, nature conservation and other heritage considerations, and committing, in particular to providing appropriate set-backs from water courses where new paths and cycleways are proposed along rivers in towns and villages.	TM 12-1	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.12.42	Amendment adopted.
	12.2	It is recommended that the draft plan include a commitment to the development of a county level strategy for the delivery of inter-urban, regional/rural Greenways and other cycling and walking routes (See also recommendation 10.2 above).	TM 12-2-2	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.10.13	Amendment adopted.

**Table 6.2: Vol 1, Recommendations of Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan, Response and Outcomes**

Chapter	Rec No.	Recommendation in NIR Draft Plan	Policy Ref No. Draft Plan	CE Recommendation	Outcome
	12.3	It is recommended that Objective TM 12.12 (Active Travel) include an overarching objective (d) committing to the incorporation of environmental, nature conservation and other heritage considerations at siting, design and development stages for all roads infrastructure related projects.	TM 12-12	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.12.42.	Amendment adopted.
	12.4	It is recommended that Objective TM 12-14(e) (Port of Cork) be strengthened by committing to the incorporation of environmental, nature conservation and other heritage considerations at siting, design and development stages for all port related development proposals at Ringaskiddy and Marino Point and for proposals relating to the relocation of industrial activities from the city area to Marino Point.	TM 12-14	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed - ref 1.12.45.	Amendment adopted.
15	15.1	Bottlehill site: It is recommended that Objective BE 15-15(b) (Waste prevention and management of waste facilities) include a commitment to ensure that development of the site is compatible with the protection of EU sites and associated species and the protection of biodiversity resources.	BE 15-15(b)	Recommendation not accepted. No amendment proposed as it was considered by the planning team that other policies adequately covered the point.	No amendment.

**Table 6.3: Vols 3, 4 & 5, Recommendations of Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan Response and Outcomes**

Site	Settlement	Zoning Ref	Recommendation in NIR	CE Recommendation	Outcome
Roaring-water Bay and Islands SAC Site Code 1040	Baltimore	X-01, X-02 & X-03	Amend objectives to include qualifying text which clarifies that the boundaries of these Special Policy Areas overlap with the boundary of the Roaring-water Bay and Islands SAC and that it will need to be shown that development proposals within these zones are compatible with the protection of this site.	Recommendation not accepted. It was considered by planning team that there are sufficient safeguards built into objective DB-05 for Baltimore to ensure the avoidance of inappropriate development within the SAC.	No amendment.

Table 6.3: Vols 3, 4 & 5, Recommendations of Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan Response and Outcomes

Site	Settlement	Zoning Ref	Recommendation in NIR	CE Recommendation	Outcome
Court-macsherry Estuary SAC Site Code 1230	Court-macsherry	Existing built up area.	Change zoning of SAC land identified to be within the existing built up area to Green Infrastructure – Conservation.	Recommendation not accepted. It was considered by planning team that there are sufficient safeguards built into objective DB-03 & DB-07 for Court-macsherry to ensure the avoidance of inappropriate development within the SAC.	No amendment.
Blackwater River SAC Site Code 2170	Fermoy	Includes a small area of unenclosed land within existing built up area - east of Bridge on N. Bank (Rathealy Rd.)	Recommend change zoning of undeveloped land within the SAC to Green Infrastructure – Conservation.	Recommendation accepted. Amendment ref 3.1.4.7.	Amendment adopted.
	Conna	Includes a small area of unenclosed land within existing built up area.	Recommend change zoning of undeveloped land within the SAC to Green Infrastructure – Conservation	Recommendation accepted. Amendment ref 3.1.11.3.	Amendment adopted.
Cork Harbour SPA Site Code 4030	Crosshaven & Bays	Includes a small area of unenclosed land within existing built up area and CS-GC-10	Recommend change zoning of undeveloped land within the SPA to Green Infrastructure – Conservation.	No amendment required. Error in original recommendation. The settlement boundary does not overlap with the boundary of the SPA.	No amendment.
Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA Site Code 4156	Baltimore	Existing built up area	Zone SPA land within this settlement as Green Infrastructure – Conservation.	Recommendation accepted. Amendment proposed ref 5.2.14.7 (Change development boundary to exclude SPA lands).	Amendment not adopted.
Court-macsherry Bay SPA Site Code 4219		Existing built up area	Zone SPA land identified to be within the existing built up area to Green Infrastructure – Conservation.	Recommendation not accepted. It was considered by planning team that there are sufficient safeguards built into objective DB-03 & DB-07 for Courtmacsherry to ensure the avoidance of inappropriate development within the SPA	No amendment.

- 6.0.4 The decisions to not bring forward amendments on some of the recommendations as set out above was considered by the Ecology Team prior to the drafting of the proposed amendments and were accepted in each case and responses are set out below:
- 6.0.5 **Recommendation 10.1** – It is noted that there are two Marine Infrastructure Strategies in place for the county. It is recommended that any updates to these be subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment and, if deemed required, Appropriate Assessment.
- 6.0.6 **Recommendation 15.1** – Response of planning team noted. No issue of concern arises. The Bottlehill Site is located within the catchment of the Blackwater River SAC and is know to an area of importance for rare and protected bird species. These considerations will be taken into account in the development of any new proposals for uses within this site as part of the development management process.
- 6.0.7 **Zoned Land Recommendations:** There are a number of locations in the county where there is an overlap in the bodaries of EU sites with the boundaries of identified settlements including towns and villages. In these cases, it is desirable that land designated as Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Area would be excluded from settlements where practical, or where not, (eg where a designated river runs through a settlement), that the land would be zoned Green Infrastructure – Conservation. This has been achieved in the majority of situations.
- 6.0.8 There two minor boundary overlaps where this is not the case - these are in Baltimore and Courtmacsherry. These are small areas of overlap in coastal/intertidal areas, where it was considered by the Planning Team that there will be no pressure for development and that there are sufficient safeguards built into policies relating to these settlements to protect the EU sites. This is considered to be acceptable in these two cases given the the minor extent of the boundary overlaps.
- 6.0.9 With the exception of proposed amendment 5.2.14.17 (Baltimore), all of the other proposed amendments which arose as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process were adopted into the plan following the third public consultation and review stages. The decision not to adopt proposed amendment 5.2.4.17 is discussed in Chapter 8 below.



**CHAPTER 7  
PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS  
APPROPRIATE  
ASSESSMENT  
SCREENING**

## 7 Proposed Amendments Appropriate Assessment Screening

### 7.1 Summary of Submissions Relating to Appropriate Assessment Process

- 7.1.1 1,251 submissions were received in response to the public consultation process for the draft plan. All of these were summarised in the Section 12(4) Chief Executives Report (published 24th September 2021) and many gave rise to recommendations for amendments to be made to the draft plan. These include amendments to main policy as set out in Volume 1 of the plan, and amendments to zonings and policy included in Volumes 3, 4 and 5 of the plan. Approximately 1,600 proposed amendments were published on Jan 18th 2022 following consideration by Council Members of the Chief Executives Section 12(4) Report.
- 7.1.2 Two submissions particularly referenced the Appropriate Assessment process and the Natura Impact Report. These were the submissions of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Section) and that of the Office of the Planning Regulator. Table 7.1 includes a summary of these submissions and the responses which were made to same.

Table 7.1 Summary Submissions Made to draft Plan - Appropriate Assessment

Submission Summary	Response and Outcomes
<p><b>Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Section).</b></p> <p>The Department welcomes the inclusion of a biodiversity chapter and welcomes the overall approach and objectives. Particular acknowledgement is given to well written strategic objectives for Mallow and Clonakilty and objectives relating to designated sites and protected species in uninhabitable/ruinous buildings.</p> <p>The Department also recognises the considerable amount of work that has gone into the SEA and AA which, they consider, are reflected in the many improvements in the objectives and text when compared to the previous plan.</p> <p>Greenways and blueways are flagged as being of particular concern overall and mentioning ecological assessment in the relevant greenway/blueway objectives is recommended.</p> <p>The impacts of the upgrade of R624 linking N25 to Cobh, including net loss of mudflats habitat, or feeding areas for wintering birds needs to be addressed in the AA. If any land-take is required for this road, it needs to be assessed in the AA and SEA.</p> <p>Objectives referring to development proceeding only where appropriate wastewater treatment is available covers the specific issue of impacts on freshwater pearl mussel habitat in the River Blackwater and River Bandon (Dunmanway) catchments and meets the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>A series of recommendations and observations in relation to specific objective wording changes/edits/additions in Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are also included.</p>	<p>The submission of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Section) gave rise to a number of recommendations for proposed amendments relating to natural heritage and protection of EU sites. All of these recommendations were accepted and the proposed amendments were published as recommended. These included:</p> <p>Amendments Refs:            1.1.3, 1.5.2, 1.5.3, 1.7.3, 1.7.2, 1.7.7, 1.7.4, 1.7.5, 1.8.16, 1.10.2, 1.10.15, 1.10.14, 1.10.11, 1.10.13, 1.11.10, 1.12.45, 1.12.47, 1.12.44, 1.13.16, 1.13.15, 1.13.12, 1.13.14, 1.13.32, 1.13.17, 1.13.18, 1.13.7, 1.14.11, 1.15.1, 1.15.6, 1.15.8 and 1.15.9.</p> <p>Each of the amendments was ultimately adopted into the final plan.</p>

Table 7.1 Summary Submissions Made to draft Plan – Appropriate Assessment

Submission Summary	Response and Outcomes
<p><b>Office of the Planning Regulator – Environmental Assessment Observations.</b></p> <p>No formal recommendations or observations were made by the Office of the Planning Regulator in relation to the NIR or Appropriate Assessment process.</p> <p>The submission included the following suggestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the planning authority ensure that the terminology used in the AA screening (Stage 1) determination and in the Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) conclusion is consistent with the relevant legal test being applied at these separate stages.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the submission advised the planning authority to satisfy itself, in consultation with the Development Applications Unit of Department, that its environmental assessment of the following policy areas and objectives of the draft Plan are sufficiently robust to support their implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The widespread expansion of greenways and blueways.</li> <li>• Objective TM12.12 (e) &amp; TM 12.14 (b) – Upgrade of R624 linking N25 to Cobh within the context of Great Island Channel candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC no. 1058) and Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA no. 4030) and the habitats within Fota estate wall, in the SEA Environmental Report and appropriate assessment.</li> <li>• Subsection 1.5 - Development in Munster River Blackwater and River Bandon (Dunmanway) catchments, within the context of freshwater pearl mussel habitat in 62 the Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC no. 2170) and the Bandon River cSAC (no. 2171)</li> </ul>	<p><b>AA terminology:</b> The Appropriate Assessment Determination of the County Development Plan as adopted is included with this report.</p> <p><b>Blueways and Greenways:</b> Amendments 1.10.4, 1.10.11, 1.12.42 and 1.12.43 were proposed arising from recommendations of the NIR of the draft plan and/or the submission of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Service Section) to strengthen protection of EU sites in the context of the development of Greenways and Blueways. These amendments were adopted in full.</p> <p><b>Upgrade of R624:</b> Amendments 1.12.44, 1.12.45 &amp; 1.12.46 were proposed arising from submission of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Section), to clarify the level of protection which applies to EU sites in the context of future development of the Cobh Road and Belvelly Channel crossing. These amendments were adopted in full.</p> <p><b>Development in Munster River Blackwater and River Bandon:</b> The submission of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Section) expressed satisfaction that the specific issue of impact on freshwater Pearl Mussel Habitat in the River Blackwater and River Bandon were adequately covered in the draft plan. No amendments were required to be made.</p>

7.1.3 Other submissions which were made by individuals and groups also gave rise to proposed amendments to policy relating to the protection of biodiversity, green infrastructure and the environment. These amendments, which did not directly relate to the Appropriate Assessment process, were put forward with the intention of clarifying and strengthening policies relating to biodiversity and environment.

## 7.2 Screening of Proposed Amendments

- 7.2.1 The Ecology Office provided ecological advice and inputs to the County Development Plan Planning Team throughout the period of consideration of public consultation submissions and the drafting of proposed amendments. Recommendations made by the Ecology Team informed drafting of both the Chief Executives report on submissions and the drafting and consideration of the proposed amendments. The recommendations of the Ecology Team resulted in revisions/modifications being made to a significant number of the proposed amendments to ensure the avoidance of potential for impacts on European Sites in particular and on biodiversity generally. A large number of the proposed amendments related to the revisions made to the Core Strategy in response to the publication of new Guidelines on Housing Supply Target Methodology and Development Plans, and in response to recommendations of the Office of the Planning Regulator. The overall population target for the county was reduced and the housing requirement for the plan period was also reduced, as were the growth targets for the majority of settlements. These changes resulted in the proposed reclassification of residentially zoned lands as Existing Built-Up Area, Residential (Additional Provision), Residential (Long Term Strategic and Sustainable Development Sites), Residential Reserve, or other uses such as Agriculture, Greenbelt or Community, having regard to the Guidelines, the tiered approach to zoning and other factors. Growth was aligned to settlements where infrastructure is available or is due to be delivered, with caveats in place pending delivery of infrastructure where appropriate. These changes represented a significant reduction in the amount of zoned land in the county relative to the County Development Plan (2014). No proposed amendments relating to the changes to the Core Strategy, were identified to have the potential to give rise significant effects to EU sites.
- 7.2.2 A significant number of proposed amendments arose as a result of the completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. These amendments have resulted in the alteration of zoning maps in a number of settlements providing for the zoning of lands identified to be at risk of flooding as Green Infrastructure and requiring the implementation of flood protection policies. These proposed amendments were considered positive from an environmental perspective and were predicted to be likely to have benefits for EU sites in some locations.
- 7.2.3 Other proposed amendments arose as a result of consideration of submissions which relate to policies set out in Volume 1 of the draft plan. Many of these were considered to be inconsequential from the perspective of interaction with EU sites, and the potential for significant effects on EU sites were accordingly screened out.
- 7.2.4 Proposed amendments relating to land use zoning in particular settlements were individually assessed. None of these directed inappropriate development into EU sites.
- 7.2.5 There was one proposed amendment (ref no. 4.3.8.3) to amend the zoning designation of parcel of undeveloped land which is located adjacent to the Cork Harbour SPA. This area was zoned as Green Infrastructure in the draft County Development Plan. It was proposed to amend the zoning designation on this land parcel to Existing Mixed/General Business/ Industrial Uses at the amendments stage. As part of the AA screening assessment, it was considered that the proposed rezoning, which could have allowed for industrial development on green land immediately adjoining the Cork Harbour SPA, was inappropriate, and the potential for such a zoning to give rise significant negative effects on the Cork Harbour SPA could not be ruled out. A recommendation was made by the Ecology Office against the adoption of this amendment given the proximity of the site to the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area.
- 7.2.6 Other submissions which were made by individuals and groups also gave rise to proposed amendments to policy relating to the protection of biodiversity, green infrastructure and the environment. These amendments, which did not directly relate to the Appropriate Assessment process, were put forward with the intention of clarifying and strengthening policies relating to biodiversity and environment.
- 7.2.7 A summary of the AA Screening Conclusions is set out in Table 7.2 below. The full assessment can be accessed in the **[Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Proposed Amendments](#)**.

**Table 7.2 Summary of Screening Assessment Proposed Amendments**

	<b>Amendment Refs</b>	<b>AA Screening Determination</b>
Proposed amendments requirement for AA screened out	<p><b>Vol 1:</b> 1.1.1-1.1.3; 1.2.1-1.2.21; 1.3.1-1.3.15; 1.4.1-1.4.11; 1.5.1-1.5.11; 1.6.1-1.6.13; 1.7.1-1.7.14; 1.8.1-1.8.28; 1.9.1-1.9.21; 1.10.1.10.21; 1.11.1-1.11.13; 1.12.1-1.12.63, 1.13.1-1.13.35, 1.14.1-1.14.24, 1.15.1-1.15.26, 1.16.1-1.16.33, 1.17.1-1.17.2, 1.18.1-1.18.16, 1.19.1-1.19.6</p> <p><b>Vol 2:</b> 2.1.1-2.1.13</p> <p><b>Vol 3:</b> Fermoy MD 3.1.2.1-3.1.22.3 &amp; Kanturk Mallow MD 3.2.2.1-3.2.28.2</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Carrigaline MD 4.1.2.1-4.1.11.1, Cobh MD 4.2.2.1-4.2.17.1, East Cork MD 4.3.1.1-4.3.22.4 (except 4.3.8.3), Macroom MD 4.4.2.1- 4.4.26.1,</p> <p><b>Vol 5:</b> Bandon Kinsale MD 5.1.2.1-5.1.21.1 &amp; West Cork MD 5.2.2.15.2.49.1.</p>	No potential for significant negative impacts identified. Requirement for AA screened out
Proposed amendments, requirement for AA not screened out.	<b>Vol 4:</b> East Cork MD 4.3.8.3	Potential for significant effects on the Cork Harbour SPA not screened out. It is recommended that the amendment not be adopted.

### 7.3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Proposed Amendments

7.3.1 Proposed Amendments to Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the draft County Development Plan were examined to determine whether these could give rise to impacts on any of the European sites listed above. Consideration was given as to whether the proposed amendments could give rise to

- direct impacts on habitats within any European site;
- reduction in the area of any habitats within any of the sites identified;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) within any European sites;
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species for which any of the above listed European sites are selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
- direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which any European site is designated;
- activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.

7.3.2 With the exception of proposed amendment 4.3.8.3, no other proposed amendments were identified to be likely to give rise to have a significant effect on any European site. The AA Screening Report for the Proposed Amendments recommended against the making of amendment 4.3.8.3.



**CHAPTER 8**  
**FINAL ADOPTED**  
**AMENDMENTS**  
**APPROPRIATE**  
**ASSESSMENT**  
**SCREENING**

## 8 Final Adopted Amendments Appropriate Assessment Screening

### 8.1 Summary of Submissions Relating to Appropriate Assessment Process

- 8.1.1 The proposed amendments to draft plan and the associated environmental reports were put on display for inspection and receipt of submissions or observations from 18th Jan-15th Feb 2022. A total of 1,172 submissions and observations on the proposed amendments were received, processed and assessed during this period. Two of these submissions (submissions of the Office of the Planning Regulator and the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government) referred to the Natura Impact Report for the draft plan. A summary of these submissions is set out in Table 8.1 below.

**Table 8.1 Summary Submissions Made to Proposed Amendments - Appropriate Assessment**

Submission Summary	Response and Outcomes
<p><b>Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government (National Parks and Wildlife Section)</b></p> <p>The Screening assessment has been thorough and SEA monitoring of the plan is welcomed however consideration of the following is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenbeg Lough- No further abstraction from Glanmore Bog SAC should be reflected in the relevant development objectives.</li> <li>• R624 Upgrade: Clarify that the footnote in 1.12.45 will be taken into account as a modification to the wording of the objective TM12-12.</li> <li>• Clarify whether Fermoy WWTP is listed in the Irish Water Investment Plan 2020-2024 as per pg.80 of the main text</li> <li>• Recommend inclusion of the word 'sustainably' regarding Malin Head to Kinsale path</li> <li>• Clarification required regarding invasive species amendment. The NPWS is not the sole authority responsible for enforcement of Regulation 49 offences in relation to listed invasive species.</li> </ul> <p>Zoning Amendments are also requested to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kanturk (3.2.5.5) include a clause for a riparian buffer, stormwater discharge points and SuDS to avoid adverse effects on the SAC.</li> <li>• Mallow (3.2.3.12) For SEA and NIR, check if SuDS or WWTP infrastructure upgrade is required and can be achieved before the development is operational.</li> <li>• Passage West (4.1.4.11) cumulative impacts of developing old estate-type areas with mature deciduous woodland in both Cork City and the County environs of the city should be considered. Needs to be assessed by SEA and suggests inclusion of a specific clause on ecological impact assessment and ensuring minimal biodiversity impacts.</li> <li>• Midleton (4.3.3.17) AA needs to consider the reasons why the field adjoining the estuarine SAC can be included in the zoning.</li> <li>• Bandon (5.1.4.27) contains ancient and residual alluvial woodland so consider narrowing the zoning, excluding the northern part of the zone.</li> </ul> <p>Bandon (5.1.4.28) welcomes mention of full ecological assessment given over mature trees of high biodiversity value could otherwise be classed as dangerous.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water abstraction is addressed in Volume 1, Chapter 11 particularly through reference to the Water Framework Directive. Objective WM 11-1 seeks to protect and improve the County's water resources and ensure that development permitted does not contravene the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive. Proposed Amendment no. 1.11.11 also includes additional text in relation to Glenbeg Lough/ Glanmore Bog SAC clarifying AA sensitivities relating to water abstraction from Glenbeg Lough. Proposed Amendment no. 1.11.11 was considered sufficient in the corresponding AA screening report. In addition, Table 5.2.2 in Proposed Amendment 5.2.2.1 makes clear that new development in Castletownbere requiring a connection to the public water supply cannot be permitted if it will result in an increase in abstraction rates from Glenbeg Lough. (This also applies to any other settlements in the Beara area relying on the Glenbeg Lough Water Supply). Overall, there are sufficient provisions in the Draft Plan to address the concerns regarding Glanmore Bog SAC and no further action is considered necessary.</li> <li>• The footnote in Amendment no. 1.12.45 has been drafted to be taken into account as part of Objective TM12-12. Adopt Proposed Amendment No. 1.12.45 with No Modification.</li> <li>• Fermoy Wastewater Treatment Plant- Irish Water, in their submission dated 11/02/22, have advised that Fermoy's WWTP has capacity to cater for the growth proposed in the Draft County Development Plan. It is recommended that the text and table in Appendix D for Fermoy WWTP in Amendment 1.2.20 be updated to reflect the most recent data as a non-material amendment.</li> <li>• It is not considered necessary to repeat the term 'sustainability' for Malin Head path as this is addressed in Objective TO-10-1 and Objective TO-10-2. It is recommended to Adopt Proposed Amendment No. 1.10.8 with No Modification.</li> <li>• The text on invasive species in Proposed Amendment no. 1.15.26 should be updated to better reflect that the NPWS is not the sole authority tasked with invasive species enforcement. It is recommended that this be done as a Non-Material Change.</li> <li>• For Kanturk (3.2.5.5) it is considered that Objective WM 11-10 requires any new development to incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and Objective WM 11-11 River Channel Protection requires adequate protection measures along watercourses, keeping them free from development by ensuring development is kept 10m or other appropriate distance from stream and river banks in line with best practice for riparian corridors. Development altering the hydromorphology of a watercourse will not normally be permitted, where it may result in the deterioration in the status of a water body through for example, impacts on water quality, quantity or flow rate, riparian habitat or protected species. Overall, it is recommended to Adopt Proposed Amendment No. 3.2.5.5 with No Modification. The Dalua should be changed to the Allow River as a non-material change.</li> </ul>

**Table 8.1 Summary Submissions Made to Proposed Amendments - Appropriate Assessment**

Submission Summary	Response and Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Mallow Proposed Amendment No. 3.2.3.12, there are considered to be sufficient caveats in Volume One of the Plan to address concerns, including Objective WM-11-9 which advises that development in all settlements connect to public wastewater treatment facilities subject to sufficient capacity being available which does not interfere with Council's ability to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. In settlements where no public wastewater system is either available or proposed, or where design, capacity or licensing issues have been identified in existing plants, new developments will be unable to proceed until adequate wastewater infrastructure is provided. In assessing proposals for development, it is a requirement that adequate assimilative capacity in the receiving waterbody be retained so as to allow for the overall growth of the settlement. Objective WM-11(1)G also requires that development may only proceed where appropriate wastewater treatment is available which meets the requirements of environmental legislation, the Water Framework Directive and the requirements of the Habitats Directive</li> <li>• For Passage West, the concerns raised in relation to the heritage and ecological impacts of Proposed Amendment No. 4.1.4.11 Rockenham House have been considered and it is recommended that the proposed amendment does not proceed. In particular, the subject site adjoins both the Great Island Channel SAC and Cork Harbour SPA and also support habitats which are likely to be used by qualifying interest species of the SPA. Aerial imagery would indicate that high nature habitats occur within the site which include two waterbodies, which are described as brackish waters and significant tree cover from mature broadleaf woodland. The lagoon is likely to be utilised by a number of special conservation interest species for which the SPA is designated. This site supports habitats of high ecological value including woodland and wetlands. Numerous habitats are found on this site such as Brackish Water, Scrub Traditional Woodland, Semi-natural grassland, Highly Modified/Non and an Ecological Corridor. The site is currently located within part of the prominent and strategic metropolitan greenbelt – the visual and landscape impacts of residential development on the Greenbelt site would be of concern. Part of the site is located within flood zone and concern remains regarding including land within flood zone A which would only be appropriate for water compatible uses such as Green Infrastructure. Furthermore, Rockenham House is a protected structure on the Record of Protected Sites (00510) which includes the historic demesne including woodlands, which forms part of the curtilage of the protected structure. Rockenham House is also listed on the NIAH: 20975010 Regional Rating. The proposed rezoning would conflict with development management objectives as set out in Objective HE 16-11: Record of Protected Structures and Objective HE 16-12: Protection of Structures on the NIAH. The request to better consider the cumulative impacts of the development of demesne sites in Cork is also noted and an inventory of such sites will be added to the environmental baseline for future SEA's so that cumulative impacts can be better assessed in the future.</li> </ul>

**Table 8.1 Summary Submissions Made to Proposed Amendments - Appropriate Assessment**

Submission Summary	Response and Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midleton (4.3.3.17) - Having regard to the sufficiency of land zoned for residential development in the respective towns consistent with the Core Strategy (table under MA 1.2.13), and the approach to the zoning for residential lands under the Development Plans, Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Draft for Consultation (August, 2021), the planning authority is required to make the Plan without the Residential Reserve zoning objectives and associated objectives where relevant. It is therefore recommended to not to Adopt the Proposed Amendment 4.3.3.17 and revert to the Draft Plan as Agricultural zoning MD- AG-02.</li> <li>• Bandon (5.1.4.27) – It is considered that the proposed new green infrastructure conservation zoning BD-GC-09 is appropriate for the lands and it is recommended to Adopt Proposed Amendment 5.1.4.27 with No Modification.</li> </ul> <p>Minor modifications were made to amendment 1.15.6.</p> <p>Amendment 4.3.3.176 was not adopted taking account of concern raised in this submission</p>
<p><b>Office of the Planning Regulator – Environmental Assessment Observations</b></p> <p>The OPR made one formal recommendation of relevance to the Appropriate Assessment process. The recommendation required the Planning Authority to make the County Development Plan without proposed amendment 4.3.8.3 (Whitegate/Aghada), reflecting the recommendation included in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report on the proposed amendments.</p>	<p>Amendment 4.3.8.3 was not adopted in accordance with the recommendation of the Office of the Planning Regulator.</p>

## 8.2 Screening of Adopted Amendments to the Plan

- 8.2.1 The Ecology Office provided ecological advice and inputs to the County Development Plan Planning Team throughout the period of consideration of public consultation submissions on the proposed amendments. Recommendations made by the Ecology Office informed drafting of both the Chief Executives report on submissions and the final recommendations contained therein.
- 8.2.2 Council members voted on the proposed amendments on April 25th 2022. The final suite of amendments as adopted and the AA screening assessment of same is set out in the **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report** of the Adopted Amendments.
- 8.2.3 The vast majority of the proposed amendments were adopted without any modification at the final stage of plan making, and the screening conclusions completed in respect of these amendments in January has not changed. No potential for significant negative effects on any EU site has been identified to be likely to arise in respect of any of these amendments.
- 8.2.4 A number of amendments were adopted with minor modifications which arose in response to submissions and as a result of the deliberations of Council members. The minor modifications have been screened to determine whether there might be implications arising from same for any EU sites. No potential for significant negative effects on any EU site has been identified to be likely to arise in respect of any of the agreed modifications.
- 8.2.5 Council members voted –not to adopt a number of the proposed amendments as published in January 2022. The implications of not adopting these amendments was assessed to determine possible effects of same for EU sites. No potential for significant negative effects on any EU site has been identified to be likely to arise as a result of Council members voting to not adopt any amendments.

- 8.2.6 One amendment (ref no. 4.3.8.3 - Whitegate) which was published in Jan 2022 proposed to amend the zoning designation of parcel of undeveloped land which is located adjacent to the Cork Harbour SPA and which was zoned as Green Infrastructure in the draft County Development Plan. It was proposed to amend the zoning designation on this land parcel to Existing Mixed/General Business/ Industrial Uses. The AA screening report for the draft amendments recommended against the adoption of this amendment given the proximity of the site to the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area. The Chief Executive recommended against the making of this amendment in his report of 25th April and the Office of the Planning Regulator directed in his submission that this amendment not be made. The recommendations of the Chief Executive and the direction of the Office of the Planning Regulator were accepted by Council members and the amendment was not adopted.
- 8.2.7 The submission of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage raised a concern in relation to amendment no. 4.3.3.17 - Middleton. This amendment related to a proposal to rezone land zoned for agricultural purposes to allow for residential development and the construction of a new primary school. The site in question adjoins the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area in Ballinacurra, Middleton. Following reflection on the submission of the Department, it was considered appropriate not to proceed with this amendment and it was the recommendation of the Chief Executive to Council Members not to make the amendment. This recommendation was accepted, the amendment did not proceed, and the land is zoned for agricultural uses as was originally proposed in the draft County Development Plan. No potential for significant negative effects to any EU site has been identified to be likely to arise as a result of the decision not to adopt this amendment.
- 8.2.8 Some of the adopted amendments arose as a result of the SEA and AA reviews of the draft plan. These are positive amendments from an environmental perspective generally and many will also have benefits for EU sites in particular.
- 8.2.9 Council members voted not to adopt one of amendment (5.2.17.7) which proposed the omission of lands from the settlement of Baltimore, which lands lie within the Sheep's Head to Toe Head Special Protection Area. It is considered that policies requiring the protection of European sites will apply and should pressure for development on this land arise and will ensure the avoidance of inappropriate development which could negatively impact the Sheep's Head to Toe Head Special Protection Area or any other EU site.
- 8.2.10 The summary results of that assessment are summarised in Table 8.2 below.

Table 8.2 Summary of Screening Assessment Adopted Amendments

	Amendment Refs	AA Screening Determination
<p>Amendments adopted no changes from published proposed amendments (Jan 2022).</p>	<p><b>Vol 1:</b> 1.1.1-1.1.3, 1.2.1-1.2.12, 1.2.14-1.2.21, 1.3.1-1.3.15, 1.4.1-1.4.8, 1.4.10-1.4.11, 1.5.1-1.5.11, 1.6.1-1.6.8, 1.6.10-1.6.13, 1.7.1-1.7.14, 1.8.1-1.8.21, 1.8.23-1.8.28, 1.9.1-1.9.15, 1.9.17-1.9.21, 1.10.1-1.10.4, 1.10.6-1.10.17, 1.10.19-1.10.21, 1.11.1-1.11.13, 1.12.1-1.12.11, 1.12.13-1.12.42, 1.12.44-1.12.45, 1.12.47-1.12.57, 1.12.60-1.12.63, 1.13.1-1.13.34, 1.14.1-1.14.24, 1.15.1-1.15.25, 1.16.1-1.16.33, 1.17.1-1.17.2, 1.18.1, 1.18.3-1.18.16, 1.19.1-1.19.6.</p> <p><b>Vol 2:</b> 2.1.1-2.1.13</p> <p><b>Vol 3:</b> Fermoy MD: All proposed amendments except 3.1.4.15 &amp; 3.1.4.16.</p> <p><b>Vol 3:</b> Kanturk Mallow MD: All proposed amendments except 3.2.3.20, 3.2.4.14, 3.2.19.2.</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Carrigaline MD: All proposed amendments except 4.1.3.6.</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Cobh MD: All proposed amendments except 4.2.3.26.</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> East Cork MD: All proposed amendments except 4.3.3.17, 4.3.3.18, 4.3.8.3</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Macroom MD: All proposed amendments except 4.4.2.2, 4.4.3.20, 4.4.3.25</p> <p><b>Vol 5:</b> Bandon Kinsale MD: All proposed amendments except 5.1.4.5, 5.1.4.16, 5.1.4.28, 5.1.5.4, 5.1.5.13, 5.1.8.5, 5.2.6.27(b), 5.2.8.15,</p> <p><b>Vol 5:</b> West Cork MD: All proposed amendments except 5.2.5.3, 5.2.5.12, 5.2.5.13, 5.2.14.7</p>	<p>No potential for significant negative impacts identified. Requirement for AA screened out</p>

Table 8.2 Summary of Screening Assessment Adopted Amendments

	Amendment Refs	AA Screening Determination
Amendments adopted with minor modifications	<p><b>Vol 1:</b> 1.2.13, 1.4.9, 1.6.9, 1.8.22, 1.9.16, 1.10.3, 1.10.5, 1.10.18, 1.12.12, 1.12.43, 1.12.46, 1.12.58, 1.12.59, 1.13.35, 1.15.26, 1.18.2.</p> <p><b>Vol 2:</b> none</p> <p><b>Vol 3:</b> Fermoy MD 3.1.4.15 &amp; 3.1.4.16, 3.2.4.14.</p> <p><b>Vol 3:</b> Kanturk Mallow MD 3.2.3.20, 3.2.4.14, 3.2.19.2.</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Carrigaline MD 4.1.3.6.</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Cobh MD 4.2.3.26.</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> East Cork MD None</p> <p><b>Vol 4:</b> Macroom MD 4.4.2.2, 4.4.3.20.</p> <p><b>Vol 5:</b> Bandon Kinsale MD 5.1.4.5, 5.1.4.16, 5.1.4.28, 5.1.5.4, 5.1.5.13, 5.1.8.5.</p> <p><b>Vol 5:</b> West Cork MD 5.2.5.13, 5.2.8.15,</p>	No potential for significant negative impacts identified. Requirement for AA screened out
Proposed amendments not adopted.	<p><b>Carrigaline MD:</b> Ringaskiddy 4.1.5.19</p> <p><b>East Cork MD:</b> Midleton 4.3.3.17; Midleton 4.3.3.18; Whitegate Aghada 4.3.8.3</p> <p><b>Macroom MD:</b> 4.4.3.25</p> <p><b>West Cork:</b> 5.2.5.3, 5.2.5.12, 5.2.6.27(b), 5.2.8.12, 5.2.14.7</p>	No potential for significant negative impacts identified. Requirement for AA screened out.

### 8.3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Adopted Amendments

- 8.3.1 Adopted amendments to Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the draft County Development Plan were examined to determine whether these could give rise to impacts on any of the European sites. Consideration was given as to whether the proposed amendments could give rise to
- direct impacts on habitats within any European site;
  - reduction in the area of any habitats within any of the sites identified; Habitats Directive Screening Assessment
  - direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) within any European sites;
  - serious or ongoing disturbance to species for which any of the above listed European sites are selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
  - direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which any European site is designated;
  - activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.
- 8.3.2 None of the adopted amendments were identified to have the potential rise to have a significant effect on any European site.

- 8.3.3 In accordance with the recommendation included in the AA Screening Report for the Proposed Amendments, Amendment 4.3.8.3 was not adopted. The area of land in question, which adjoins the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area is zoned Green Infrastructure – Conservation in the adopted plan. This use is considered to be compatible with the protection of the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area.
- 8.3.4 Following consideration of the submission of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in relation to amendment 4.3.3.17, the Chief Executive recommended against the adoption of this amendment, which would have had the effect of zoning an area of land adjoining the Cork Harbour SPA for residential development. Council members voted not to adopt the amendment and this area of land is zoned for agricultural purposes in the adopted plan. This use is considered to be compatible with the protection of the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area.
- 8.3.5 Council members voted not to adopt a number of other proposed amendments to the plan. One of these amendments was proposed as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process and would have had the effect of altering the settlement boundary of Baltimore to exclude lands designated as a Special Protection Area. Council members voted against the adoption of this amendment and the land remains within the settlement boundary of Baltimore. While this decision is not ideal, it is considered that policy BE 15-2 & BE 15-6(d) provide sufficient safeguards against inappropriate development within the designated site at this location.
- 8.3.6 Consideration was also given to the possible implications of these decisions for EU sites. No significant negative effects on any EU site have been identified to have the potential to arise as a result of the omission of these amendments from the adopted plan.



**CHAPTER 9**  
**APPROPRIATE**  
**ASSESSMENT**  
**CONCLUSION**  
**STATEMENT**

## 9 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

- 9.0.1 An Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination has been made by Cork County Council for the Cork County Development Plan 2022 as to whether or not the plan would adversely affect the integrity of one or more European Sites.
- 9.0.2 In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment, the Council has taken into account the relevant matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including:
- the County Development Plan as adopted;
  - the Natura Impact Report for the draft County Development Plan;
  - the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed amendments;
  - the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the adopted amendments;
  - advice and information provided by Statutory Authorities through the Public Consultation processes (all plan stages); and
  - the Environmental Report.
- 9.0.3 In the making of this determination, consideration was given as to whether the adopted plan could give rise to
- direct impacts on habitats within any European site;
  - a reduction in the area of any habitats within any of the sites identified;
  - direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) within any European sites;
  - serious or ongoing disturbance to species for which any of the relevant European sites are selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
  - direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which any of the relevant European sites are designated;
  - activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects; and
  - potential for the Plan to contribute to cumulative effects.
- 9.0.4 It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European Sites have been addressed within the Cork County Development Plan for the following reasons:
- priority has been given to the avoidance of effects in the first place, that is, no policies promote inappropriate development within EU sites;
  - the plan includes strong environmental protection policies which will contribute to the protection of EU esignated sites, water quality, biodiversity outside EU designated sites and green infrastructure resources;
  - in accordance with policy set out in the plan, development proposals and projects arising through the implementation of the plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and location are known. Such projects will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that such proposals are compatible with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act and/or Part 5 of the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations.
- 9.0.5 Having regard to the approach which has been taken to zoning and to the protective policies contained in the plan, it is considered that the Cork County Development Plan, 2022 will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.



# CHAPTER 10

# REFERENCES

## 10 References

### 10.1 National Parks and Wildlife Service Data

- Information relating to individual Natura 2000 sites including Article 17 Conservation Assessment Reports for Habitats and Species In Ireland (2019), individual site synopses, Natura 2000 data forms, and information relating to the qualifying features and conservation objectives of individual sites was sourced from the NPWS database ([www.NPWS.ie](http://www.NPWS.ie))

### 10.2 Water Quality Data

- Water quality data was sourced from the EPA mapping system – [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)
- Irish Water Annual Environmental Reports were used as a source of information on the performance of waste water treatment plants in sensitive catchments.

### 10.3 Guidance

- Guidance used in the preparation of this report included the following:
- European Communities, Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, Updated November 2018;
- European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, November 2001;
- European Union, EC Natura and Spatial Planning 2017; and
- Local Government and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009.

### 10.4 Appropriate Assessment Plan Documents

- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Report Draft Plan (April 2021).
- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report Proposed Amendments (January 2022).
- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report Adopted Amendments (June 2022).



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  

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Cork County Council