

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Draft Clare County Heritage Plan
True to our Heritage
2024-2030

Planning Department

Clare County Council

November 2023



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction3

1.1 Background.....3

1.2 Existing Situation and Site Location3

1.3 Legislative Context12

2.0 Assessment Methodology12

3.0 Assessment of Likely Effects18

4.0 Article 6(3) screening statement and conclusions.....31

4.1 Concluding Statement.....31

List of Figures

FIGURE 1 SACS WITHIN 15KM OF THE HERITAGE PLAN BOUNDARY.9

FIGURE 2 SPAS WITHIN 15KM OF THE HERITAGE PLAN BOUNDARY.....10

FIGURE 3 NHAS AND PNHAS WITHIN 15KM OF THE HERITAGE PLAN BOUNDARY.11

List of Tables

TABLE 1 EUROPEAN SITES IN COUNTY CLARE AND WITHIN A 15KM OF THE COUNTY BOUNDARY4

TABLE 2 NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS AND PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS IN COUNTY CLARE AND WITHIN A 15KM BUFFER OF THE COUNTY BOUNDARY.....6

TABLE 3 ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE DRAFT COUNTY CLARE HERITAGE PLAN 2017-2023.....19

Appendix A Details of European Sites within County Clare

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This report comprises information in support of Screening for Appropriate Assessment in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) (as amended) for the County Clare Heritage Plan 2024-2030. The County Clare Heritage Plan 2024-2030 (here after referred to as “the Heritage Plan”) emulates the Clare County Council Corporate Vision for County Clare as outlined in the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029¹. Heritage and Culture is at the heart of life in County Clare, where the stakeholders work in partnership with all to understand, experience and enjoy all aspects of our Heritage under the leadership of a professional responsive and progressive local government.

The Heritage Plan aims to create awareness and understanding, leading to a greater appreciation, enjoyment and ownership of our natural, cultural, built and community heritage and will optimise the unique character of County Clare’s heritage.

1.2 Existing Situation and Site Location

County Clare is situated on the west coast of Ireland, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Shannon Estuary to the south, Lough Derg to the east and Galway Bay to the north.

The County has a diverse topography varying from limestone pavement to the extensive upland forested areas, estuarial mudflats, high Atlantic cliffs, inland lakes and waterways and fertile plains. Much of the County is underlain with limestone which is highly permeable. Habitats and species of particular note within the County include limestone pavements, associated orchid and calcareous species rich grassland, estuarine habitats, turloughs, Lesser Horseshoe bats, Barnacle Geese and the Bottlenose Dolphin.

The Heritage Plan covers an area of 318,784 ha, with a coastline of 360km in length. The County has a population of 127,938 (2022). It has a well-developed road and rail infrastructure, an International Airport and a network of villages and large towns. It has a strong industrial base and is in close proximity to the cities of Limerick and Galway.

There are 37 Special Areas of Conservation and 10 Special Protection Areas within County Clare ranging from the coastal sites at the Cliffs of Moher to the inland sites of the East Burren Complex. There are also a multitude of small sites designated for caves and structures that support the Annex II species, Lesser Horseshoe Bats.

Figures 1.0 and **2.0** below show the locations of European Sites within 15km of the Heritage Plan boundary. In accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010), an initial distance of 15km from the County boundary was selected for consideration of European sites. This distance was deemed to be sufficient to cover all likely significant effects which may

¹ <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage3-amendments/adoption/>

arise from the implementation of the Heritage Plan on European sites. Full details in relation to the Qualifying Interests and conditions underpinning site integrity can be found in **Appendix A**.

Table 1 European Sites in County Clare and within a 15km of the County Boundary

Site Code	Special Areas of Conservation	Site Code	Special Protection Areas
Sites within County Clare			
000014	Ballyallia Lake	004041	Ballyallia Lough
000016	Ballycullinan Lake	004005	Cliffs of Moher
002246	Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building	004220	Corofin Wetlands
000019	Ballyogan Lough	004114	Illaunonearaun
000994	Ballyteige (Clare)	004031	Inner Galway Bay
000996	Ballyvaughan Turlough	004119	Loop Head
000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex	004058	Lough Derg (Shannon)
002250	Carrowmore Dunes	004182	Mid-Clare Coast
001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands	004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries
000030	Danes Hole, Poulnalecka	004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains
000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs		
001926	East Burren Complex		
000268	Galway Bay Complex		
001912	Glendree Bog		
001013	Glenomra Wood		
000036	Inagh River Estuary		
002264	Kilkee Reefs		
002319	Kilkishen House		
002318	Knockanira House		
000051	Lough Gash Turlough		
000308	Loughatorick South Bog		
002165	Lower River Shannon		
000054	Moneen Mountain		
000057	Moyree River System		
002157	Newgrove House		
002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex		
002010	Old Domestic Building, Keevagh		
002314	Old Domestic Building, Rylane		
002245	Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan		
002126	Pollagoona Bog		
000037	Pouladatig Cave		
000064	Poulnagordon Cave (Quin)		
002316	Ratty River Cave		
002312	Slieve Bernagh Bog		
001321	Termon Lough		
002247	Toonagh Estate		
002343	Tullaheer Lough and Bog		
Site Code	Special Areas of Conservation	Site Code	Special Protection Areas
Sites outside of County boundary			

002244	Ardrahan Grassland	004181	Connemara Bog Complex
002279	Askeaton Fen Complex	004107	Coole-Garryland
002295	Ballinduff Turlough	004142	Cregganna Marsh
000432	Barrigone	004189	Kerry Head
000231	Barroughter Bog	004042	Lough Corrib
000238	Caherglassaun Turlough	004056	Lough Cutra
002294	Cahermore Turlough	004096	Middle Shannon Callows
002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs	004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains
000242	Castletaylor Complex	004161	Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle
000930	Clare Glen		
000248	Cloonmoylan Bog		
002034	Connemara Bog Complex		
000252	Coole-Garryland Complex		
002317	Cregg House Stables, Crusheen		
000174	Curraghchase Woods SAC		
000261	Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve		
002181	Drummin Wood		
001432	Glenstal Wood		
002180	Gortacarnaun Wood		
001275	Inisheer Island		
000212	Inishmaan Island		
001197	Keeper Hill		
002263	Kerry Head Shoal		
000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole)		
001285	Kiltiernan Turlough		
000297	Lough Corrib		
002117	Lough Coy		
000299	Lough Cutra		
002241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore		
000606	Lough Fingall Complex		
002351	Moanveanlagh Bog		
000318	Peterswell Turlough		
000319	Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve		
000216	River Shannon Callows		
001313	Rosturra Wood		
000939	Silvermine Mountains		
002258	Silvermines Mountains West		
001913	Sonnagh Bog		
000439	Tory Hill		

In addition to examining European sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) have also been examined. Although NHAs and pNHAs and other designated sites such as Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Ramsar sites do not form part of the European network, they often provide an important supporting role to the network, particularly when it comes to fauna species which often do not obey site boundaries.

For example, a pNHA/NHA that provides regular feeding grounds for a population of Golden Plover for which a separate site is designated as an SPA plays a role in the maintenance of the species at favourable

conservation status for that SPA. In other words, in that example, in order to protect the European network, it may also be important to protect the pNHA/NHA which provides a supporting role to it. There are however, NHAs and pNHAs that are designated for features that are not important at an international level and may not interact with the European network. There are 14 NHAs and 61 pNHAs in County Clare and 9 NHAs and 56 pNHAs within the 15km buffer of the County Boundary.

Table 2 Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas in County Clare and within a 15km buffer of the County Boundary

Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)	Site Code	proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)
Sites within County Clare			
000993	Ayle Lower Bog NHA	000014	Ballyallia Lake
002307	Cloonloun More Bog NHA	000015	Ballycar Lough
002400	Cragnashingaun Bogs NHA	000016	Ballycullinan Lake
000337	Doon Lough NHA	000019	Ballyogan Lough
002401	Gortacullin Bog NHA	000994	Ballyteige (Clare)
001014	Illaunonearaun NHA	000996	Ballyvaughan Turlough
002421	Lough Acrow Bogs NHA	000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex
002377	Lough Atorick District Bogs NHA	001024	Caherkinallia Wood
002367	Lough Naminna Bog NHA	000022	Cahermurphy Wood
001020	Loughanilloon Bog NHA	001000	Cahiracon Wood
002442	Maghera Mountain Bogs NHA	001001	Cahircalla Wood
002439	Oysterman's Marsh NHA	001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands
001229	Slieve Aughty Bog NHA	000239	Castle Lake
002397	Slievacallan Mountain Bog NHA	000026	Cliffs Of Moher
002402	Woodcock Hill Bog NHA	000027	Clonderalaw Bay
		001686	Cloonamirran Wood
		000028	Cloonlara House
		001004	Cloonsnaghta Lough
		000030	Danes Hole, Poulnalecka
		000050	Derrygeeha Lough
		001008	Dromoland Lough
		000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs
		000033	Durra Castle
		001926	East Burren Complex
		000200	Farrihy Lough
		002048	Fergus Estuary and Inner Shannon, North Shore
		001010	Fin Lough (Clare)
		000035	Fort Fergus (Ballynacally)
		000268	Galway Bay Complex
		001012	Garrannon Wood
		001912	Glendree Bog
		001013	Glenomra Wood
		001015	Gortglass Lough
		000036	Inagh River Estuary
		000038	Inchicronan Lough

		002001	Knockalisheen Marsh
		000045	Loop Head
		001331	Lough Cleggan
		001017	Lough Cullaunyheeda
		000011	Lough Derg
		000051	Lough Gash Turlough
		000048	Lough Goller
		001714	Lough Graney Woods
		001019	Lough O'Grady
		000308	Loughatorick South Bog
		000054	Moneen Mountain
		000057	Moyree River System
		002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex
		000061	Newpark House (Ennis)
		002010	Old Domestic Building (Keevagh)
		000062	Paradise House (Ballynacally)
		000037	Pouladatig Cave
		000064	Poulnagordon Cave (Quin)
		000065	Poulnasherry Bay
		002054	Rosroe Lough
		001911	Scattery Island
		001025	St.Senan's Lough
		001321	Termon Lough
		000070	Tullaer Lough and Bog
		000071	Turloughnagullaun
		001007	White Strand/Carrowmore Marsh
Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)	Site Code	proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)
Sites outside of County boundary			
002450	Bleanbeg Bog NHA	000429	Adare Woodlands
001352	Bunnaruddee Bog NHA	000430	Ardagh Church, Newcastlewest (Disused)
002399	Carrigkerry Bogs NHA	001427	Ballinvirick Marsh
000253	Cregganna Marsh NHA	001332	Ballylongford Bay
002379	Derryoobee Bog NHA	001425	Ballymorrisheen Marsh
002186	Grageen Fen and Bog NHA	001849	Ballyvorheen Bog
002364	Moycullen Bogs NHA	000432	Barrigone
002361	Moyreen Bog NHA	000231	Barrougher Bog
000937	Scohaboy Bog NHA	001335	Beal Point
		000238	Caheglassaun Turlough
		001429	Cappagh Fen
		001340	Cashen River Estuary
		000433	Castleconnell (Domestic Dwelling, Occupied)
		000242	Castletaylor Complex
		000930	Clare Glen
		000929	Clareen Lough
		000248	Cloonmoylan Bog
		002034	Connemara Bog Complex
		000252	Coole-Garryland Complex
		000174	Curraghchase Woods

		000261	Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve
		000931	Derrygareen Heath
		001030	Dromore and Bleach Loughs
		001850	Dromsallagh Bog
		000932	Fiagh Bog
		001267	Furbogh Wood
		001431	Glenastar Wood
		001432	Glenstal Wood
		001433	Gorteennamrock
		001275	Inisheer Island
		000212	Inishmaan Island
		000435	Inner Shannon Estuary - South Shore
		001197	Keeper Hill
		000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole)
		001285	Kiltiernan Turlough
		001995	Lough Avan
		000297	Lough Corrib
		000299	Lough Cutra
		000606	Lough Fingall Complex
		000650	Lough Ourna
		000438	Loughmore Common Turlough
		000374	Moanveanlagh Bog
		000653	Newchapel Turlough
		000318	Peterswell Turlough
		000320	Pollduagh Cave, Gort
		000319	Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve
		000216	River Shannon Callows
		001313	Rosturra Wood
		000939	Silvermine Mountains
		001996	Skoolhill
		001913	Sonnagh Bog
		000941	Spring Park Wetlands
		001436	Sturamus Island
		001386	Tarbert Bay
		000439	Tory Hill
		000943	Willsborough Esker

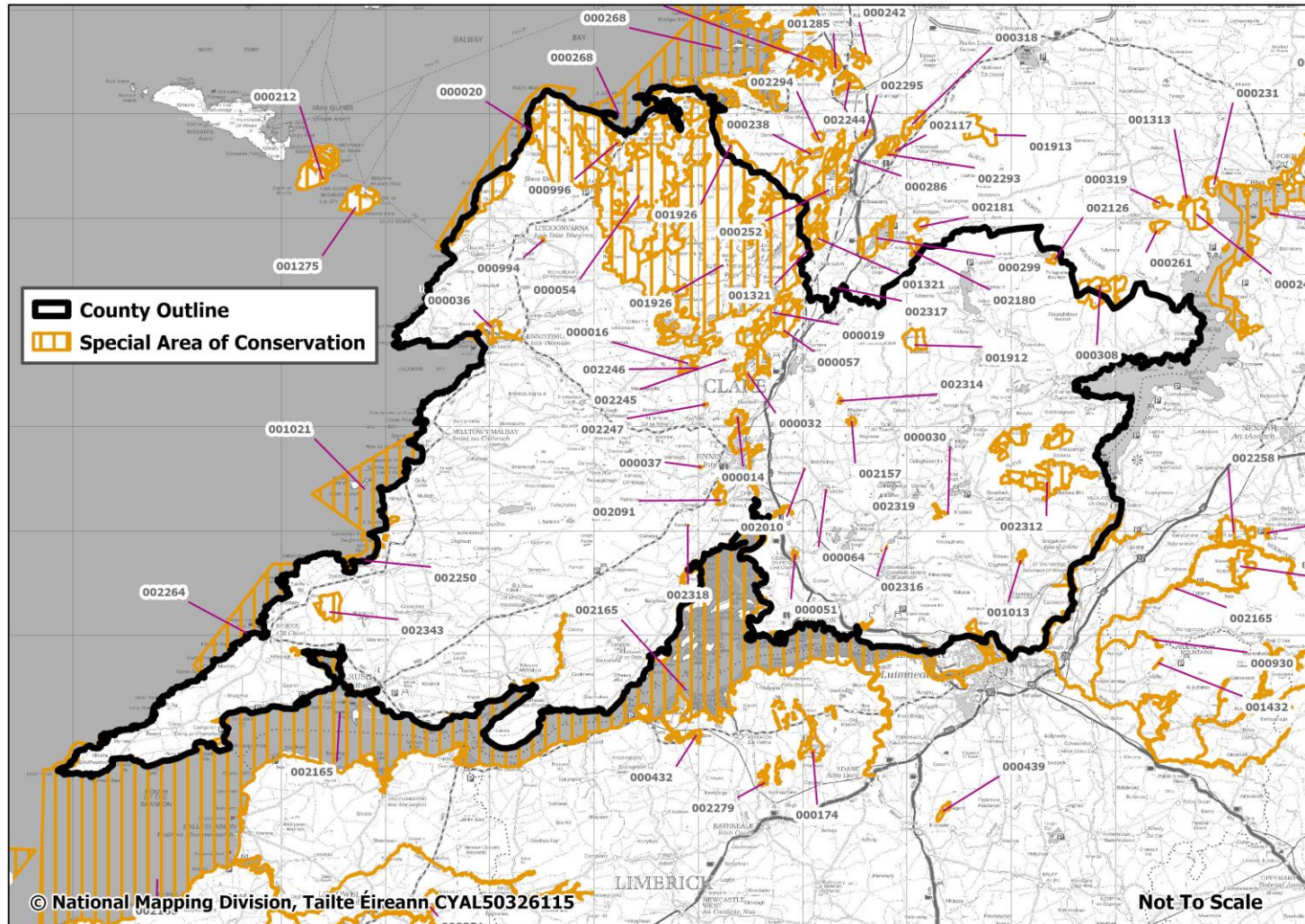


Figure 1 SACs within 15km of the Heritage Plan boundary.

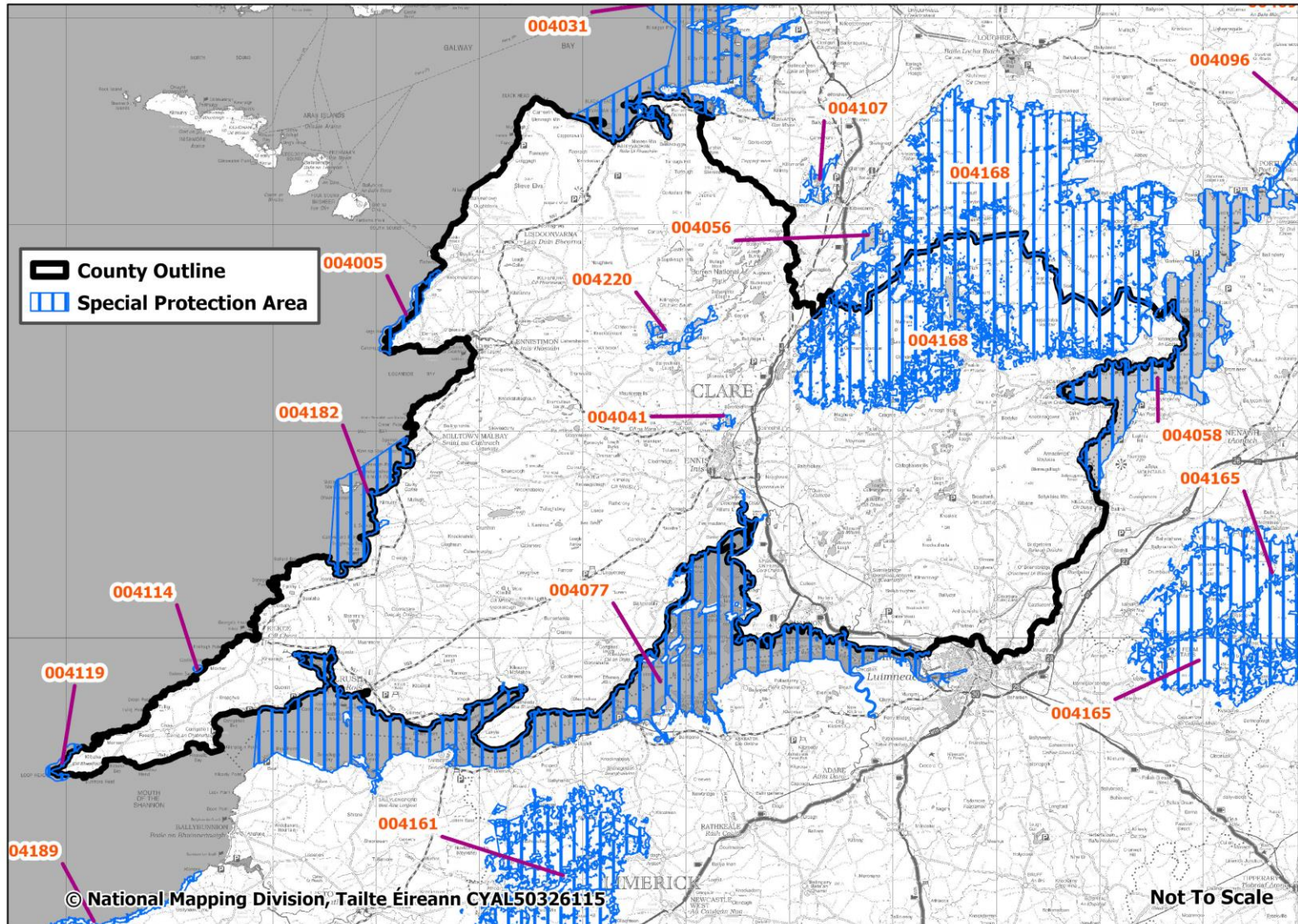


Figure 2 SPAs within 15km of the Heritage Plan boundary.

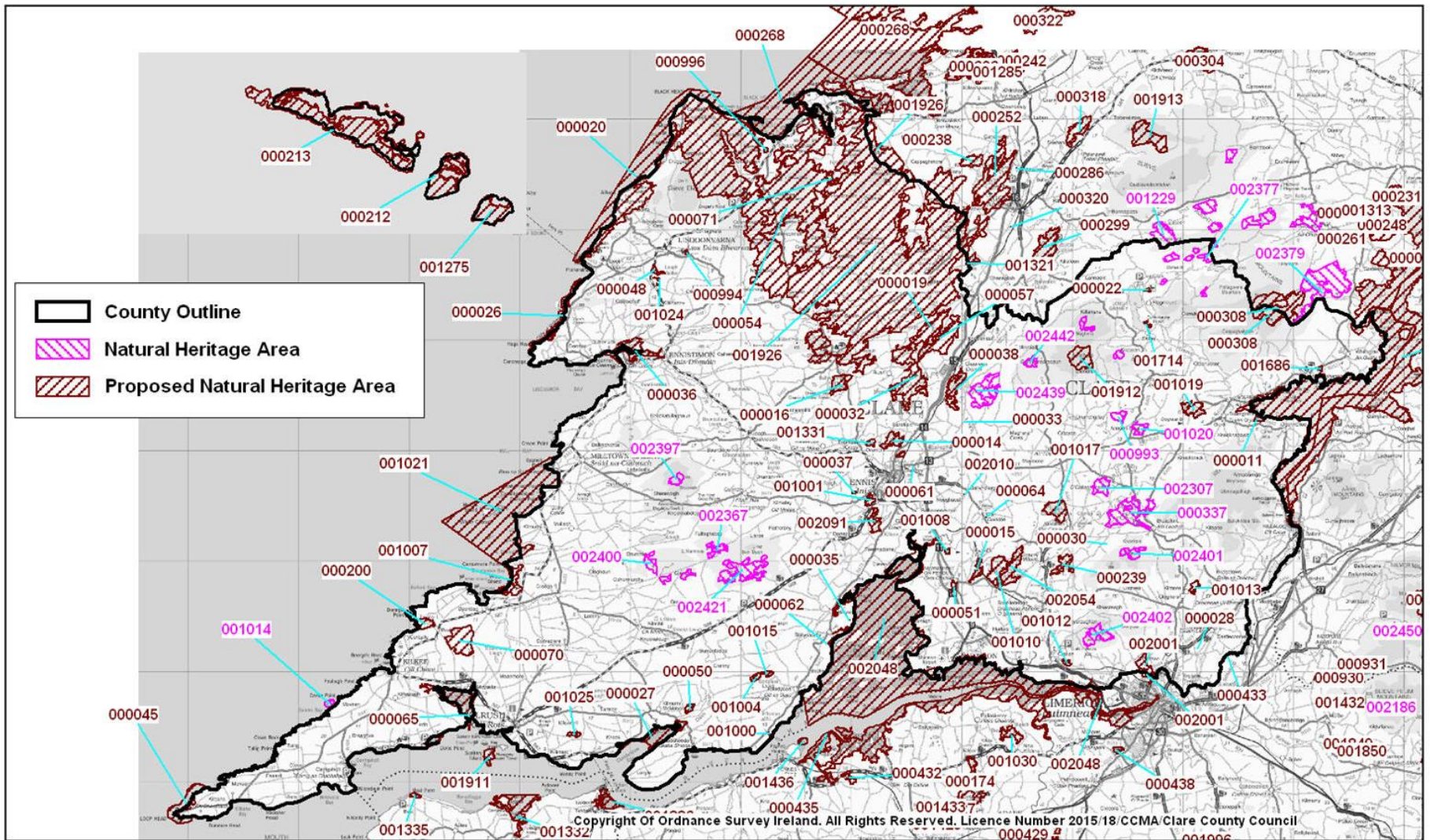


Figure 3 NHAs and pNHAs within 15km of the Heritage Plan boundary.

1.3 Legislative Context

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as “The Habitats Directive”, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community Interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive is transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations) and Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European Sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the (European) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In 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.

Article 6(4) states:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

2.0 Assessment Methodology

2.1 Formal guidance

The AA process has taken account of guidance contained in the following documents:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities.* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.* Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10.

- *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* (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000. Note that a revised version of this Guidance is due to for publication in 2016 and will be taken into account once published and as appropriate at the Part 8 application stage.
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence.* Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- *Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans Under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive* (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle.* European Commission (2000).
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. S.I. No. 477 of 2011 (as amended)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management; OPR Practice Note PN01; Office of the Public Regulator, 2021

2.2 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Draft County Clare Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030
- Survey of Trees in Towns and Villages of County Clare, Nicholas de Jong Associates, 2015
- Waterways Corridor Studies <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/uiscebhealaintire/foilseachain/waterways-corridor-studies/?L=3>
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- GIS based ecological datasets held by the NPWS (e.g. habitat datasets, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Molluscs, Marsh fritillary, Otter and Bottlenose dolphin);
- GIS based ecological datasets held by Clare County Council;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from [EPA Maps](#)
- Information on the International River Basin District from [Guide to the Water Framework Directive - Catchments.ie - Catchments.ie](#)

- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2019);
- Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins, 2013);
- Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026
- Clare County Development Plan 2024 - 2030 Natura Impact Report
- Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 Natura Impact Report
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021 - 2025

2.3 Screening Methodology

The function of the Screening exercise is to identify whether the Heritage Plan will have a likely significant effect on European Sites. In this context “likely” refers to the presence of doubt regarding the absence of significant effects (ECJ case C-127/02) and “significant” means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that has the potential to undermine the site’s conservation objectives (English Nature, 1999; ECJ case C-127/02 &). In other words, any effect that compromises the integrity of a site and interferes with achieving the conservation objectives for the site would constitute a significant effect.

The nature of the likely interactions between the Heritage Plan and the integrity of the associated European sites will depend upon the sensitivity of the SPAs special conservation interests (SCIs) and the SAC Qualifying Interest Features to potential impacts arising from the Heritage Plan; the current conservation status of the SPA and its SCIs and the SAC and its QIs; and any likely changes to key environmental indicators (e.g. habitat structure; vegetation community) that underpin the conservation status of the European sites, in combination with other plans and projects. Please refer to **Appendix A** for a synopsis of the Qualifying Interest Features and the Special Conservation Interests together with the environmental and ecological conditions that maintain the condition of these features.

This Screening exercise has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (2010) and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC* and recent European and National case law (ECJ C-258/11 & High Court case ref 2014-320-JR). The following guidance documents were also of relevance during this Screening Assessment:

- The Habitats Regulations; A guide for competent authorities. Environment and Heritage Service, Sept 2002.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2000). (To be referred to as MN 2000).
- Guidance on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC – Clarification of the Concepts of: Alternative Solutions, Imperative reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall coherence, Opinion of the Commission. European Commission (2007).

The EC (2001) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening exercise of a plan or project that has the potential to have likely significant effects on European Sites. The methodology adopted for this Screening exercise is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites likely to be influenced by the project;
3. Screen the project against established assessment criteria to determine if it has the potential to affect European Sites; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

2.4 Brief Description of the Heritage Plan

The County Clare Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030 sets out seven key focus areas as follows:

- *Focus Area 1. Its How you Tell Them*
- *Focus Area 2. Looking Back/Moving Forward*
- *Focus Area 3. Life is for Living*
- *Focus Area 4. Changing Times*
- *Focus Area 5. Sounds Wonderful*
- *Focus Area 6. Keeping Track*
- *Focus Area 7. Light Spark, See the Light*

The Plan identifies a series of actions under each with the intention to advance integrated conservation efforts, promotion of awareness, to drive community engagement, and foster a holistic approach to heritage management, ensuring that the tapestry of Clare’s past is woven seamlessly in the fabric of its future.

The County Clare Heritage Plan 2024-2030 sets out how Clare County Council, in association with other stakeholders, will identify, manage, and conserve heritage for the benefit of all. The County Clare Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030 will collect and make available heritage information and raise awareness through education initiatives and acquire knowledge through surveys and research. It will inform public policy on heritage and support the strategic and integrated management of heritage at a local level.

The County Clare Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030 gives a general background to the heritage of County Clare, including statistics on the County, in addition to details of other relevant plans and strategies. Outlined in the Heritage Plan are details of how the plan will be delivered, including detail on the timelines, finance, partners, monitoring and evaluation.

The context for the Clare Heritage Plan 2024-2030 is set out in the following policy documents, the National Heritage Plan – *Heritage Ireland 2030*, the *draft 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017)* and

the *Heritage Council Strategy 2012-2016*, in addition to the draft *Culture 2025, A Framework Policy to 2025* driven by the *Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022*.



Figure 4.0 National Heritage Plan

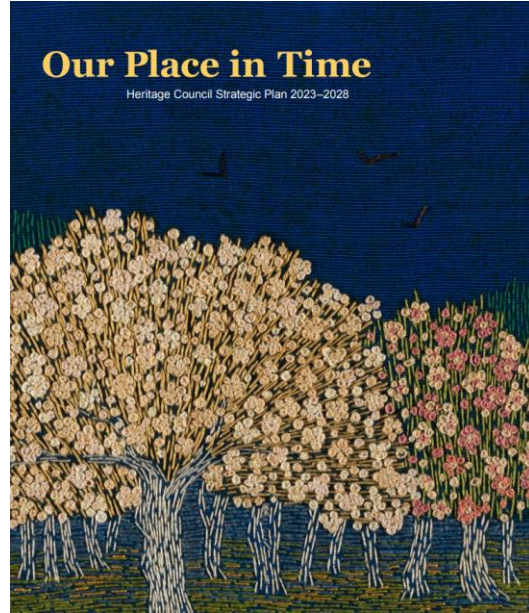


Figure 5.0 Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

The County Clare Heritage Plan 2024-2030 has been prepared in consultation with the people of County Clare together with all relevant government departments, local interest groups, committees, and statutory bodies with an interest in the heritage of County Clare. The plan aims to identify priorities for action, establish a framework for the management of heritage at local level and increase awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of our heritage for all. It sets 8 overarching Objectives under which sit 41 actions to be undertaken over a 6-year period in relation to Clare’s natural and cultural heritage under the following eight overall themes.

The Heritage Plan comprises of the following sections.

Part 1 – Introduction

Part 2 – Vision and Key Focus Areas

Part 3 – Implementation Outcomes, Monitoring and Evaluation

2.5 Description of European Sites

The DoEHLG guidance (2009) identified that the Appropriate Assessment screening stage of a plan or project should consider the following European sites:

- Any European site within or adjacent to the plan or project area
- Any European site within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. This is dependent on the nature and scale of the plan, within 15km generally recommended for plans, but potentially much less for projects.
- Any European site that is more than 15km from the plan or project area, but may potentially be impacts upon, for example, through a hydrological connection.

This section identifies the European Sites within the likely zone of impact of the Heritage Plan. For plans an initial 15km zone of influence (NPWS-DAHG)² is recommended. For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors together with the potential for in combination effects.

European Sites that are more than 15km from the Heritage Plan boundary may have to be considered. For example, in the case of sites with water dependent habitats or species and where a proposal could affect water quality or quantity it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.

For the proposed Heritage Plan, a 15km buffer zone of the county boundary has been used as the appropriate zone of influence. This takes into consideration designated sites which are located within the wider area/county including those with a hydrological connection.

² European Sites that are more than 15km from the proposal may have to be considered. For example, in the case of sites with water dependent habitats or species and where a proposal could affect water quality or quantity it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment.

3.0 Assessment of Likely Effects

3.1 Likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project on a European site

Any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the actions associated with the proposed Heritage Plan, both alone and in combination with other plans or projects, on European Sites by virtue of the following criteria were considered: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation, decommissioning. These impacts are presented in **Table 3.0**

X = No potential for significant effects

v= Potential for significant effects

Table 3 Assessment of the Likely Significant Effects of implementing the Draft County Clare Heritage Plan 2024-2030

Key Focus Areas	Potential likely significant direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the actions arising from the Heritage Plan on European sites								Comment/Assessment
	Size and scale	Land-take	Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key feature of the Site	Resource Requirements	Emissions	Excavation Requirements	Transportation Requirements	Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.	
Its How you tell them. <i>Stories and narratives form the bedrock of a community's cultural identity. Conveying these tales can be as crucial as the stories themselves which are an evolving story of both the people and place of County Clare.</i>									
Objective 1: Support collaborative heritage projects that will identify the untold and lesser-known stories of County Clare and help to find ways to better share and tell these stories.									
1.1 Facilitate a collaborative approach to further enhance the experience of lesser-known heritage in the County by developing a pilot project on stories around specific theme(s), for example the royal sites of Clare and the bicentennial of Catholic Emancipation, with the aim of promoting a county-wide network of new heritage experiences.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This action will serve to promote heritage across the county in particular areas of heritage which have historically not been afforded significant attention.
1.2 Develop a toolkit to help communities to connect with their local heritage including untapped heritage assets and provide them with the know-how to find out more and to explore the local stories that contribute to that heritage and their local community and place.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Similar to Action 1.1 this action will serve to promote heritage across our communities and encourage the exploration of lesser-known facts of local heritage.
1.3 Continue to develop the Clare Community Archive Network including digital text/image/audio resource pool to capture the unique heritage of County Clare, for example, our untold stories.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This Action will promote the preservation of our Heritage for future generations through the digital capturing and archiving of such important and historical artefacts.
Looking Back/Moving Forward <i>Valuing the past, navigating the future and managing change</i>									
2.1 Celebrate food culture in County Clare in collaboration with traditional food growers and artisan food producers to promote	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This Action is seen as a positive and will ensure the Heritage of our food culture is

food heritage in county Clare, by identifying traditional foods, cooking and growing methods, and how these have evolved and influence modern day cuisine.									retained for future generations.
2.2 Maximise opportunities to deliver on heritage funding programmes including the Community Monuments Fund, Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund to promote heritage-led regeneration and public realm enhancement initiatives.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2.3 Engage a Community Archaeologist to provide archaeological expertise and advice, and to promote archaeology in the community through targeted initiatives which promote practical engagement in archaeological excavation, such as a programme for schools to provide opportunities for young people to participate.	X	√ - there may be potential for impacts associated with any practical elements involving excavations	X	X	X	√ - there may be potential for impacts associated with any practical elements involving excavations within or adjacent to European sites.	X	X	As there is insufficient geographic specificity to permit complete assessment at this plan level, impacts are better avoided, and proposals assessed at the project stage in relation to any proposed excavations associated with practical elements. All proposals must be screened to ensure that impacts can be avoided or mitigated when informed by site-specific data. This should be undertaken in compliance with the Clare County Development Plan (CDP) Objective 3.3.
2.4 Establish an interdepartmental group within Clare County Council to share information to identify and maximise funding opportunities for heritage related projects.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
2.5 Develop a Heritage Identification Toolkit to enable local communities to identify, map and record all facets of heritage in their local area.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Links with Action 1.2 which has a positive effect overall.
2.6 To advise on the sustainable management of the heritage sites in the ownership of Clare County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Council to ensure the visitor experience is of an authentic representation of the life and place of the county.										
2.7 To seek an approach to progress the Burren as a World Heritage site in partnership with all interested parties and relevant organisations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This will allow for a coherent and sustainable approach to the designation of the Burren as a World Heritage Site ensuring that the protection of European Sites is adhered to in line with the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations and the Habitats Directive.
Life is for Living										
<i>Engaging with heritage every day</i>										
3.1 To work with communities to review and record local heritage assets within settlements and other areas in the county.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3.2 Develop an accessibility audit template as a resource for communities to identify accessibility issues around local heritage assets and explore potential solutions. For example, the need for a conservation management plan to identify possible ways to overcome accessibility issues.	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	While the audit itself won't lead to the potential for significant effects the various solutions proposed in terms of accessibility could lead to significant effects. Applicants will need to ensure compliance with CDP Objective 3.3. with respect to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
3.3 To support the implementation of county wide studies including natural heritage sites e.g. pNHAs to inform an ecological network map of the County.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	This Action will serve to meet the requirements of CDP Objective 15.5 with respect to Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs).
3.4 To provide digital QR codes at sites of heritage significance with a view to promoting responsible tourism activities within sensitive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The placement of QR codes should be undertaken on existing signage or

landscapes and to highlight biodiversity protection within these areas. This will take the form of installing QR codes at key discreet locations along the Atlantic coastline and Burren landscape e.g 'How you can help our Environment' and Leave No Trace.										posts to ensure there is no risk of significant effects on European Sites. Where new signage is necessary or cannot be avoided adherence to CDP Objective 3.3 will be required with respect to Screening for Appropriate Assessment.
3.5 Support cultural and natural heritage education, awareness and outreach programmes with regard to ancient woodlands in the county. This can be achieved fostering strong partnerships with key stakeholder conservation groups around native woodland conservation and protection.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3.6 Continue to develop an integrated Heritage Network in the county through the use of branding, technology, interpretation and communications.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Aligns with Action 2.5 in terms of highlighting the importance of and curating records of our valuable heritage across the county.
3.7 Prepare an E-Magazine 'Heritage Matters' which celebrates Clare heritage initiatives, promotes engagement and participation and provides a resource to find out more about what is happening in the local and wider world of heritage in the county.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3.8 Work with cross-functional departments within the local authority to promote awareness of heritage and biodiversity through the delivery of training and expert guidance.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
3.9 Support town centre regeneration and public realm initiatives which will promote renovation of vacant buildings and in doing so to ensure the protection and enhancement of heritage within towns and villages.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	The Action seeks to "support" town centre and public realm regeneration which in itself will not lead to significant effects however those

										overseeing the works associated with these initiatives must ensure compliance with CDP Objective 17.7 Town and Village Centre Vacancy and 17.9 Lands Identified as Areas On Which the Vacant Site Levy can apply.
<p>Changing Times <i>Heritage is fragile and needs constant protection and development in an environment where change is constant. Whether it is adapting to climate change, our biodiversity emergency or new technological innovations, the ability to be resilient and adapt is essential. There is a need to focus on the role of heritage in building more sustainable and resilient communities as well as protecting our rich and diverse heritage in the context of environmental changes.</i></p>										
4.1 Promote the use of new technology and digital innovation in all heritage related activities, initiatives, projects and programmes.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	No potential for significant effects to arise.
4.2 Protect and enhance the heritage of the county by creating community awareness through active engagement, education, training, information sharing, publications, signage and events and through working with stakeholders.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.3 To explore opportunities for developing initiatives that promote sustainable access to local heritage sites through the use of digital technology and the development of a digital interpretation network of local heritage sites.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.4 Research sites of high cultural and natural conservation value along the Clare coast to fully understand the implications of climate change and sea level rise and the potential approaches to mitigation, adaptation and building resilience, with an initial focus on the area of the Loop Head Peninsula Decarbonisation Zone.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
4.5 Prioritise vulnerable heritage sites that are identified as being most at risk and determine key actions for their protection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

through the preparation of Conservation Management Plans.									
4.6 Raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on heritage and the role natural heritage, such as wetlands, bogs, trees, can play in helping to address these impacts.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Sounds Wonderful									
<i>Clare's musical and oral heritage is unparalleled. It is a gateway to the past which focuses on individual experiences and reflects historical, political and social changes as well as the evolution of County Clare's unique identity and sense of place.</i>									
5.1 To promote the opportunities to celebrate local culture in all its forms through local heritage initiatives e.g., live performances at heritage sites, social and cultural events at CCC managed heritage sites including Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Vandeleur Gardens and the Cliffs of Moher.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5.2 Explore the potential of developing a 'Sounds of County Clare' initiative to capture iconic sights and sounds of the county including music, sounds of nature and folklore, in collaboration with organisations e.g. Cuimhneamh an Chláir and the Oral History Centre MIRR (MIC).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5.3 Promote the integration of the Irish language into heritage initiatives, for example by using local words, sayings and placenames.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
5.4 Support communities in the collection and preservation of their unique intangible cultural heritage including oral history, folklore and placenames, and in raising awareness of this unique heritage asset and to support collaboration in opportunities with relevant expertise to facilitate community capacity building and to promote participation in iCAN.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Keeping Track									
<i>Linking the past to the present, and inevitably to the future, is priceless. Our heritage carries memories and testimonies, knowledge and ideas in ways that are vivid, moving and real, and lay the foundations for conversations and better understanding between and within the generations.</i>									
6.1 To broaden the reach of the Clare Community Heritage Network by working with heritage groups and local communities to	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

participate in iCAN to build local capacity to contribute material to the county heritage repository, such as audio, photographs, research, data collection, surveys and inventories. Information collected will be used to inform and guide future heritage initiatives.									
6.2 Create a map-based database that identifies traditional skills and craftspeople in the county to promote responsible, locally sourced, conservation and craft activity, as well as informing educational initiatives in traditional skills capacity building.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
6.3 Support ongoing research and development of traditional skills in relation to built, maritime and natural heritage. The programme will be designed to foster and promote the continued research and development of traditional skills pertinent to Clare's built structures, maritime traditions, and natural landscapes. It emphasizes the preservation and enhancement of techniques that have historically been integral to the county's heritage. Programme Structure would consist of multiple components, including grants for research projects, workshops led by experts in the respective fields, and collaborations with educational institutions. There will also be initiatives to document and archive these skills to ensure they remain accessible to future generations.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
6.4 The Annual Clare Heritage Networking Events Programme will be a structured initiative aimed at promoting and celebrating Clare's rich heritage. This programme is developed through a consultative	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

<p>process involving key stakeholders, including local heritage enthusiasts, experts, and the broader Clare community. Programme Structure would comprise a series of events throughout the year, including workshops, lectures, interactive sessions, and exhibitions. These events will focus on various aspects of Clare's heritage, from its historical landmarks to its traditional arts and crafts.</p>										
<p>Light the Spark, See the Light</p>										
<p><i>Education and awareness form the bedrock of heritage conservation, helping to bring people together to contribute to something bigger and better than any individual person or organisation can do on their own.</i></p>										
<p>7.1 To support partnerships with 3rd level institutions such as Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), NUIG, University of Limerick and GMIT relating to the protection of heritage in the county including links to post-graduate research programmes.</p>										
<p>7.2 In collaboration with local experts, assess and develop educational programs focused on the enhancement of traditional skills within the county. This encompasses workshops in primary and post-primary institutions, tertiary level courses, and apprenticeships. Additionally, liaise with educational institutions to further the awareness of heritage and its potential career pathways. This initiative includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing partnerships with media outlets for resourceful interactions. • Collaborating with relevant organizations to offer sample sessions, field trips, and workshops. • Strengthening the linkage between heritage appreciation and vocational prospects. 	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
<p>7.3 Promote participation in heritage initiatives such as</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Heritage Week, Heritage in Schools, Adopt a Monument and the Community Wetlands Forum as well as and competitions such as the Young European Heritage Makers.									
7.4 Develop a fun, interactive, heritage learning resource for young people.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7.5 Implement heritage engagement programmes designed for inter-generational appeal to ensure inclusivity and continuity of heritage appreciation. Opportunities for this to be achieved include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with representatives from various age groups to identify interests and preferred engagement methods. Develop workshops, events, and digital platforms that cater to different age demographics while promoting shared experiences. Integrate storytelling sessions where older generations share heritage tales with younger participants, fostering mutual respect and understanding.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7.6 Develop an 'Inspiring through Education' initiative to engage primary and second level schools with heritage including the concept of 'tasters', having a go, trying something new and a Transition Year Youth Heritage project.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7.7 Work with education and training providers such as Clare Education Centre, Clare Museum and Clare Education and Training Board to provide heritage training and courses for the community such as the Heritage in Schools Scheme and Reading the Landscape training.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Ongoing Actions and Collaborations

To continue to support the on-going collaboration with key stakeholders and the implementation of plans, strategies, programmes and initiatives in the delivery of heritage related projects.

<p>8.1 To continue to support the implementation of key plans, strategies, programmes and initiatives in the county including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland’s 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) - Actions relating to County Clare • County Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2030 • All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 • Clare Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024 • Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 • Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027 • Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary • Inis Cealtra Visitor Management Plan • Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040 • Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO) <p>To Support the work, and develop further initiatives to support the collaborative and combined efforts, of the following key stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burren and Cliffs of Mohr UNESCO Geopark • Burren Eco-Tourism Network (BEN) – and the development of eco-tourism initiatives and sustainable green tourism throughout the county • Burrenbeo Trust and Burren Farming and conservation Programme and the education initiatives and Conservation Volunteers Programme. <p>To continue to support on-going initiatives:</p>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre Health Checks • Annual programme of events and activities of Clare Archaeological and Historical Societies, Cuimhneamh an Chláir, Clare Roots, the County Clare Heritage & Genealogy Centre, among others. • Annual Heritage Week Events 									
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3.1 Identification of Potential Likely Significant Effects

The Heritage Plan aims to identify priorities for action, establish a framework for the management of heritage at local level and increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all. The actions set down in the Heritage Plan 2017-2023 are principally focused on communicating the value of our heritage to improve awareness. It is not considered that any of the 41 actions will have a direct, indirect or cumulative impact on European sites. The actions will not result in any works which could potentially impact on European Sites either directly, indirectly, or in combination with other plans and projects. A significant number of the actions relate to the collation of data, surveys or awareness/education/training activities which should enhance heritage awareness and protection as assessed in Table 3.0.

4.0 Article 6(3) screening statement and conclusions

The findings of this screening are presented following the European Commission guidance document *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting European Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2001) and DEHLG's Guidance on the Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (DEHLG, 2009; 2010)*

4.1 Concluding Statement

The proposed County Heritage Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation management of any European site. Screening has established that in view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on the conservation objectives of any European site within the 15km zone of influence.

Therefore, in accordance with *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010)*; as significant impacts can be ruled out no further assessment is required.

Appendix A – Details of European Sites within the Zone of Influence

SAC Name	Site Code	Qualifying Interests
Ballyallia Lake SAC	000014	It is a naturally eutrophic lake which is a habitat listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. It also contains significant numbers of the Whooper Swan which is an Annex I species under the Birds Directive.
Ballycullinan Lake SAC	000016	Designated for the presence of Cladium fen, a habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Ballyogan Lough SAC	000019	This site contains the Annex I species Cladium fen.
Black Head – Poulsallagh Complex SAC & pNHA	000020	Designated for the presence of Annex I species such as Reefs, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Alpine Heaths, <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>), Petrifying springs with tufa formation, limestone pavements and submerged or partly submerged sea caves. In addition, the site contains the Annex II species such as <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> .
Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC	000030	This site is significant as it is a winter hibernation site and a mating site of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>), which is a species listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	000032	This is designated for the presence of several naturally eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion and Hydrocharition-type vegetation and limestone pavements which are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive as well as the Otter which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Inagh River Estuary SAC & pNHA	000036	Species listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive such as Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimi</i>), Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>), shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) and fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes).
Pouladatig Cave SAC	000037	Designated for the presence of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus</i>
Lough Gash Turlough SAC	000051	This site is significant as it is a Turlough habitat under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Moneen Mountain SAC	000054	Designated for the presence of limestone pavement and its associated calcareous grassland and juniper scrub and heaths which are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) can be found at this site and is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Moyree River System SAC	000057	Limestone pavement, floating river vegetation, alkaline fen and caves are the Annex I Habitats located at this site. It is an internationally important summer roosting and hibernation site for the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Poulnagordon Cave (Quin) SAC	000064	Designated for the presence of a natural cave which is listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>), a species listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive, uses the cave as a hibernation site.
Galway Bay Complex SAC & pNHA	000268	This site has the following significant habitats which are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, coastal lagoons, large shallow inlets and bays, reefs, perennial vegetation of stony banks, Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>), Mediterranean Salt Meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritima</i>), Turloughs,

		Juniperus communis formations on calcareous heaths or grasslands, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites), Calcareous fens with (<i>Cladium mariscus</i>) and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> and Alkaline fens. The Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) and the Common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) are the species found at this site which are listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Loughatorick South Bog SAC	000308	Designated for the presence of the Blanket bog (active only) habitat, listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Ballyteige (Clare) SAC	000994	This site consists of Molina meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>), a habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC	000996	Designated for the presence of Turloughs which are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Glenomra Wood SAC	001013	This site consists of Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles, listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC & pNHA	001021	Designated for the presence of the following habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive: Coastal lagoons, Reefs, Perennial vegetation of stony banks and Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion).
Termon Lough SAC	001321	Termon Lough SAC is situated approximately 6 km south-west of Gort, on the border between Counties Clare and Galway. It consists of a series of three turloughs, with low, drift-covered slopes on all sides except in the north-east, where a small area of limestone pavement is found. Designated for the presence of Turloughs, a habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Glendree Bog SAC	001912	Designated for the presence of Blanket Bog (active only), a habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
East Burren Complex SAC	001926	This site has the following habitats which are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp., Turloughs, Alpine and Boreal Heaths, Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (important orchid sites), lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>), Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> , Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion), Alkaline fens, Limestone pavements, Caves not open to the public, Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno- Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incaanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>). The Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) is found at this site and is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Old Domestic Building (Keevagh) SAC	002010	Designated for the presence of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC	002091	This site is significant as it consists of the habitat Caves not open to the public which is a habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>), an Annex II species can also be found at this location.
Pollagoona Bog SAC	002126	Designated for the presence of Blanket bog (active only) which is a habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Newgrove House SAC	002157	This site is significant as the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive can be found here.
Lower River Shannon SAC	002165	Designated for the presence of the following habitats under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive: Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, Estuaries, Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Coastal lagoons, Large shallow inlets and bays, Reefs, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts, Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand, Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>), Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>), Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>), Molina meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) and Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>). Annex II species which are present at this site include the Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>), Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>), Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>), River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>), Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), Bottle-nosed dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) and the Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>).
Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC	002245	This site is significant as the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive can be found here.
Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC	002246	Designated for the presence of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Toonagh Estate SAC	002247	This site is significant as the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive can be found here.
Carrowmore Dunes SAC	002250	Designated for the presence of the following habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive: Reefs, Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) and Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes). The Annex II species narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) can also be located at this site.
Kilkee Reefs SAC	002264	This site is significant as it consists of a Reef habitat and a shallow bay habitat which is both listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC	002312	Designated for the presence of blanket bog, wet heath and dry heath which are habitats that are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Old Domestic Buildings, Rylane SAC	002314	This site contains two important breeding roosts of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.
Ratty River Cave SAC	002316	Designated for the presence of a cave which is listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and it is a significant winter roost and a breeding site of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.
Cregg House Stables, Crusheen	002317	This site contains an important breeding roost of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive. Situated approx. 1km from the Clare Border.
Knockanira House SAC	002318	This site is significant as it contains an important maternity roost of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.

Kilkishen House SAC	002319	Designated for the presence of an important winter roost of the Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) which is listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.
Tullaheer Lough and Bog SAC	002343	Significant site as it consists of an active raised bog, degraded raised bog and Rhynchosporion and transition mire which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Ardrahan Grassland SAC	002244	Designated for Alpine and Boreal heaths, Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) and Limestone pavements which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Askeaton Fen Complex SAC	002279	Designated for Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> and Alkaline fens which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Ballinduff Turlough SAC	002295	Designated for the presence of a turlough. The turlough is late-draining and a pool persists into June or July and re-floods easily. Turloughs are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Barrigone SAC	000432	Designated for Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) , Limestone pavements and <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Barrougher Bog SAC	000231	Designated for Active raised bogs, degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	000238	Designated for the presence of a turlough. Turloughs are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Cahermore Turlough SAC	002294	Designated for the presence of a turlough. Turloughs are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	002293	Designated for the presence of a turlough. Turloughs are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Castletaylor Complex SAC	000242	Designated for Turloughs, Alpine and Boreal heaths, Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites) and Limestone pavements. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Clare Glen SAC	000930	Designated for Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles and <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern). This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and Killarney Fern is listed in Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive
Cloonmoylan Bog SAC	000248	Designated for Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion and Bog woodland. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Connemara Bog Complex SAC	002034	Designated for Coastal lagoons, Reefs, Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>), Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea</i>

		<p><i>uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i>, Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation,</p> <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>, European dry heaths,</p> <p>Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>), Blanket bogs (* if active bog), Transition mires and quaking bogs, Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, Alkaline fens, Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles, <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary), <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon), <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) and <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Slender Naiad, Otter and Salmon are listed in Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive. Marsh Fritillary is listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive</p>
Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	000252	<p>Designated for Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation, Turloughs, Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodion rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation, Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Limestone pavements and <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Curraghchase Woods SAC	000174	<p>Designated for Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and Fraxinus excelsior (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>), <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles, <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> (Desmoulin's Whorl Snail) and <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser horseshoe bat). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Desmoulin's Whorl Snail is listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Lesser horseshoe bat are listed in Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive.</p>
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve SAC	000261	<p>Designated for Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Drummin Wood SAC	002181	<p>Designated for Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Glenstal Wood SAC	001432	<p>Designated for <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern). This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	002180	<p>Designated for Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Inisheer Island SAC	001275	<p>Designated for Coastal lagoons, Reefs, European dry heaths, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) and Limestone pavements. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Inishmaan Island SAC	000212	<p>Designated for Reefs, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts, Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes), Machairs (* in Ireland), European dry heaths, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) and Limestone pavements. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Inishmore Island SAC	000213	<p>Designated for Coastal lagoons, Reefs, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts, Embryonic shifting dunes, Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white</p>

		dunes), Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes), Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>), Humid dune slacks, Machairs, European dry heaths, Alpine and Boreal heaths, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>), Limestone pavements, Submerged or partially submerged sea caves and <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail is listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive
Keeper Hill SAC	001197	Designated for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> and Blanket bogs (*if active bog). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Kerry Head Shoal SAC	002263	Designated for Reefs. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC	000286	Designated for Caves do not open to the public and <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser horseshoe bat). This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Lesser horseshoe bat is listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive.
Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	001285	Designated for the presence of a turlough. Turloughs are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Lough Corrib SAC	000297	Designated for Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>), Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i> , Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp., Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>), Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> , Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion), Alkaline fens, Limestone pavements, Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles, Bog woodland, <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel), <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish), <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey), <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey), <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon), <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser horseshoe bat), <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter), <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad), <i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i> (Slender Green Feather-moss) [6216] These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White Clawed Crayfish, Salmon, Otter, Slender Naiad are listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. Sea lamprey, Brook Lamprey and Slender Green Feather-Moss are listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.
Lough Coy SAC	002117	Designated for the presence of a turlough. Turloughs are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Lough Cutra SAC	000299	Designated for <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser horseshoe bat). Lesser horseshoe bat is listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive
Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	002241	Designated for Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> , Alkaline fens, Limestone pavements, Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and Fraxinus excelsior (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) and <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Lough Fingall Complex SAC	000606	Designated for Turloughs, Alpine and Boreal heaths, Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> , Limestone pavements and <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser horseshoe bat). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Lesser horseshoe bat is listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive
Moanveanlagh Bog SAC	002351	Designated for Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive
Peterswell Turlough SAC	000318	Designated for the presence of a turlough and Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubri</i> p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation. These habitats are listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Pollnacknockaun Wood Nature Reserve SAC	000319	Designated for Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
River Shannon Callows SAC	000216	Designated for Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) , Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>), Alkaline fens, Limestone pavements, Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and Fraxinus excelsior (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) and <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Otter is listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive.
Rosturra Wood SAC	001313	Designated for Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC	002206	Designated for Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Silvermine Mountains SAC	000939	Designated for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> and Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe). These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Silvermines Mountains West SAC	002258	Designated for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> , European dry heaths and Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> . These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Sonnagh Bog SAC	001913	Designated for Blanket bogs (* if active bog). This habitat is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.
Tory Hill SAC	000439	Designated for Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites), Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> and Alkaline fens. These habitats are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.