

Volume 2

Environmental Reports on Proposed Variation No 1 to the Cork County Development Plan 2014

Planning Policy Unit

27th October 2017

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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
SCREENING DETERMINATION
FOR
PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1 TO THE
CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014

Variation No.1

- Part A:** Update Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the County Development Plan to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.
- Part B:** Consequential Changes to Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 7, Town Centres and Retail, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility, Chapter 11, Water Services, Surface Water and Waste, and Chapter 14, Zoning and Land Use and Appendix G, of Volume 1 of the Plan, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.

Planning Policy Unit
27th October 2017

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Cork County Council (the Council) proposes to vary the Cork County Development Plan 2014 – 2020. The decision to vary the County Development Plan has resulted in the need to consider whether or not it could result in significant effects on the environment and therefore whether or not a SEA process is required as set out under EU Directive 2001/42/EC, (hereafter known as the SEA Directive).

The Council must decide whether the proposed Variation would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and in doing so must take account of the relevant criteria set out in the SEA Directive as transposed into Irish Legislation in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 S.I. No. 436 of 2004 as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2011 S.I. No. 201 of 2011. This screening determination has been prepared in accordance with Article 13 K (4) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Before giving notice pursuant to 13(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the Council, in consultation with the statutory authorities, must make a determination as to whether a SEA is required, taking account of the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and any submissions or observation received from the prescribed environmental authorities.

1.1 Background and Purpose of this Variation

The purpose of this proposed Variation of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 is to:

Part A: Update Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the County Development Plan to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.

Part B: Include Consequential Changes to Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 7 Town Centres and Retail, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility, Chapter 11, Water Services, Surface Water and Waste, and Chapter 14, Zoning and Land Use, of the Plan, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017

The proposed Variation to the Cork County Development Plan 2014 includes changes to the text of Chapters 2, 7, 10, 11 and 14, and Appendices B and G of Volume One Main Policy Material. The full text of the proposed Variation is set out in Volume 1.

1.2 Form and Content of the Variation

Part A relates to variations to the Cork County Development Plan relating to Chapter 2 “Core Strategy”.

Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 - Core Strategy: and Appendix B Core Strategy Tables. Chapter 2 of the County Development Plan sets out the Core Strategy for the County in line with guidance, strategies and policies at national and regional level. It sets out information concerning the quantum, location and housing yield of land zoned in the county in comparison with the requirement for housing development as outlined in the population, household and housing targets as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010.

As part of the preparation of the eight 2017 Municipal District Local Area Plans the supply of residentially zoned land has been increased in some areas as new zonings have been included, and has been reduced in other areas to reflect the fact that some lands have been developed and now form part of the “existing built up area”. These adjustments are reflected in a revised Core Strategy Table 2.3 (Formerly 2.2) and revised Tables (in Appendix B of this report) relating to the 4 Strategic Planning Areas and the eight individual Municipal

Districts.

The variation also includes text setting out and explaining the approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017. The need for the provision of a Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve was earmarked as a key issue in the current County Development Plan Core Strategy. The Variation sets out the approach taken to date and how the process will be moved onto the next stage.

The text of these changes are set out in Appendix B of this report.

The scope of Part B of the Variation is outlined below and the detailed changes to each Chapter of the Plan are dealt with in Appendix B of this report. It also includes an update to the Composition of Municipal Districts (Appendix G in the Cork County Development Plan 2014).

Volume One, Chapter 7 Towns Centres and Retail: The proposed Variation to this Chapter provides additional guidance relating to assessing proposals for Large Scale Retail Warehousing and Outlet Centres.

Volume One, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility: The proposed Variation to this Chapter inserts text in relation to the Transport Strategy for Metropolitan Cork and the Cork Cycleway Network.

Volume One, Chapter 11 Water Services, Surface Water and Waste: The proposed Variation to this Chapter updates the Councils approach to dealing with issues relating to water sensitive catchments such as the Blackwater River as identified in the Local Area Plan review.

Volume One, Chapter 14 Zoning and Land Use: Changes to this Chapter accommodate the inclusion of new text and objectives in relation to the Vacant Site Levy and Regeneration Areas and the implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.

Volume One, Appendix G Composition of Municipal Districts: Changes to this Chapter reflect adjustments to the network of settlements in the Blarney Macroom and West Cork Municipal Districts.

2.0 SEA SCREENING

2.1 Introduction

This SEA screening process for environmental effects includes those that may arise cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with the County Development Plan and other plans and programmes. This examination takes account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A ‘Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment’ of the SEA Regulations, as amended, and is updated to take account of any submissions or observations received from the environmental authorities.

2.2 Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora), its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) set out a requirement to screen plans and projects for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then the proposed Variation must undergo Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA). AA is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000, or European, sites* - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance.

Screening determines whether appropriate assessment is necessary by examining:

1) whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, and 2) the potential effects of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, on a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives, and considering whether these effects will be significant.

Screening is an iterative process that involves consideration of the plan or project and its likely effects, and of the Natura 2000 sites and their ecological sensitivities, and the likely interaction between these. Ecological issues will be taken into account at all stages in the planning process so that any constraints are identified and can be taken into consideration.

It is stated in the *'Guidance on Appropriate Assessment for Planning Authorities'*, DoEHLG (2009), that there are clear links and analogies between AA of plans and SEA. They are parallel but separate processes that commonly overlap but also differ in some key respects. AA is narrower in focus and requires more rigorous tests, with the conservation and protection of Natura 2000 sites at its core. The findings and recommendations of AA are overriding and must be incorporated into and be part of a plan that is presented for adoption. The focus of AA is on the impacts of a plan on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites and the Natura 2000 network. In contrast, SEA assists in formulating plan policies and objectives that provide for a more strategic level of protection of the environment. Nonetheless both SEA and AA contribute to the integration of environmental considerations in the adoption of a plan and promote sustainable development. The three main inter-relationships between AA and SEA are:

- AA is a tool that assists in addressing environmental issues as part of the SEA in relation to Natura 2000 sites.
- AA assists the SEA process in the systematic and explicit appraisal of alternatives in relation to Natura 2000 sites.
- Undertaking AA in parallel with SEA provides for an efficient use of resources and expertise. Both processes benefit each other's findings.

In order to ensure that AA is properly integrated into the plan-making process and within the relevant timeframes, AA screening is carried out in advance of the start of the statutory preparation/review process for the proposed Variation and as the Plan is amended through the review process AA screening will be carried out at every stage of the planning process.

This proposed Variation No 1 to the County Development plan has been assessed under the Habitat's Directive. This SEA screening determination should be read in conjunction with the Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Report prepared for Proposed Variation No.1, the findings of the assessment are available in online at <http://www.corkcocodevplan.com/>.

2.3 Assessment on Terms of Schedule 2A - Criteria to be used to determine whether SEA is required.

Introduction

The following pages contain a reproduction of Schedule 2A “Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment” of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

The evaluation was based on current available information on the expected content of the proposed Variation.

It is only significant environmental effects arising from changes to the Plan which are considered; the existing Cork County Development Plan, 2014 has undergone full Strategic Environmental Assessment already.

Schedule 2A:

1. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to

The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,

Core Strategy

The County Development Plan sets out the Core Strategy for the County in line with guidance, strategies and policies at national and regional level. It sets out information concerning the quantum, location and housing yield of land zoned in the county in comparison with the requirement for housing development as outlined in the population, household and housing targets as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010.

As part of the preparation of the eight 2017 Municipal District Local Area Plans the supply of residentially zoned land has been increased in some areas as new zonings have been included, and has been reduced in other areas to reflect the fact that some lands have been developed and now form part of the “existing built up area”.

These adjustments are reflected in a revised Core Strategy Table 2.3 (Formerly 2.2) and revised Tables in Appendix B relating to the 4 Strategic Planning Areas and the eight individual Municipal Districts to bring the CDP Core Strategy in line with the updated housing supply figures set out in the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017. It should be noted that the Housing Demand figures remain unchanged.

Therefore, the proposed Variation would not, in itself, set a new framework for other projects and activities that would have environmental impacts as such frameworks are already in place and have previously been subject to full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Active Land Management

The Variation includes text setting out and explaining the Active Land Management approach which aims to identify constraints on existing residentially zoned land and sets out to actively

address these constraints so that the use of zoned land is maximised and reduces the need to identify additional zoned lands. Therefore, the proposed Variation would not, in itself, set a framework for other projects and activities that would have environmental impacts.

Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve

The need for the provision of a Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve was earmarked as a key issue in the current County Development Plan Core Strategy. A number of Site Options that may contribute to Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve have been identified as part of the Local Area Plan Review process and this Variation sets out the approach taken to date and how the process will be moved onto the next stage. All options will be subject to environmental assessment and any amendments to Local Area Plans emanating from this process will be subject to full Strategic Environmental Assessment. Therefore, the proposed Variation would not, in itself, set a framework for other projects and activities that would have environmental impacts.

Towns Centres and Retail

The proposed Variation provides additional guidance relating to assessing proposals for Large Scale Retail Warehousing and Outlet Centres as already set out in the Retail Planning Guidelines. No individual sites are identified. All development will be subject to EIA/AA screening process. Environmental Impact Statements and Natura Impact Statements will be requested, as appropriate, to inform the assessment of the Planning Authority.

Transport and Mobility

The proposed Variation inserts text acknowledging the fact that a Transport Strategy for Metropolitan Cork is currently been prepared and that a Cork Cycleway Network Plan has been completed. Therefore, the proposed Variation would not, in itself, set a framework for other projects and activities that would have environmental impacts.

Water Services, Surface Water and Waste

The proposed Variation updates the Councils approach to dealing with issues relating to water sensitive catchments such as the Blackwater River as identified in the Local Area Plan review. It brings the CDP into line with the approach set out in the relevant Local Area Plans. This revised approach has been subject to full Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment as part of the Local Area Plan review process. Therefore, the proposed Variation would not, in itself, set a framework for other projects and activities that would have environmental impacts.

Zoning and Land Use

The proposed Variation involves the inclusion of new text setting out the approach to the implementation of the Vacant Sites Levy on Residential Land and Regeneration Areas and includes an objective in relation to Regeneration Areas, such as brownfield lands, encouraging their reuse and redevelopment. This Variation will help to encourage the development of land already identified for development, encourage redevelopment of brownfield lands reducing pressure on greenfield sites.

Composition of Municipal Districts

The proposed Variation updates lists of settlements to reflect adjustments to the network of settlements in the Blarney / Macroom and West Cork Municipal District Local Area Plans.

<p>Therefore, the proposed Variation would not, in itself, set a framework for other projects and activities that would have environmental impacts.</p>
<p><i>The degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy,</i></p> <p>The Cork County Development Plan sets out at a Strategic Level the policies and objectives which the Local Area Plans and individual projects must comply with. The proposed Variation only includes text which is largely already set out in the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans. The Variation will not influence other plans within the County Cork Settlement Hierarchy.</p>
<p><i>The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,</i></p> <p>The Cork County Development Plan has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment. This Variation proposed no change to the existing policies and objectives of that plan. The zoning framework for the County is set out in the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans which have also been subject to Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment. Furthermore all development will be subject to EIA/AA screening process. Environmental Impact Statements and Natura Impact Statements will be requested, as appropriate, to inform the assessment of the Planning Authority.</p>
<p><i>Environmental problems relevant to the plan,</i></p> <p>The proposed Variation restates figures and text from the recently adopted Local Area Plans which have been subject to full Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Directive Assessment. The proposed Variation includes text and objectives encouraging the proper management of existing residentially zones land and the redevelopment of existing brownfield sites in need of regeneration thereby reducing pressure for development on greenfield sites. Therefore, there are no environmental problems arising from the proposed Variation.</p>
<p><i>The relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).</i></p> <p>The Cork County Development Plan, 2014 provides the primary framework for the implementation of EU legislation on the environment. The proposed Variation makes no changes to existing environmental safeguards contained in the Plan. Therefore, there are no legislative issues arising from the proposed Variation.</p>
<p>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to</p>
<p><i>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,</i></p> <p>The proposed Variation is largely intended to bring the County Development Plan ‘in line’ with the adopted Municipal District Local Area Plans. This Variation does not propose any changes to the land-use zoning objectives for the settlement network of the County, which are contained in the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017. The Municipal District Local Area Plans were subject to separate Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment processes. It is considered that the proposed Variation will not give rise to any environmental effects.</p>
<p><i>The cumulative nature of the effects,</i></p> <p>The proposed Variation is largely intended to bring the County Development Plan ‘in line’ with</p>

the adopted Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017 which were subject to separate Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment processes. It is not considered that the proposed Variation will give rise to any cumulative effects.

The transboundary nature of the effects,

It is not considered the proposed Variation will give rise to any transboundary effects.

The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),

It is considered that the proposed Variation will not give rise to any risks to human health or the environment.

The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),

This proposed Variation does not propose any changes to the land use zoning objectives set out in the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017 which were subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment. The proposed Variation is largely intended to bring the County Development Plan 'in line' with the adopted Municipal District Local Area Plans.

The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

(a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,

The current Cork County Development Plan recognises the importance of protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the County. It is considered that this Variation will not adversely affect the natural and cultural heritage assets of the County. Any future proposals for development will have to comply with planning policy to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage of an area will not be adversely affected.

(b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,

It is considered that this proposed Variation will not result in any environmental quality standards being exceeded or the values and vulnerability of any affected areas being limited. The proposed variation is largely intended to bring the County Development Plan 'in line' with the adopted Municipal District Local Area Plans which were subject to separate Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment processes.

(c) intensive land-use,

The proposed Variation does not propose any changes to the land use zoning objectives in the 2017 Municipal District Local Area Plans which were subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment. Any future development will be required to comply with relevant environmental and planning policy.

The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

Any future development will be required to comply with relevant environmental and planning policy.

3.0 STATUTORY CONSULTATION

The SEA screening report was issued to the prescribed environmental authorities including, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Minister for the Housing Planning and Local Government, the Minister for Communications Climate Action and Environment, the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine, the Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and adjoining planning authorities, Cork City Council, Kerry County Council, Waterford City & County Council, Tipperary County Council and Limerick City & County Council, pursuant to Article 13K (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The notice stated:

- I. The planning authority proposes to make Variation No.1 of the Cork County Development Plan 2014 comprising of two parts: (Part A) Update Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the County Development Plan to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017 and (Part B) Consequential Changes to Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 7, Town Centres and Retail, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility, Chapter 11, Water Services, Surface Water and Waste, and Chapter 14, Zoning and Land Use, of Volume 1 of the Plan, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017, in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- II. state that the planning authority must determine whether or not the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that, in so doing, it must take account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A, and
- III. that a submission or observation in relation to whether or not the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the authority within a specified period which shall be not less than 3 weeks from the date of the notice.

The Council must determine whether or not the implementation of the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking account of the relevant criteria as set out under Schedule 2A and any submissions/observations received from the prescribed environmental authorities.

3.1 Responses received from the Statutory Environmental Authorities

Environmental Protection Agency

The submission notes Cork County Council's position regarding the need for a SEA of the proposed variation. The submission makes specific comments on the variation relating to:

- the merit in referencing the 'Census of Population 2016',
- referencing 'Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan and Water Services Strategic Plan',
- the County Development Plan and Municipal District LAP's should be reviewed upon finalisation of the National Planning Framework,
- notes Cork County Council's intention to put on hold population targets for the main towns within the Blackwater Catchment,
- acknowledges the intention to prepare a 'Surface Water and Waste Water Management Plan' for the Blackwater and the intention to prepare a 'Sustainable Urban Drainage System Plan' for Mallow,
- the 'Draft National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland' should be considered,
- the latest 'EPA Water Quality in Ireland Report' should be considered.

The submission states that the Council should determine whether any future proposed variations would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether infrastructure planning is required. The submission also lists the environmental authorities to give notice to and states that a copy of the decision should be made available for public inspection.

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

No comments on the Proposed Variation.

Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment

No comments on the Proposed Variation.

Waterford City & County Council

No comments on the Proposed Variation.

4.0 SCREENING DETERMINATION

The County Council, due to the reasons set out in Section 2.3 of this report and after considering submissions received under Article 13K (3) (b) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), has determined that in accordance with Article 13K (4) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), that the proposed variation No 1 of the Cork County Development Plan 2014 will not result in any significant effects on the environment, therefore, an SEA is not required.

The County Council has also made a determination outlined in detail in Appendix A of this report, that given the nature of the proposed Variation, no Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is required on foot of the proposed Variation No. 1 of the County Development Plan 2014.

APPENDIX A: Determination on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Introduction:

This Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) process is required under Ministerial Guidelines “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities” as part of the plan-making process (including the Variation to or amendment of a Development Plan or Local Area Plan). The SEA process is acknowledged as a good practice framework for scoping and considering a range of planning and environmental issues, including flooding in the plan-making process.

Purpose of the Variation:

The purpose of the proposed Variation No. 1 to the Cork County Development Plan 2014 (full text is set out in Appendix B attached) is dealt with in two separate elements:

Part A provides an update to Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the County Development Plan to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the 8 Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017. A summary of the proposed changes are outlined below:

- **Core Strategy:** Insert updated text and tables to reflect the revised residential land supply which emerged from the review of the recently adopted 8 Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017. These adjustments are reflected in a revised Core Strategy Table 2.3 (formerly 2.2) and revised Tables in Appendix B relating to the 4 Strategic Planning Areas and the 8 individual Municipal Districts.
- **Active Land Management:** Insert a new section entitled Active Land Management which sets out and explains the Councils approach to active land management.
- **Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve:** Update text, table and a map setting out the approach taken to the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve to date and how the process will be moved onto the next stage. The need for the provision of a Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve was earmarked as a key issue in the current County Development Plan Core Strategy.

Part B deals with consequential changes to Volume One Main Policy also arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans 2017. A summary of the proposed changes are outlined below:

- **Volume One Chapter 7 Towns Centres and Retail**

Insert text providing guidance relating to assessing proposals for Large Scale Retail Warehousing and Outlet Centres.

- **Volume One, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility**

Insert text recognising the Transport Strategy for Metropolitan Cork and the Cork Cycleway Network.

- **Volume One Chapter 11 Water Services, Surface Water and Waste**

Insert text updating the Councils approach to dealing with issues relating to the water sensitive catchments such as the Blackwater River as indentified in the Local Area Plan review.

- **Volume One Chapter 14 Zoning and Land Use**

Include new text and objective in relation to Regeneration Areas and the implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.

- **Volume One Appendix G Composition of Municipal Districts**

Update tables to reflect adjustments to the network of settlements in the Blarney Macroom and West Cork Municipal Districts.

Assessment:

The Core Strategy population targets remain consistent with the higher level regional and national plans, however, some adjustment has been made to housing supply figures across the eight Municipal District Local Area Plans and the proposed Variation seeks to remedy this inconsistency. The zoning of additional residential lands in the Local Area Plans has already undergone a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment process in terms of their risk to both fluvial and/or coastal flooding.

The proposed text changes in Volume One, Chapters 2, 7, 10, 11, 14 and Appendices B and G will not give rise to any impacts on flood risk or surface water implications across the County.

Recommendation:

Given the nature of the proposed Variation, it is determined that no Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is required on foot of the proposed Variation No. 1 of the County Development Plan 2014.



Cork County Council

Cork County Development Plan 2014

Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Report for Proposed Variation No.1

Part A: Update Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the County Development Plan to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.

Part B: Include Consequential Changes to Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 7, Town Centres and Retail, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility, Chapter 11, Water Services, Surface Water and Waste, and Chapter 14, Zoning and Land Use, of Volume 1 of the Plan, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017

Prepared by Cork County Council, 27th October 2017

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1 Introduction

Summary

Cork County Council at its meeting on 24th July, 2017, formally made a Local Area Plan for each of the eight Municipal Districts of the County. Arising from these plans, a variation is proposed to be made to the Cork County Development Plan (2014), in order to ensure that objectives of the Local Area Plans and the County Development Plan are consistent, and to reflect changes in policy which have emerged during the making of the Local Area Plans for each of the Municipal Districts of the County.

The purpose of this variation of the Cork County Development Plan, 2017 is to update the Core Strategy to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017; and to include minor consequential changes to a number of chapters of the County Development Plan arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.

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 2010, 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 2000 sites¹), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan. This is to determine whether or not 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 a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) and must be carried out at all stages of the plan making process.

Legislative Background Habitats Directive Assessment

Habitats Directive Assessment is 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

¹ Natura 2000 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 particular 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.

when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans, programmes, policies or projects.

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 Habitats Directive Reports which are produced at each stage of the plan making process plan. At the end of the plan making process, an Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement or Screening Conclusion Statement is produced which contains a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites that have been integrated into the plan.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive identifies what is required in terms of assessment of plans of projects.

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.

EU and National Guidance sets out two main stages to the assessment process which are as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies what might be likely impacts arising from a plan on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. No further assessment is required if no significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are identified during the screening stage. The screening assessment is normally contained in a Habitats Directive Screening Report.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an Appropriate Assessment and involves the compilation of a Natura Impact Report by the Planning Authority which is a report of scientific evidence and data relating to European sites for which significant negative impacts have not been previously screened out. This is used to identify and classify any implications of the plan for these sites in view of their conservation objectives. The Appropriate Assessment must

include a determination as to whether or not the plan or its proposed amendments would adversely affect the integrity of any European site or sites. The plan may be adopted if adverse effects on the integrity of European sites can be ruled out during the Appropriate Assessment process. The plan may not be adopted on foot of an Appropriate Assessment, if it is found that it will give rise to adverse impacts on one or more European sites, or if uncertainty remains in relation to potential impacts on one or more European sites.

The directive provides for a derogation procedure which can allow a plan or project to proceed in spite of a finding that the plan or project could / 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 which are set out in Article 6(4) of the Directive (see below).

Habitats Directive Article 6(4)

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, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

EU and National Guidance identifies the procedures which must be followed in circumstances where a derogation from the Habitats Directive is sought to allow a project or a plan to proceed, despite a finding that it will give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of one or more Natura 2000 sites. These procedures can only be invoked where it has been shown that there are no alternative ways to implement the plan/project which avoid adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites, where it has been demonstrated that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for which the plan/project must proceed and where measures have been developed and provided to compensate for any losses to be incurred. These further stages are described below.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

In circumstances where the potential for a plan to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of a European site or sites has not been ruled out during the appropriate assessment process, it can only be considered for authorisation where it is demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions and that there Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) which can allow the plan or project to proceed. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

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

The fourth stage of the Habitats Directive Assessment process involves demonstrating that Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest exist, and the assessment of the compensatory

measures which are proposed to be implemented. In every case in which a local authority envisages approving or proceeding with a plan or project on grounds of IROPI, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht must be consulted.

The assessment process may stop at any of the above stages if significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

This report presents the first phase of the Habitats Directive Assessment process, being the screening of the proposed variation. All of the proposed changes to the plan have been reviewed to determine whether they give rise to a potential for significant impacts to occur on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites.

2 Methodology

This assessment is 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.

Consultation was carried out with the NPWS in relation to the screening of the eight Local Area Plans for each of the Municipal Districts of the County. This process assisted the Planning Authority to identify the principle threats of concern for individual sites, which has been of practical use for the assessment of this variation.

This report will go on public display and be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process. Submissions on same will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final variation.

3 Description of the Proposed Variation

This proposed Variation No. 1 of the Cork County Development Plan has been prepared in order to amend Chapters 2, 7, 10, 11, and 14 and Appendices B and G of Volume One Main Policy Material of the current plan so as ensure that the Municipal District Local Area Plans are consistent with the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 as amended. A summary of the proposed variation is set out below. The full text of the proposed variation is available to review on the Cork County Council website <http://www.corkcocodevplan.com/>

There are two parts to the proposed variation.

Part A: Update Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 2 Core Strategy of the County Development Plan to reflect the revised housing supply figures, approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.

Part B: Include Consequential Changes to Volume One Main Policy Material, Chapter 7 Town Centres and Retail, Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility, Chapter 11, Water Services, Surface Water and Waste, and Chapter 14, Zoning and Land Use, of the Plan, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017

Changes to each chapter and to the appendices are summarised below. See Appendices A, B, C and D of the proposed variation as published with this report for full details of the proposed revisions to text and tables.

Chapter 2 Core Strategy and Appendix B: Chapter 2 of the County Development Plan sets out the Core Strategy for the county in line with national and regional level guidance, strategies and policies. It sets out information concerning the quantum, location and housing yield of land zoned in the county in comparison with the requirement for housing development as outlined in the population, household and housing targets as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010.

As part of the preparation of the 2017 Local Area Plans the supply of residentially zoned land has been increased in some areas as new zonings have been included, and has been reduced in other areas to reflect the fact that some lands have been developed and now form part of the “existing built up area”. These adjustments are reflected in a revised Core Strategy Table 2.3 (formerly 2.2) and revised tables in Appendix B of the plan relating to the four Strategic Planning Areas and the eight individual Municipal Districts.

The proposed variation also includes new text in Chapter 2 setting out and explaining the approach to Active Land Management and the Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve, arising from the adoption of the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017. The need for the provision of a Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve was earmarked as a key issue in the current County Development Plan Core Strategy. The proposed variation sets out the approach taken to date and how the process will be moved onto the next stage.

Chapter 7 Towns Centres and Retail: The proposed variation to this chapter provides additional guidance relating to assessing proposals for Large Scale Retail Warehousing and Outlet Centres.

Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility: The proposed variation to this chapter inserts text in relation to the Transport Strategy for Metropolitan Cork and the Cork Cycleway Network.

Chapter 11 Water Services, Surface Water and Waste: The proposed variation to this chapter updates the Councils approach to dealing with issues relating to water sensitive catchments such as the Blackwater River as identified in the Local Area Plan review.

Chapter 14 Zoning and Land Use: Changes to this chapter accommodate the inclusion of new text and objectives in relation to the Vacant Site Levy and Regeneration Areas and the implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.

Appendix G Composition of Municipal Districts: Changes to this appendix reflect adjustments to the network of settlements in the Blarney Macroom and West Cork Municipal Districts.

4 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites to Be Screened

A full list of all of the sites which have been considered as part of this screening exercise is set out in Table 1 below. The table includes all sites within the County and those located within 15km of the County. No other Natura 2000 sites have been identified which could be affected by the proposed variation. The habitats and/or species for which these sites are designated are also listed in the table, as are their Conservation Objectives as set by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Table 1: Sites Subject to Screening for Proposed Variation to County Development Plan

0077 Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (02/2015)
Estuaries [1130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
0090 Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (05/2015)
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
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]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Kerry Slug [1024]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lesser Horseshoe Bat [1303]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Otter [1355]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Common Seal [1365]	Maintain favourable conservation condition

0091 Clonakilty Bay Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (05/2014)
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
0093 Caha Mountains Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
0101 Roaringwater Bay and Islands Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (07/2011)
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Reefs [1170]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]	Maintain favourable conservation condition

Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Halichoerus grypus (Grey Seal) [1364]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
0102 Sheep's Head Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
106 St. Gobnet's Wood Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
0108 The Gearagh Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (09/2016)
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodium rubri p.p. and Bidenton p.p. vegetation [3270]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
0109 Three Castle Head to Mizen Head Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (11/2016)
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
0353 Old Domestic Buildings Dromore Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition

0364 Kilgarvan Ice House Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
0365 Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
*Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
*Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition

Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Euphydryas aurinia (Marsh Fritillary) [1065]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Alosa fallax killarnensis (Killarney Shad) [5046]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
0646 Galtee Mountains Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	Restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220]	Restore favourable conservation condition
1040 Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (02/2014)

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]	None to date
1043 Cleanderry Wood Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
1058 Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (06/2016)
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Restore favourable conservation condition
1061 Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (12/2016)
Coastal lagoons* [1150]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation* (grey dunes) [2130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
1070 Myross Wood Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (07/2014)

Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
1230 Courtmacsherry Estuary Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (07/2014)
Estuaries [1130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes) [2120]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
1547 Castletownshend Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
1873 Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (05/2017)
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
1879 Glanmore Bog Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives(07/2017)
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	Restore favourable conservation condition

Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe) [6230]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
1881 Maulagowna Bog Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (05/2017)
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
1890 Mullaghanish Bog Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (05/2017)
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
2036 Ballyhoura Mountains Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	Restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	Restore favourable conservation condition
2037 Carrigeenamronety Hill Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2041 Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2098 Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition

2123 Ardmore Head Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective 11/2016
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
2137 Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective 03/2017
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]	Restore favourable conservation condition
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]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0]*	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaiite Shad) [1103]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]	Restore favourable conservation condition
<i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
2158 Kenmare River Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (04/2013)
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Reefs [1170]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Maintain favourable conservation condition

Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130]	None to date
Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> [6130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail) [1014]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	To restore the favourable conservation condition
<i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
2165 Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Estuaries [1130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Coastal lagoons [1150]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Large shallow inlets and bays [1160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Reefs [1170]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
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]	Restore favourable conservation condition

Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Tursiops truncatus (Common Bottlenose Dolphin) [1349]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Restore favourable conservation condition
2170 Munster Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (07/2012)
Estuaries [1130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Alosa fallax fallax (Twaité Shad) [1103]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Restore favourable conservation condition
Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	Status uncertain in SAC
2171 Bandon River Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2173 Blackwater River (Kerry) Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Geomalacus maculosus (Kerry Slug) [1024]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2189 Farranamanagh Lough Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Coastal lagoons [1150]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2257 Moanour Mountain Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
European dry heaths [4030]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2280 Dunbeacon Shingle Special Area of Conservation	

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2281 Reen Point Shingle Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
2315 Glanlough Woods Special Area of Conservation	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4021 Old Head of Kinsale Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Guillemot (Uria aalge) [A199]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4022 Ballycotton Bay Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2014)
Teal (Anas crecca) [A052]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula) [A137]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Golden Plover (Pluvialis apricaria) [A140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Grey Plover (Pluvialis squatarola) [A141]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lapwing (Vanellus vanellus) [A142]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (Limosa limosa) [A156]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica) [A157]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Curlew (Numenius arquata) [A160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Turnstone (Arenaria interpres) [A169]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Common Gull (Larus canus) [A182]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus) [A183]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Wetlands [A999]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
4023 Ballymacoda Bay Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (02/2015)

Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Wetlands [A999]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
4028 Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (05/2012)
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition

Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Wetlands [A999]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
4030 Cork Harbour Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (12/2014)
Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Wetlands [A999]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
4066 Bull and the Cow Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) [A014]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>) [A016]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4081 Clonakilty Bay Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (10/2014)

Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
Wetlands [A999]	Maintain favourable conservation condition
4094 River Blackwater Callows Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Wetlands [A999]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4095 Kilcolman Bog Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4109 The Gearagh Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition

Wetlands [A999]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4124 Sovereign Islands Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4155 Beara Peninsula Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4156 Sheep's Head to Toe Head Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4161 Stack's to Mullaghareirks, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4162 Mullaghanish to Musheramore Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4190 Galley Head to Duneen Point Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (08/2016)
Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4191 Seven Heads Special Protection Area	

Qualifying Features	Conservation Objective (08/2016)
Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]	Maintain or restore favourable conservation condition
4219 Courtmacsherry Bay Special Protection Area	
Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives (10/2014)
Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition
Wetlands[A999]	Maintain the favourable conservation condition

European and national legislation place a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition.

Favourable conservation condition of a habitat is stated to be achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and

- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

Favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, as sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long term basis.

5 Screening Assessment

All of the changes proposed in the variation have been reviewed as part of the screening process with a view to identifying those which could give rise to possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites. The changes were assessed for the following possible impact risks:

- direct loss of habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive and for which above listed sites are designated;
- any reduction in the area of any habitats within any Natura 2000 site;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) in any Natura 2000 site.
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which any Natura 2000 site is designated (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 Natura 2000 site is designated;
- interference with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.

Particular attention has been given to changes to the Core Strategy, and consideration has been given to the possibility that the changes might have negative implications for Natura 2000 sites within Metropolitan Cork where the highest pressure for development arises. Land in the Metropolitan Area lies within catchment of two sites in Cork Harbour, namely the **Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation** and the **Cork Harbour Special Protection Area**. These sites could be particularly vulnerable to impact if changes made facilitated additional development or human activity within or near these sites, or if increased development within their surrounding catchment area resulted in increased discharge of nutrients or other potentially toxic contaminants to the harbour.

The results of this screening process are set out below.

Table 2: Screening Assessment

Proposed Change	Possible Implications For Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Chapter 2 Section 2.2 and Appendix B - Core Strategy Tables</p> <p>As part of the preparation of the 2017 Local Area Plans the supply of residentially zoned land has been increased in some areas as new zonings have been included, and has been reduced in other areas to reflect the fact that some lands have been developed and now form part of the “existing built up area. These adjustments are reflected in a revised Core Strategy Table 2.3 (Formerly 2.2) and revised Tables in Appendix B of the CDP relating to the four Strategic Planning Areas and the eight individual Municipal Districts.</p> <p>Changes have been made to the text of chapter two to explain context of the new Core Strategy numbers in Appendix B tables, and to explain adjustments which have been made to tables to address housing supply issues in Metropolitan Cork.</p>	<p>All of the proposed new land zonings were assessed as part of the Habitats Directive screening assessment process for each of the Local Area Plans. None of these lands are located within any Natura 2000 site, and no issues of concern relating to direct impacts on Natura 2000 site were identified in respect of any of these zonings.</p> <p>There has been no change in the proposed population targets or in the number of houses identified to be required for any of the settlements listed in the Core Strategy. Hence there will be no increased pressure on water or wastewater infrastructure arising from the land zoning changes in any location within the County.</p> <p>No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from the land zoning changes which have been made in the Local Area Plans and which are now proposed to be reflected in Core Strategy the CDP.</p>
<p>Chapter 2 Core Strategy</p> <p>Insert New Text Relating to Active Land Management.</p> <p>New text is proposed to be added to Chapter 2 which sets out the pro-active measures to be undertaken by the Council to ensure that zoned lands come into active use within the lifetime of the relevant Local Area Plans. This text reflects similar text as set out in each of</p>	<p>The purpose of the Active Land Management strategy is to speed up the delivery of housing on land which has already been zoned for development, and could include providing required infrastructure including roads, water supply and waste water treatment to service these lands. The strategy does not facilitate increased development beyond that which is already planned for, and will not facilitate the development of land unless the required infrastructure is in place. Development of</p>

Proposed Change	Possible Implications For Natura 2000 Sites
<p>the Municipal District Local Area Plans, 2017.</p>	<p>infrastructure arising out of implementation of this strategy will be subject to normal planning assessment processes including screening for Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment where required.</p> <p>No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from the implementation of the Active Land Management Strategy.</p>
<p>Chapter 2 Core Strategy</p> <p>Insert New Text relating to Strategic Land Reserves.</p> <p>The need for the provision of a Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve was earmarked as a key issue in the 2014 County Development Plan Core Strategy and work was progressed through the Local Area Plan process to identify lands within the Metropolitan Area which might be suitable for zoning in the future.</p> <p>There are areas which have been identified to be potentially suitable to be zoned to provide additional lands for the development of houses, to deliver on population targets set in the Cork Strategy. However, high level assessment only has been completed as this point, and the sites must be subject to further more detailed planning assessments (including environmental assessment) before any decisions are made about zoning.</p> <p>A total of 17 Strategic Land Reserve sites (SLR Sites) (1,489 ha) were identified during the process of making the Local Area Plans, six of</p>	<p>There is no direct physical overlap of any of the Strategic Land Reserve Sites with any Natura 2000 site. However, they are all located within the Cork Harbour catchment and the development of one more or more of these sites could increase pressure on Natura 2000 sites located in the harbour (the Great Island Channel SAC and the Cork Harbour SPA).</p> <p>The lands which may ultimately become zoned will provide additional headroom to help to achieve the population targets as set out in the Core Strategy, but are not intended to provide for an increased population target for the catchment, beyond that which is already set.</p> <p>The text of the proposed variation makes clear that detailed assessment (including screening for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment) will be required and will form part of the decision making process which will assist with the identification of which of these sites can be zoned for development. In addition, Cork County Council is committed to the working with its partners to develop a Waste Water Management Strategy for Cork Harbour. This strategy is referenced in both the County</p>

Proposed Change	Possible Implications For Natura 2000 Sites
<p>which were identified as potentially being more suitable for development in the short term than the other sites.</p> <p>The proposed variation updates the Core Strategy text to reflect the work undertaken to identify the Strategic Land Reserve Areas through the process of making the Local Area Plans. It includes a map identifying these locations.</p>	<p>Development Plan and in the relevant Local Area Plans. The delivery of this strategy will be critical to facilitating future development within the harbour catchment.</p> <p>No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from the identification of Strategic Land Reserve areas into the County Development Plan.</p>
<p>Chapter 7 Town Centre and Retail</p> <p>This change provides for the updating of guidance relating to Large Scale Retail Warehousing to accord with Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).</p>	<p>This proposed change does not facilitate or encourage development within or near any Natura 2000 site, nor does it increase demand on environmental resources which could affect any Natura 2000 site. No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified.</p>
<p>Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility</p> <p>This change provides for the inclusion of a reference to a new Transport Strategy which is to be prepared in 2017 for the Cork Metropolitan Area and to insert a reference in the County Development Plan to the Cork Cycle Network Plan which has recently been prepared for the Cork Metropolitan Area.</p>	<p>The new Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment processes and the Cycle Network Plan has been subject to those processes. No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from inclusion of these references into the County Development Plan.</p>
<p>Chapter 11 Water Services, Surface Water and Wastewater</p> <p>The proposed variation to this Chapter is to include information on communications from the National Parks and Wildlife Service since the adoption of the CDP, which indicates that it is their intention to revise the Conservation Objective for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the Blackwater River SAC so that it applies only to</p>	<p>The new text is intended to update a section of the plan which explains issues relating to the protection of the Blackwater River SAC. The change to the Conservation Objective means that the water quality standard which must be met in the main channel of the Blackwater River equates to the standard required to protect salmonid species, and that the higher standard which is required to protect Freshwater Pearl Mussel no longer applies in</p>

Proposed Change	Possible Implications For Natura 2000 Sites
<p>the Allow River north of Kanturk and to the Licky River in Waterford. The signalled change to the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Conservation Objective arises from the NPWS view that the original listing of this river for Freshwater Pearl Mussel was poorly founded due to inadequate information about this species at the time that the site was designated, and arising from concerns relating to the consequences of the listing on normal socio-economic activities along the river.</p>	<p>this portion of the SAC. The change does not alter the obligations or intentions of CCC to provide protection to this SAC, as reflected in CDP Objective WS 2-1 Water Infrastructure and elsewhere in the plan. No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from the inclusion of this text into the County Development Plan.</p>
<p>Chap 14 Zoning and Land Use</p> <p>Changes to this Chapter accommodate the inclusion of new text and objectives in relation to the Vacant Site Levy and Regeneration Areas and the implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015.</p>	<p>The purpose of the Vacant Site Levy is to encourage development of lands which are zoned for development. It does not facilitate additional development in areas outside areas which are zoned, or where development is already planned. No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from the inclusion of this text into the County Development Plan.</p>
<p>Appendix G Composition of Municipal Districts</p> <p>Changes to this chapter reflect adjustments to the network of settlements in the Blarney Macroom and West Cork Municipal Districts.</p>	<p>This is an administrative change. No implications for the Natura 2000 network have been identified to be likely to arise from the inclusion of this text into the County Development Plan.</p>

6 Finding of No Significant Effects Report

Proposed Variation to the Cork County Development Plan 2014. Variation No. 1	
Description of the proposed variation	See Section 3
Natura 2000 sites subject to screening	See Section 4
Is the proposed variation directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites identified above	No
Describe how the plan (alone or in combination is likely to affect Natura 2000 sites). Explain why these effects are not considered significant	<p>The proposed variation provides for the updating of the County Development Plan to reflect changes made to the Core Strategy in the recently adopted Municipal District Local Area Plans, and to update elements of the plan to reflect changes in national and local policy and guidance since the plan was adopted in 2014. All of the changes reflect information provided in the Local Area Plans as adopted in July 2017. Newly zoned land which is provided for in the Core Strategy tables (and shown in the Local Area Plans) has been subject to Habitats Directive screening as part of the process of development the Local Area Plans.</p> <p>The proposed changes do not direct new development into any Natura 2000 site, nor do they provide for any increase in the proposed scale of development within sensitive Natura 2000 catchments beyond that which has already been planned for. The changes are not predicted to increase pressure on environmental resources within Natura 2000 site nor their catchments. No impacts on any Natura 2000 site are predicted arising from the changes proposed.</p>
Are there other projects or plans that together with the plan being assessed could affect the sites listed above.	As per above, no impacts on any Natura 2000 site are predicted to be likely to arise from the proposed variation. No plans or projects have been identified

	which would act ‘in combination’ with the changes proposed through this variation to give rise to significant effects on any Natura 2000 site.
List of agencies consulted	This report will be put on public display and will be referred to the required Statutory Agencies.
Response to consultation	To be recorded at the end of the public consultation process.
Additional Comments	
Who carried out the assessment	Planning Policy Unit, Cork County Council.
Sources of data	National Parks and Wildlife Service- Protected Site Data.
Level of assessment completed	Screening.
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed	Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and Report for Proposed Variation No.1 is available at http://www.corkcocodevplan.com/

7 Next Steps

The proposed variation and this report will be on display as part of the public consultation process between 27th October and 24th November 2017 when Statutory Consultees and the public will be invited to make submissions in relation to same. Following on from the public consultation process, consultation submissions will be reviewed and the Chief Executive will issue a report to Council members with recommendations in relation to same (4 weeks from end of public consultation process (21st December 2017). The members will have 6 weeks to consider the recommendations of the Chief Executive, after which time they must decide whether or not to make any changes to the variation on foot of these recommendations. The variation will be considered by the Development Committee of the Council on 19th January 2018 and is scheduled to come before full Council for adoption on Monday 12th February 2018. Any modifications which are recommended made to the proposed variation arising from the consultation process will be subject to Habitats Directive screening assessment and a Habitats Directive Screening Report will be prepared for the final variation as agreed to be adopted in February 2018.

8 References and Data Used

NPWS Site Data

Information relating to individual Natura 2000 sites including Article 17 Conservation Assessment Reports for Habitats and Species in Ireland (2013), 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).

Other References

Guidance used in the preparation of this report included the following:

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