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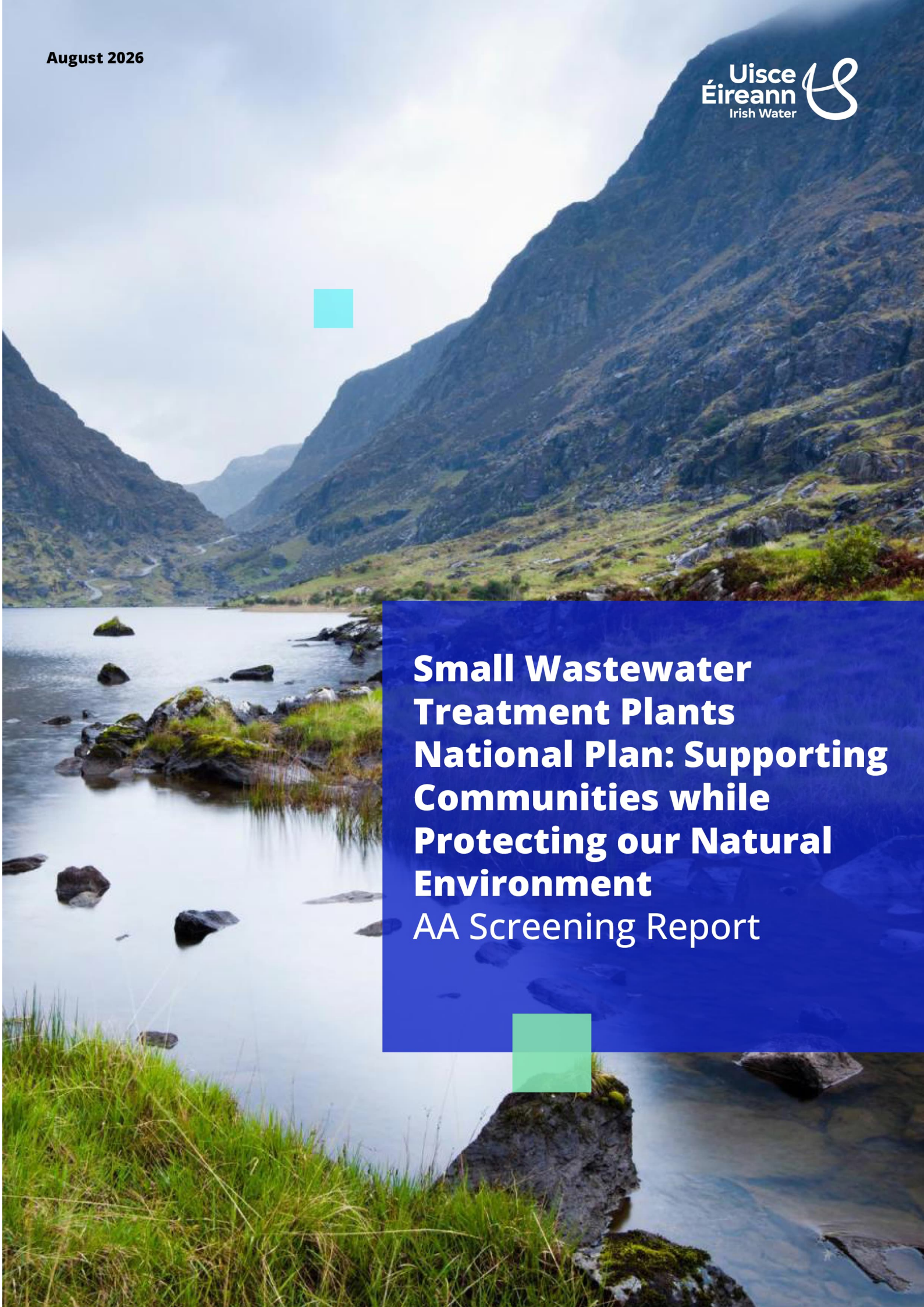

Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan: Supporting Communities while Protecting our Natural Environment

AA Screening Report

Safeguarding our water for our future

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Table of Contents

Appendices

Appendix A List of European Sites

Appendix B Qualifying Habitats and Species

Appendix C Third Schedule Non-Native Species

Appendix D Relevant Legislation, Plans and Programmes

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment	NWWDP	National Wastewater and Drainage Plan
AESI	Adverse Effects on Site Integrity	PE	Population Equivalent
AQGs	Air Quality guidelines	pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
CO	Conservation Objective	QI	Qualifying Interests
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	SCI	Special Conservation Interest
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	SPA	Special Protection Area
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	SFP	Strategic Funding Plan
EC	European Communities	UN	United Nations
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	UWW	Urban Wastewater
EU	European Union	WFD	Water Framework Directive
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Over-Riding Public Interest	WSPS	Water Services Policy Statement
LSEs	Likely Significant Effects	WSSP	Water Services Strategic Plan 2050
MPA	Marine Protected Area	WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
NIS	Natura Impact Statement	ZoI	Zone of Influence
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service		

Glossary

Glossary Term	Definition
AA Screening Report	The report which provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed plan to impact on European sites within the Natura 2000 network.
Natura Impact Statement	A document which summarises the findings of the AA and how they were factored into the plan, the reason for choosing the preferred plan in light of alternatives considered and to state the likely significant effects.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment required under the Habitats Directive when a plan or project has the potential to affect a European site.
Catchment	The total area of land that drains into a watercourse.
Cumulative effect	The combined effects from several plans, programmes or policies.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report	The SEA report that documents the effects of investment priorities outlined in a plan.
Invasive (alien) species	Non-native species that out-compete native species to the detriment of an ecosystem.
Mitigation	The implementation of measures designed to reduce the predicted effects of a plan or project on the environment.
RAMSAR site	An international designation for an important wetland site under the Ramsar Convention.
SEA Scoping Report	The SEA report sets out the scope and objectives of the SEA.
Special Area of Conservation	An international designation for habitats and/or species under the EC Habitats Directive.
Special Protection Area	A site of international importance for birds, designated as required by the EC Birds Directive.

1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Background to Uisce Éireann

On the 1st of January 2014, through the Water Services Act (No. 1) 2013, Uisce Éireann (at that time known as Irish Water) assumed statutory responsibility for the provision of public water services and management of water and wastewater investment. Uisce Éireann's responsibility is to ensure that all of its customers (households and businesses) receive a safe and reliable water supply and have their wastewater collected, appropriately treated and returned safely to the environment. Uisce Éireann's vision is for 'A sustainable Ireland where water is respected and protected, for the planet and all the lives it supports.' Investment in wastewater infrastructure is a key element in achieving this vision—supporting long-term planning for sustainable growth while protecting the environment.

Figure 1-1 below shows some key facts about Uisce Éireann's services and infrastructure.

Figure 1-1 Uisce Éireann statistics

1.2 Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan: Supporting Communities while Protecting our Natural Environment

The network of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) operated by Uisce Éireann across Ireland consists of assets providing services to approximately 1,000 agglomerations of various sizes. This includes approximately 800 small wastewater treatment plants serving communities of less than 1,000 population equivalent (PE).

Urban Wastewater (UWW) has long been a significant pressure on water quality in Ireland's water bodies. The long-term aim of Uisce Éireann is to gradually reduce this pressure. In recent years, this pressure has decreased from 293 water bodies , including 130 affected by small WWTPs, to 197 water bodies (63 due to small WWTPs), and is expected to continue to improve.

Water bodies can be affected by many different pressures. Significant pressures are those that must be addressed in order to improve water quality and meet environmental standards.

While small WWTPs represent only 4% of the national wastewater load discharged to the environment. they constitute the majority of wastewater treatment plants operated by Uisce Éireann by number. For this reason, they still contribute to pressure on water quality in receiving waters. Even if the impact of a single installation is not significant, a large number of small installations discharging into smaller watercourses can lead to cumulative effects and, ultimately, systemic changes across entire catchments.

Responding to issues individually and as they occur is no longer the most effective approach. A common national plan is needed to provide a consistent and clear way of identifying where upgrades are required and how investment should be prioritised. This plan also requires an appropriate method for assessing the environmental impact of assets, both individually and in terms of their cumulative effects.

Uisce Éireann is developing a national plan to guide how WWTPs serving communities of less than 1,000 PE are managed over the long term. The Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan: Supporting Communities while Protecting our Natural Environment (hereafter referred to as the SWTPNP or 'the Plan') is a focused means of addressing a specific and complex set of issues relating to small WWTPs that will benefit from early, dedicated engagement. The Plan is being developed in parallel with overarching strategies and its aims are to:

- Develop a more consistent, evidence-led and efficient planning framework for the environmental assessment of small WWTPs while maintaining compliance with Irish and European Legislation;
- Protect and improve the water environment;
- Support risk based, evidence-led decision making;
- Ensure resources and investment are focussed where they are most needed;
- Provide a transparent and nationally consistent approach for small WWTPs; and
- Identify environmental and delivery constraints early, reducing risk at project stage;
- Support long-term planning for sustainable growth in small towns and villages (UÉ's Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme) by clarifying where and why wastewater capacity is constrained; and
- Strengthen engagement and collaboration with regulators, local authorities, communities and elected representatives.

For the first time, this Plan provides an opportunity to take a coordinated national approach to delivering wastewater services for smaller settlements, while recognising the varying environmental sensitivities and local conditions across Ireland. Fundamentally the Plan will help ensure that necessary upgrades are planned and delivered more effectively, supporting long-term planning for sustainable growth in small communities while protecting Ireland's waterways and associated habitats and species.

1.3 Aim of this Report

Habitats and species of European importance are provided legal protection under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive). The Directive protects habitats and species of community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as the Natura 2000 network (hereafter referred to as European sites). European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

This report provides information in support of a Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) of The Plan in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive. It examines the potential for The Plan on its own or in combination with other plans and projects to have likely significant effects (LSEs) on one or more European site(s) in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

1.4 Legislative Context

1.4.1 Underpinning Legislation

The Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations 2011). Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for AA:

"*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*."

Article 6(4) states:

"*If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the [Natura 2000] site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted*."

Section 177U(1) of the Act states that:

"*A screening for appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site*."

Section 177(4) of the Act states that:

"*The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site*."

Where likely significant effects upon a European site are predicted, or cannot be ruled out, it is the responsibility of the Competent Authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, informed through a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), to determine whether or not the proposed plan in combination with any other plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site in light of its Conservation Objectives.

All legislative acts referred to in the above section are listen in Appendix D.

1.4.2 Public Authorities and Appropriate Assessment

The duties of public authorities in relation to nature conservation are laid out principally in Article 27 of the Habitats Regulations 2011. Uisce Éireann is defined as a 'public authority' for the purposes of the 2011 Regulations.

The first step of the AA process is to carry out a screening to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, there is potential for LSEs to any European site(s). Specifically, Regulation 42(1) states:

"*Subject to Regulation 42A, a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt, and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European site, shall be carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site*."

Regulation 42A applies to situations where the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is the person responsible for making or adopting the relevant plan or project, so is not applicable in respect of The Plan.

Regulation 42(6) states that:

"*The public authority shall determine that an Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project is required where the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European site and if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information following screening under this Regulation, that the plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site*."

In the context of Article 6(3), Uisce Éireann must carry out Screening for AA of The Plan to assess whether, on the basis of objective scientific information, The Plan individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. If this screening determines that it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective scientific information, that the Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, then Uisce Éireann must determine that an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is required.

To assist in carrying out any Appropriate Assessment that may be required following screening, Uisce Éireann must prepare an NIS, which is a report comprising the scientific examination of a plan or project and the relevant European site or European sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications of the plan or project individually or in combination with other plans or projects in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites, and any further information including, but not limited to, any plans, maps or drawings, scientific information or data required to enable the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment.

In carrying out the full Appropriate Assessment, the Habitats Regulations 2011 require Uisce Éireann to take into account:

- The NIS;
- Any other plans or projects that may, in combination with the plan or project under consideration, adversely affect the integrity of a European site;
- Any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report or statement;
- If appropriate, any additional information furnished in relation to the NIS;
- Any information or advice obtained by Uisce Éireann;
- If appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to Uisce Éireann in relation to the application for consent for The Plan; and

- Any other relevant information.

Following the Appropriate Assessment process, Uisce Éireann must then only adopt The Plan after having determined that The Plan shall not adversely affect the integrity of any European site(s).

1.5 Overlap with Strategic Environmental Assessment

The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) set out a process for the environmental assessment of plans and programmes and aims to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development. It also sets out specific requirements with respect to the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/42/EC).

The SEA Directive is implemented in Ireland via the European Communities (EC) (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by the EC (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendments) Regulations 2011 (known as the 'SEA Regulations'). Under these regulations, qualifying plans such as The Plan are required to be subject to SEA screening as a first step to determine if SEA is required. A screening review has been undertaken following the EPA 2021 screening guidance and this confirmed that The Plan requires an SEA. The subsequent stages include scoping, assessment, public consultation and monitoring.

The aim is that the SEA process should influence and improve the plan. The process involves assessing the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan and considering reasonable alternatives for achieving plan objectives. Combined and cumulative effects of the plan as a whole and with other plans and programmes are also included as part of the assessment. The SEA Regulations set out specific requirements for consultation with Environmental Authorities including transboundary environmental authorities, at the scoping stage and for public consultation on the draft plan and SEA Environmental Report. The SEA Environmental Report and consultation responses are also required to be taken into account in finalisation of the plan and for implementation monitoring.

There is a degree of overlap between the requirements of the SEA and AA. In accordance with best practice, an integrated approach is being applied between the development of The Plan, the SEA and the AA, such as sharing of baseline data, cohesive assessment of the potential ecological effects of The Plan on European sites and clarification on more technical aspects of The Plan. These processes together will inform and shape the development of The Plan.

1.6 Consultation

The Plan will be developed following two phases of consultation. An initial statutory consultation includes an Issues Paper, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report. These documents will help inform the development of the National Plan and supporting environmental assessments.

For this period of consultation, Uisce Éireann will engage directly with the following statutory stakeholders:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM);
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) including the Development Applications Unit; and
- The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).

As there is the potential to interface with Northern Ireland and the possibility of transboundary impacts, the Issues Paper, SEA Scoping Report and the AA Screening Report will also be issued to Northern Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for consultation on transboundary environmental effects.

In addition, a copy of this AA Screening Report and SEA Scoping Report will be published online.

Feedback received on the Issues Paper, the AA Screening Report and the SEA Scoping Report will be reviewed and taken into account as the draft SWTPNP, NIS and SEA Environmental Report are prepared.

As part of the second phase of consultation, Uisce Éireann will carry out a public consultation on the SWTPNP together with the NIS and SEA Environmental Report in early 2027.

2 Development of the Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan

2.1 Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan Vision and Objectives

The Plan will set out how wastewater in smaller communities will be managed and upgraded in a sustainable, proportionate and environmentally responsible manner over the medium and long term. The Plan is a strategic framework and not a list of individual projects. The plan aligns with the Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) which sets out Uisce Éireann's long–term vision for water and wastewater services, incorporating adaptive planning to address population needs and climate scenarios under projected 15, 25 and 50 year scenarios.

Uisce Éireann recognises the importance of ensuring that wastewater from smaller communities is treated to an appropriate standard, taking account of receiving waters, local environmental constraints, and the scale of the settlement served. The purpose of the plan is to identify how existing and future wastewater treatment needs for plants serving communities of less than 1,000 PE can be addressed in a consistent, compliant, and cost-effective manner.

The Plan's objective is to balance wastewater treatment needs with environmental protection over the short, medium, and long term, while ensuring solutions are proportionate to the scale and sensitivity of each location. In developing the plan, Uisce Éireann will:

- Assess the current performance of WWTPs serving communities of less than 1,000 PE;
- Identify environmental sensitivities, including impacts on rivers, lakes, estuaries, and designated sites;
- Identify compliance risks and future capacity pressures;
- Develop and assess appropriate treatment and management options;
- Take account of climate change and its potential impacts on wastewater infrastructure; and
- Set out a prioritised programme of improvements where required.

The Plan is intended to provide:

- Greater clarity and consistency in decision-making.
- Better alignment between environmental protection and investment planning.
- Reduced risk of reactive or piecemeal interventions; and
- Stronger evidence base to support regulatory, planning and funding discussions.

The Plan will consider all of the approximately 800 small WWTPs across Ireland. The initial screening indicates that small WWTPs occur within each of 46 Irish surface water catchments (these small WWTPs and their associated discharge locations are presented in Figure 2-11 and Figure 2-22OBJ).

2.1.1 Issues Paper for the SWTPNP

An Issues Paper has been drafted to support the development of the SWTPNP. It outlines the key challenges that can be addressed through a series of opportunities presented by the Plan to enable a more strategic, efficient and scalable approach to upgrading small WWTPs in the medium and long term. The objective is not to reduce environmental protections, but to develop a more consistent, evidence-led and efficient planning framework while maintaining compliance with Irish and European environmental legislation. This document is listed in the references as a source document (see References).

2.2 Types of Actions and Activities influenced by the SWTPNP

As background for the Appropriate Assessment screening, the broad types of activities that Uisce Éireann will be responsible for during the implementation of the SWTPNP are considered, to identify the types of impacts that could give rise to significant environmental effects at a national level.

Broadly, types of upgrades relevant to small WWTPs (and therefore potentially influenced by the Plan) are as follows:

Existing site and discharge locations:

- Operational optimisation—low-cost improvements focusing on asset performance and compliance (e.g., maintenance, process control optimisation, desludging, minor mechanical/electrical upgrades).
- Upgrading or changing treatment systems/technologies—including standardised and bespoke solutions depending on site constraints.
- Nature based solutions—constructed wetlands, lagoons, reed beds, or infiltration systems. Suitable for very small populations where land is available and low operational complexity is desired.

New site and discharge locations:

- New discharge location—adjustment of discharge location or pathway to better align with receiving water sensitivity and WFD objectives.
- New site location—development of a new plant on an alternative site, if opportunity for necessary upgrades at the existing site is constrained.

In many instances the appropriate option for small WWTPs may be a strategy of no intervention (“do nothing”) or otherwise maintain current management and maintenance. This is a no change option for option evaluation purposes and is not discussed further.

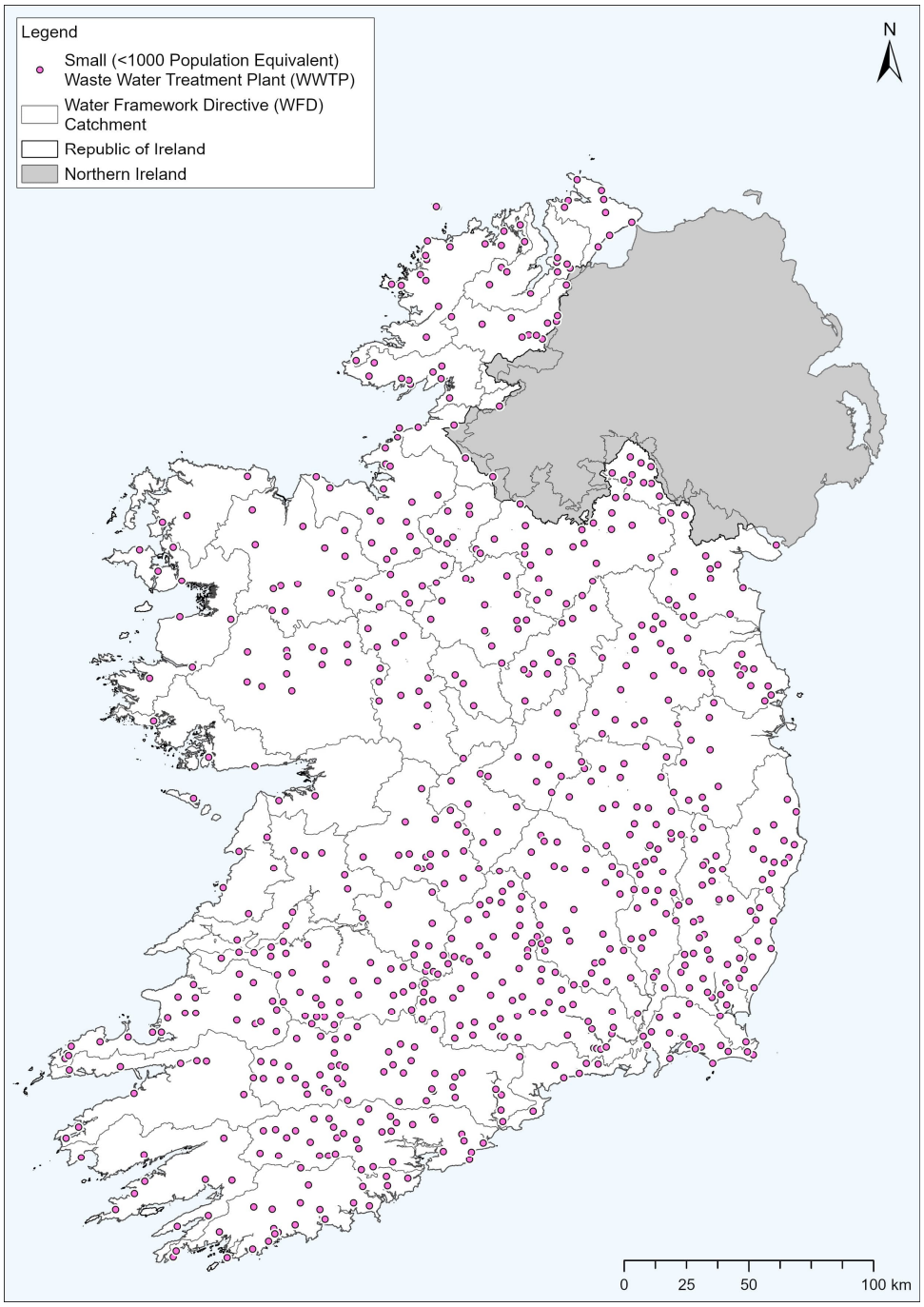

Figure 2-1: Locations of small wastewater treatment plants included in the Plan

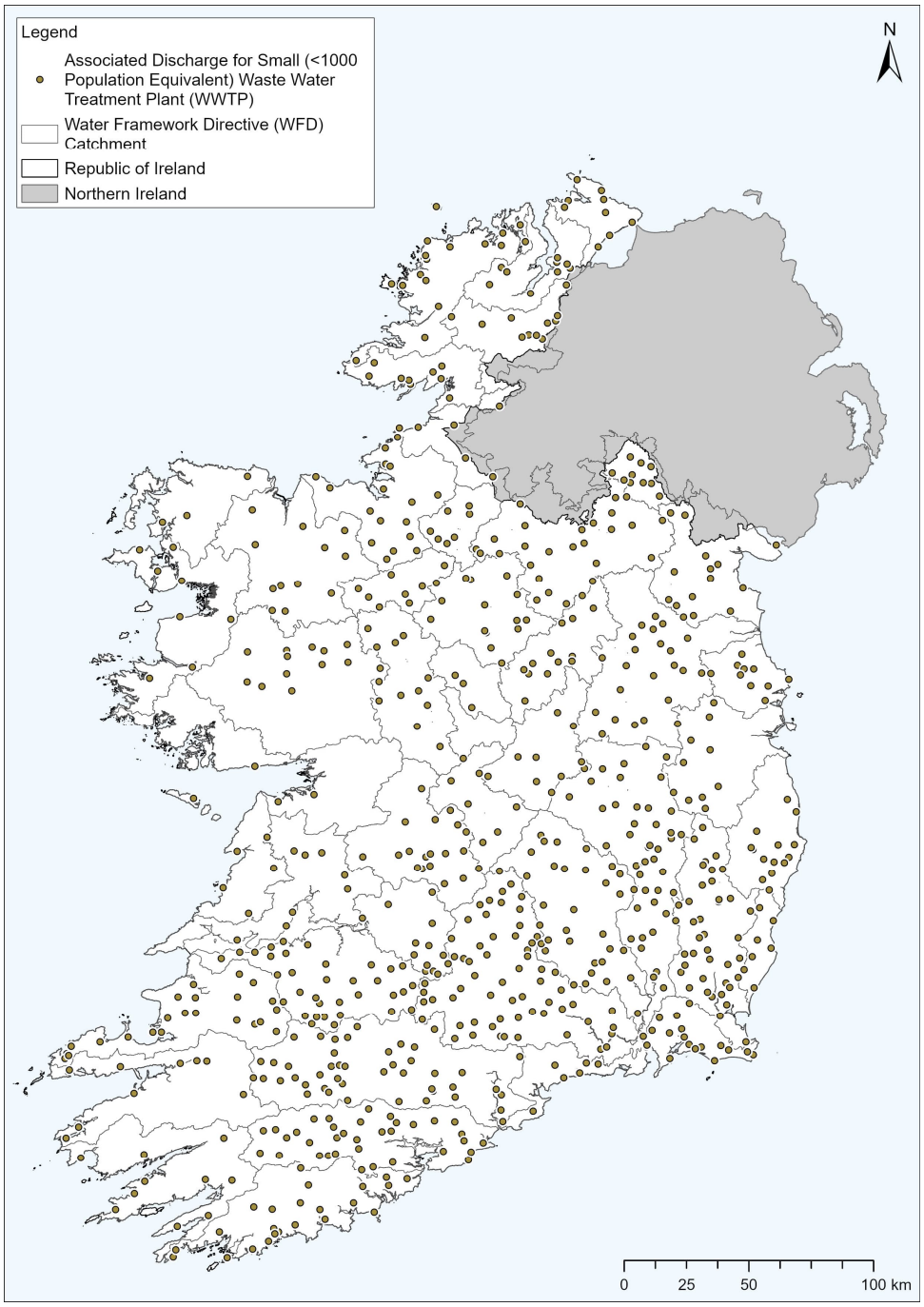

Figure 2-2: Locations of discharge points included in the Plan

2.3 SWTPNP, the Hierarchy of Plans and Higher Tier AA

The SWTPNP as a national level plan will be influenced by Uisce Éireann Tier 1 and Tier 2a national level plans, and other relevant regional level plans. The Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) 2050 is the highest (Tier 1) plan and sets out Uisce Éireann's objectives for the period 2025-2050 and the means by which Uisce Éireann will achieve them. This includes wastewater management services across Ireland. Underneath this sits the National Wastewater and Drainage Plan (NWWDP) which is currently being developed and will provide a long-term whole system framework for wastewater services across Ireland.

The Plan, though under the Tier 2a plans (e.g. NWWDP), is being developed separately, because the issues affecting small WWTPs are materially different in nature, scale, risk profile and public perception to those driving the NWWDP overall. A plan-led, nationally consistent strategic framework is needed to avoid repeatedly facing the same constraints at individual project stage. The Plan is being developed in parallel with overarching plans for sequencing reasons: it is necessary at present to establish a strategic framework so

that future actions can be identified, prioritised and progressed in a consistent, transparent and risk-based way.

The WSSP 2050 has been formally adopted and comprises objectives and actions to manage water and wastewater services. **Strategic Objective 3: Protect and Restore our Environment** is aimed at delivering a reliable water and wastewater service that protects the environment. Actions of these relevant to the SWTPNP include:

- Action 3.1 Work with regulators and stakeholders to develop a Wastewater Strategy Framework;
- Action 3.5 Manage wastewater services to achieve regulatory requirements; and
- Action 3.8 Champion nature-based solutions and integrated catchment management measures in the delivery of water and wastewater projects.

The WSSP 2050 has also been subject to SEA and AA (NIS) assessment. The AA required that all lower tier plans/interventions and solutions/opportunities would be required to comply with the Habitats Regulations and, where necessary, undergo AA.

As stated, the NWWDP is currently being developed and will also be subject to SEA and AA.

The development of the Plan and this Screening for AA thus comply with the mitigation required at the strategic (tier 1) plan level.

3 Appropriate Assessment Methodology

3.1 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

The methodology for undertaking assessment in relation to AA has evolved from European Commission guidance[1] (2021) and Irish guidance from the former Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government[2] (2010a). The entire process can be broken down into four stages (Article 42/43 of the Habitats Regulations 2011), as outlined below. If at any stage in the process it is determined that there will be no implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives, the process is effectively completed. The four stages are:

Stage 1 - Screening for Appropriate Assessment/Test of Likely Significant Effects: Screening determines whether an AA is required by determining if the project or plan is likely to have a significant effect(s) on any European site(s) either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, in light of the site's conservation objectives (see Figure 3-1).

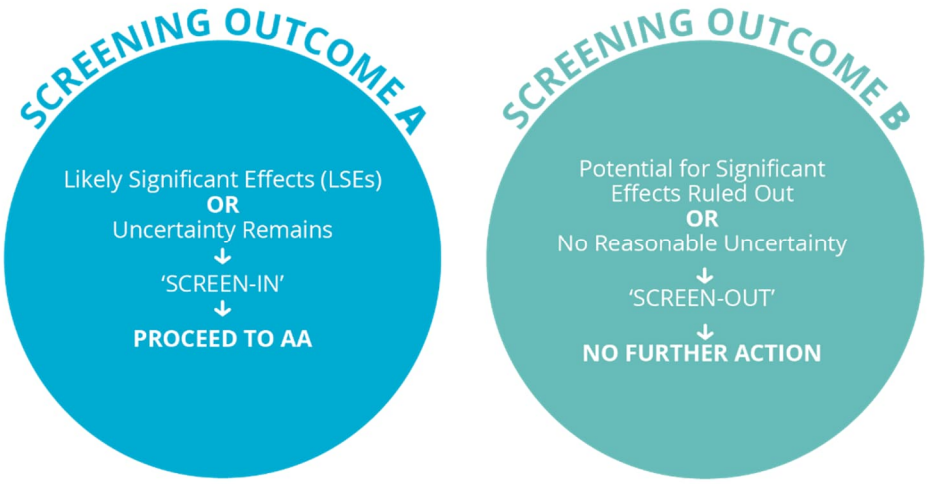

Figure 3-1: Screening for AA

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment: If the screening has determined there are LSEs from the plan/project either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects on European Site(s) the implication for European sites are further assessed in the context of the implications for their conservation objectives and Adverse Effects on Site Integrity (AESI) analysed. If it is determined on further analysis and data gathering that the plan/project will not adversely affect the integrity of the relevant European site(s) then the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment can conclude no AESI. However, if there are potential issues identified for the conservation objectives of the European site(s) then mitigation is required to protect the site's conservation objectives. The AESI analysis is re-run and considers the structure and function of European sites, their conservation objectives and effects from the project/plan both alone and in-combination with other projects or plans. Where AESI are identified, mitigation measures are proposed as required to avoid adverse effects on the integrity and conservation objectives of the European site(s). The information and data to inform the AA process is documented within a NIS. This is provided to the competent authority to facilitate their AA determination of the plan or project.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions: Following AA, including mitigation proposals, if AESI remain, or uncertainty remains and the project/plan is to be progressed, an Assessment of Alternative Solutions is required under the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. This process examines the alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the

[1] European Commission (2021). *Assessment of Plans and Projects in Relation to Natura 2000 Sites.*
[2] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland.*

European site. If no alternatives exist, or all alternatives would result in adverse effects on the integrity of a European site, then either the process moves to the next stage or the project is abandoned.

Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Over-Riding Public Interest (IROPI): In the unlikely event where an Assessment of Alternative Solutions fails to identify any suitable alternatives, then for a project or plan to be progressed it must meet the requirements of IROPI. In this case the provisions of Article 6(3) cannot be met and therefore, the provisions of Article 6(4) are used. If in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed, thus compensatory measures are implemented to maintain the coherence of the European site network in the face of adverse effects to the integrity of the site(s).

3.2 Approach to AA of the Plan

The approach to this AA Screening takes consideration of the strategic nature of the Plan and uses objective information to determine whether the Plan will have LSEs for European sites in the manner outlined in *Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* (Court of Justice of the European Union, Case C-6/04, Opinion of Advocate General Kokott) and Waddenzee (Court of Justice of the European Union, C-127/02).

3.2.1 Application of the AA process at Plan level

In the context of AA Screening, when applying the 'test of significance' the test is of the "likelihood" of effects rather than the "certainty" of effects. In accordance with the Waddenzee Judgement (as outlined by the European Commission, 2000[3]), a likely effect is one that cannot be ruled out based on objective information and is underpinned by the precautionary principle and the test of beyond reasonable scientific doubt. This test therefore sets a low bar: a plan should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if the competent authority (in this case Uisce Éireann) is unable (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the possibility that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. An effect is considered 'significant' if it could undermine a European site's conservation objectives. The methodology for undertaking Screening for AA can be applied at both a project and plan level assessment. The suitability of the data and information used and any decisions flowing from its use in the Plan assessment must meet the provisions and requirements of the Habitats Directive. The strategic assessments at the plan level will inevitably be undertaken at a higher level than would be the case for projects. However, the Plan does not provide consent for any future projects arising from it or future iterations of the plan. Rather it demonstrates that the protection for the European site network is suitably considered and achievable in the context of the remit of the plan. Also, any future project level AA Screenings and/or NIS will have regard for the plan level AA Screening as the projects have been identified or specified from the Plan. To note, all of Uisce Éireann's projects are screened for AA. Therefore, all projects arising from the Plan will additionally be required to go through individual site-level environmental assessments (including AA Screening and if needed AA) in support of wastewater discharge authorisations.

3.2.2 Compliance of the SWTPNP development process with the Habitats Directive

The Plan identifies needs in terms of quantity, quality and reliability, and develops a methodology to develop interventions to address this need. The AA Screening for the Plan has assessed at a high level examining the option types that are likely to arise from the Plan. The Plan identifies option types that could be applied across the Plan area. The AA Screening for the Plan therefore assesses the potential impacts on European sites of the Plan at a national scale. Applying the above approach demonstrates that the development of the Plan is compliant with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

[3] European Commission (2000). *Communication on the Precautionary Principle*.

3.3 Guidance documents in relation to Appropriate Assessment

The requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive for the Plan have been applied following the guidance documents:

- AA of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010a);
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01. (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021);
- Assessment of Plans and Projects in Relation to Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2021);
- Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000);
- Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the concepts of: Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence, Opinion of the Commission (European Commission, 2007);
- Marine Natura Impacts Statements in Irish Special Areas of Conservation. A Working Document (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2012); and
- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2018).

The following circulars have also been used:

- AA under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010b);
- AA of Land Use Plans. Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008a);
- Compliance Conditions in respect of Developments requiring (1) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); or (2) having potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Circular Letter PD 2/07 and NPWS 1/07 (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2007a);
- Guidance on Compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats Directive. Circular Letter NPWS 2/07 (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2007b); and
- Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes – Protection of Natural Heritage and National Monuments. Circular L8/08 (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008b).

3.4 Guiding Principles and Case Law

A number of cases have been brought to both the national and European courts in relation to the AA process. Irish departmental guidance (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010a) in relation to AA was published over 10 years ago. Therefore, recent case law has, in many cases, superseded this guidance. However, recent guidance from the OPR (2021) in relation to AA Screening has now been published and considered in this assessment. Relevant case law, ECJ rulings and EC publications have also been considered in the preparation of the AA Screening for the Plan.

3.5 European Sites in Ireland and Northern Ireland

3.5.1 Introduction

Sites within the Natura 2000 Network are referred to as European sites and include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SACs are designated for the conservation of

Qualifying Interests (QI), Annex I habitats and Annex II species (other than birds). SPAs are designated for the conservation of Special Conservation Interest (SCI) Annex I birds and other regularly occurring migratory birds and their habitats.

Irish departmental guidance on the ZoI to be considered during the AA stated the following:

"*A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance*".

However, the actual extent of the ZoI depends on the effect pathway, as well as the specific nature of different habitats/species for which a European site is designated including functional and supporting habitat (OPR, 2021[4]). Therefore, for these reasons the ZoI must be scientifically defined and based upon further information.

As part of the desk-based assessment, when assessing likely ZoI for all options the "source-pathway-receptor" model will be applied. European sites with a hydrological link to any given option or the study area will be considered to be within the ZoI. As such, sites that are outside the boundary of the study area may also be included in the assessment where there is an effects pathway.

Given the potential for transboundary impacts to SACs and SPAs (and RAMSAR sites) in Northern Ireland these sites are also considered. European sites within the UK are generally referred to as the UK Site Network. It is UK government policy to afford the same protection to RAMSAR sites as to SACs and SPAs (the UK Site Network). All RAMSAR sites in Northern Ireland are at least partly designated as SACs and/or SPAs.

3.5.2 Sites in Ireland

Special Areas of Conservation

There are 441 SACs in Ireland, supporting 59 habitat types and 25 species listed under the EU Habitats Directive. Among the most valuable, there are large and diverse complexes such as Connemara Bog Complex (raised bogs), Lough Corrib (a lake system), Killarney National Park, and the East Burren Complex, known for their unique landscapes and species richness.

SACs include habitats such as bogs, turloughs (seasonal karst lakes), sand dunes, and estuaries, while protected species include Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), European otter (*Lutra lutra*), freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), and rare plants such as the Killarney fern (*Vandenboschia speciosa*). These areas are key biodiversity refuges and include both terrestrial and marine environments, often preserved in a near-natural state.

A particularly important group consists of SACs associated with inland waters and wetlands, including river valleys and lake systems. Examples include large river SACs such as the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Lower River Shannon SAC, and Blackwater River SAC, which have been designated, among other reasons, for the protection of the freshwater pearl mussel a critically endangered species that requires very clean, fast-flowing rivers. In Ireland, as many as 19 SACs have been designated specifically for the protection of this species and its catchments, highlighting the importance of rivers and their surroundings for biodiversity conservation. The protection of these areas covers not only the river itself, but also entire catchments and associated wetland habitats, whose functioning depends on water quality and flow dynamics, which is crucial for the survival of many specialised species.

Among other priority species associated with aquatic habitats in Ireland, protected under the Habitats and Birds Directives, both freshwater organisms and coastal species are of particular importance. In rivers and lakes, in addition to the freshwater pearl mussel, key species include Atlantic salmon, freshwater lampreys (*Lampetra* spp.), and the European otter, which uses river valleys as main ecological corridors. Ireland's

[4] *Office of the Planning Regulator (2021). Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (PN01).*

estuaries and coastal marine waters provide important habitat for cetacean species such as the bottlenose dolphin, and coastal terrestial habitats such as shorelines, tidal mudflats, saltmarshes and coastal lagoons support internationally important populations of many species of waterfowl, waders and other wetland birds protected under the Birds Directive. These habitats are characterized by a high concentration of food resources and play key roles as breeding and overwintering areas for many species, making them particularly sensitive to pressures related to water quality and hydrological changes.

Special Protection Areas

There are 167 SPAs across Ireland supporting 73 bird species, forming part of the Natura 2000 network and covering about 5,970 km² of terrestrial and marine habitats. SPAs are designated under the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) to protect rare and vulnerable bird species, regularly occurring migratory species, and wetlands of international importance. Ireland plays a particularly important role for birds due to its central location on the East Atlantic Flyway, supporting large numbers of migratory waterbirds. Each year, over three quarters of a million waterbirds winter in Ireland, using wetlands for feeding and roosting, and many more birds use its habitats on passage, refuelling before continuing further south to wintering grounds in southern Europe and west Africa. These include internationally important populations of species such as whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), light-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla*), and black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*). SPAs in Ireland incorporate a wide range of habitats such as wetlands, estuaries, intertidal mudflats, coastal waters, upland areas, and inland floodplains. Marine SPAs include productive coastal and offshore areas that provide feeding grounds for seabirds, while inland SPAs include lakes, rivers, and bogs that support wintering waterbirds and breeding species.

A particularly important group consists of SPAs linked to wetlands and coastal systems, which are critical for migratory birds. These sites are designated where at least 1% of a population of a species uses the site, or where more than 20,000 birds regularly occur, reflecting their international importance. In recent years, Ireland has also expanded its marine SPA network, for example through the designation of the “Seas off Wexford” SPA, covering over 305,000 hectares to protect around 20 species of seabirds.
The conservation of SPAs focuses on protecting the ecological conditions necessary for birds, including breeding, feeding, roosting, and wintering habitats. These areas function as integrated ecological systems, whose effectiveness depends on water availability, habitat quality, and low levels of disturbance, which are critical for maintaining bird populations at favourable conservation status.

Water Framework Directive

There is some overlap with the Birds Directive, the EU Habitats Directive and the WFD in relation to the protection of water dependent habitats and species. Under the WFD areas are designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection, including relevant European sites. The linkages between the Habitats and Birds Directive and the WFD were discussed in a document published by the European Commission[5] which states:

“*Any Natura 2000 site with water-dependent (ground- and/or surface water) Annex I habitat types or Annex II species under the Habitats Directive or with water-dependent bird species of Annex I or migratory bird species of the Birds Directive, and, where the presence of these species or habitats has been the reason for the designation of that protected area, has to be considered for the register of protected areas under WFD Art. 6. These areas are summarised as "water-dependent Natura 2000 sites". For these Natura 2000 sites, the objectives of BHD and WFD apply*”.

[5] European Commission (2011). *Links between the Water Framework Directive and Nature Directives*.

3.5.3 Sites in Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has 58 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive to protect habitats and species of European importance. There are 57 SACs in Northern Ireland plus one site currently listed as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) but which is also designated an SAC (North Channel SAC). They protect habitats and species listed in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive; these include a wide range of habitat types such as bogs, freshwater systems, coastal habitats and dunes, as well as species such as fish, mammals and invertebrates, as documented in JNCC habitat lists and SAC feature descriptions, with site-specific features recorded in Standard Data Forms.[6,7]

Across the SAC network in Northern Ireland, Standard Data Forms (SDF) show that conservation features are dominated by a recurring set of Annex I habitats and Annex II species recorded at multiple sites. The most widespread habitats include peatland systems (raised and blanket bogs), freshwater environments (rivers with aquatic vegetation and lakes), wetlands (fens and turloughs), coastal and marine habitats (estuaries, reefs, sand dunes) and semi-natural woodlands, all repeatedly listed as site-level features in the SAC dataset. The most frequently recorded species groups include Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter and lampreys, with additional records of protected mammals such as bats.

Cross-border SACs (e.g. river systems shared with Ireland such as the Foyle and associated catchments**)** are characterised in the SDF data by a narrower but consistently repeating set of features, strongly focused on freshwater river habitats and migratory aquatic species.

These sites typically include river habitat types (Annex I watercourses) combined with key Annex II species such as Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, lampreys and otter, reflecting their ecological function as connected transboundary river corridors supporting migratory fish and aquatic biodiversity.[8]

Northern Ireland has 16 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (including marine and cross-border sites) and two potential SPAs (pSPAs). They are classified under the Birds Directive for the conservation of rare, vulnerable and migratory bird species. Their main qualifying features are bird populations, especially breeding seabirds (e.g. terns, gulls), wintering and migratory waterbirds (e.g. geese, swans, waders), and raptors/upland birds, supported by key environments such as estuaries, wetlands, coastal zones, marine waters and uplands that provide feeding, breeding and roosting grounds of international importance.[9]

There are 22 RAMSAR sites in Northern Ireland including the proposed sites Derryleckagh and Teal Lough. Nearly all RAMSAR sites, including the two proposed sites, are also designated as SACs or SPAs with coincident boundaries. The exception to this is Lough Neagh and Lough Beg RAMSAR site which covers a greater area (*c.* 50,166 ha) than the corresponding SPA (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA, *c.* 40,836 ha). The features for which a RAMSAR site is designated may differ from those of the corresponding SAC and/or SPA.

3.5.4 Trans-Boundary Sites

The Northern Ireland network of sites includes 18 SPAs, SACs and/or RAMSARs which are immediately adjacent to SPAs and or SACs in the Republic of Ireland with an additional site with no Republic of Ireland equivalent. In addition to these sites there may be others with trans-boundary ecological connectivity, as well as sites within Northern Ireland with connectivity to non-designated areas.

[6] List of SACs in Northern Ireland - Special Areas of Conservation

[7] Special Areas of Conservation | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

[8] special areas of conservation v2 (002) - Research Matters

[9] List of UK SPAs

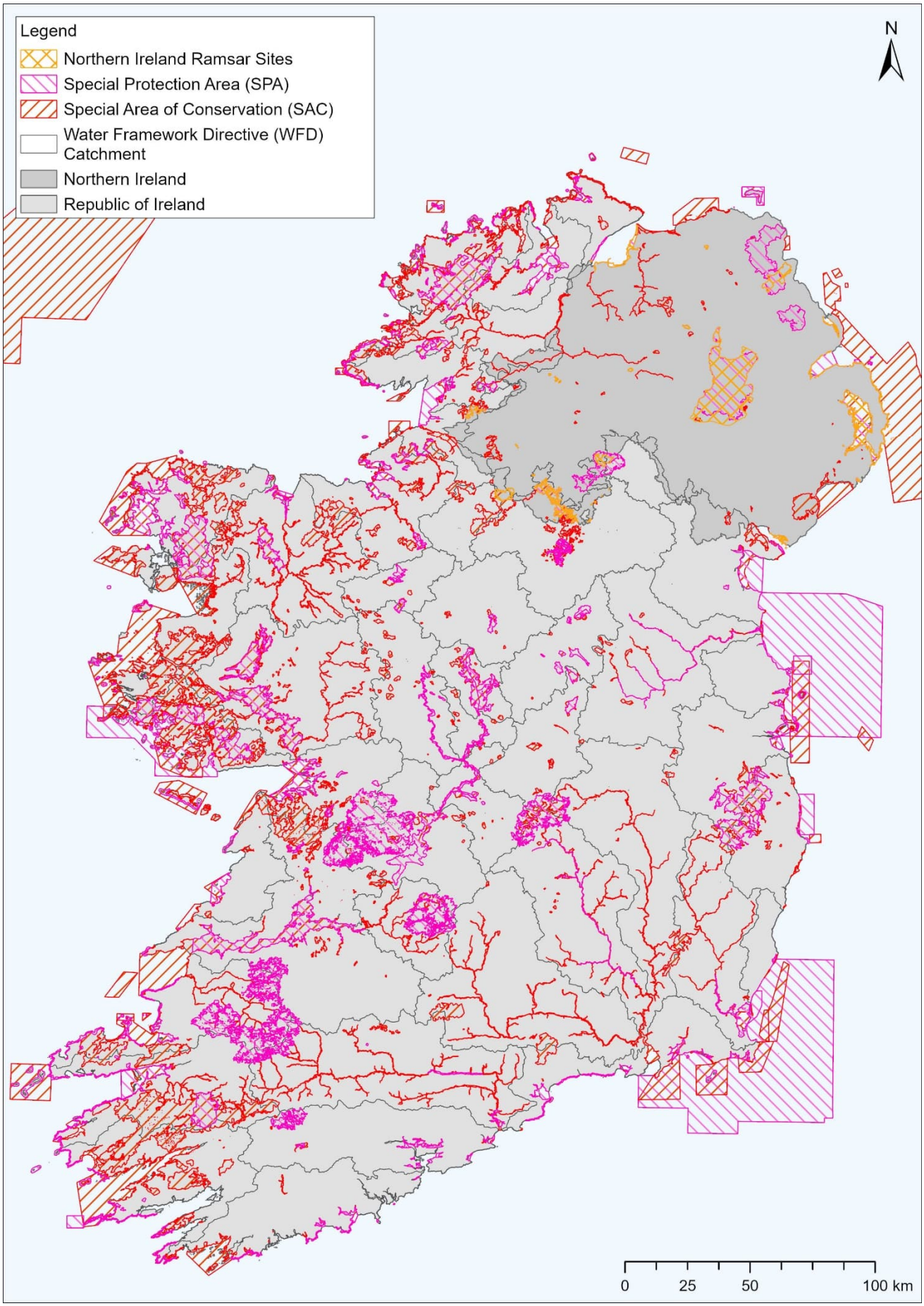

Figure 3-2: European Sites in the Republic of Ireland and the UK Site Network in Northern Ireland

3.6 Conservation Objectives

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of annexed habitats and annexed species of community interest for which an SAC or SPA has been designated. The conservation objectives (COs) for a European site are set out to ensure that the QIs/SCIs of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition. Maintenance of favourable conservation condition of habitats and species at a site level in turn contributes to maintaining or restoring favourable conservation status of habitats and species at a national level and ultimately at the European site network level.

Detailed site synopses for each European site are available from the NPWS website. In Ireland site specific COs have been prepared for most sites to take account of a site's specific QIs/SCIs. For some sites 'generic' COs remain. Both the site-specific and the generic COs aim to define the requirements for favourable conservation condition for habitats and species at the site level. Generic COs encompass the spirit of site-specific COs in the context of maintaining and restoring favourable conservation condition as follows:

- For SACs: "*To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected*".
- For SPAs: "*To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA*".

However, where only generic COs are available, NPWS advise that the COs for a similar site/qualifying habitats and species should be used.

Following on from this, favourable conservation status (or condition, at a site level) of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing;
- 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".

The favourable conservation status (or condition, at a site level) 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, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

A full list of the COs and QIs/SCIs that each European site is designated for relating to the Plan, as well as the attributes and targets to maintain or restore the QIs/SCIs to a favourable conservation condition are available from the NPWS website (npws.ie/protected sites) and from the DAERA website (daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/protected-areas).

4 Stage 1 Screening

This Screening for AA was informed by a desk study of all relevant environmental information and involved the following steps (broadly based on (European Commission, 2021)):

- Determine if the proposed Plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.
- Description of the proposed Plan.
- Identification of relevant European site(s).
- Assessment of LSEs on European sites.
- Screening conclusion.

4.1 Is the Plan exempt from assessment?

The Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site and therefore is not exempt from assessment.

4.2 Description of the Plan

An overview of the Plan, including background and context are provided in Chapters 1 and 2 of this report.

4.3 Identification of European Sites within the Plan area

As discussed in Chapter 3, all European sites within the Plan area and European sites with potential effects pathways located outside the Plan area were initially considered to be potentially within the ZoI of the Plan, therefore potential LSEs on the conservation objectives for these sites will be considered. This includes sites within Northern Ireland given the potential for transboundary effects.

Further information about the European sites considered in the ZoI of the Plan including QI species and habitats can be found in Appendix A and Appendix B. Information regarding the Third Schedule invasive species can be found in Appendix C.

4.4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The Plan is a high-level plan for the management of wastewater from small WWTPs in Ireland. It is a national strategy that does not refer to specific geographic locations or individual projects. However, the Plan will provide an indication of the types of infrastructural requirements likely to arise in the future through the implementation of subsequent specific programmes and projects which are progressed as part of the Plan. Section 2.2 provides an indication of what actions and activities may be included in the Plan as it is developed. Whilst the Plan itself, being a high-level plan, may not result in LSEs on European sites, the actions and activities resulting from the implementation of the Plan for which Uisce Éireann will be responsible may do.

When assessing the Plan, the 'source-pathway-receptor' model is applied taking consideration of all potential impact pathways connecting elements of the Plan to European sites in view of their conservation objectives. The source-pathway-receptor conceptual model is a standard tool in environmental assessment to identify and assess potential impact pathways. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the pathway means that there is no likelihood for the effect to occur (e.g. no potential for LSEs).

Table 4-1 defines the source-pathway-receptor model, the zones of influence and the extents of sensitivity of QIs for each potential impact pathway used in the assessment. It should be noted that some of the actions and activities of the Plan may have no effect on European sites, while others could have beneficial impacts on

European sites, for example actions and activities that seek to improve overall water quality. However, the implementation of the Plan may give rise to measures that could result in a variety of potential effects.

Table 4-1: Potential effect pathways of options arising from the Plan

Pathway name	Source-receptor-pathway model	Zone of Influence	Extent of sensitivity of receptors
Habitat Loss - permanent	The provision of new infrastructure or permanent change of habitat from the plan could result in direct loss of QI habitat or supporting habitat for QI species in a European site, or functionally linked land associated with mobile QI species outside the boundaries of European sites	The ZoI assessed is within the footprint of the plan Physical loss of habitat is only possible within the boundary of a European site, or within an area of functionally linked land habitat outside of the European site	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site. Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site. Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site.
Habitat loss - temporary	Construction activities including temporary works areas and access routes of the plan could result in the temporary loss of habitats before reinstatement after construction is completed, potentially affecting QI habitat or supporting habitat for QI species in a European site, or functionally linked land associated with mobile QI species outside the boundaries of European sites	The ZoI assessed is within the footprint of the plan Physical loss of habitat is only possible within the boundary of a European site, or within an area of functionally linked land habitat outside of the European site	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive within suitable habitat that is within the range of the QI species from their designated site
Habitat degradation – changes in water quality	Construction activities and changes in operational activities can release oils, chemicals, heavy metals, silt, etc from equipment as well as suspended solids, etc from waste materials. This can directly affect QI species or habitats or affect them indirectly through loss of aquatic prey species, or through changes in their habitats	The ZoI assessed is within surface water catchments that the footprint of the plan lies within (to the point where effects would be imperceptible such as where a watercourse meets open sea) Pollutants can travel along hydrological linkages such as watercourses to a	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site

Pathway name	Source-receptor-pathway model	Zone of Influence	Extent of sensitivity of receptors
		considerable distance from works.	
Habitat degradation – hydrological changes	New discharge locations/ infrastructure or an increase in discharge volumes resulting from waste water transfer can cause changes in hydrology, which can alter water volumes and flows, which can in turn change the wetness of habitats or cause erosion or deposition of materials Such changes can affect QI habitats or supporting and functionally linked habitats of QI species	The ZoI assessed is within surface water catchments that the footprint of the plan lies within Surface water changes can occur within catchments as changes in one location affect other locations via watercourses for example	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site
Habitat degradation – hydrogeological changes	Construction activities such as groundworks and excavations and permanent changes to water management can cause changes to groundwater volumes and flows, which can change the hydrogeology of QI habitats and supporting or functionally linked habitats of QI species	The ZoI assessed is within groundwater catchments that the footprint of the plan lies within Groundwater changes can occur within catchments as changes in one location affect other locations	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site
Habitat degradation – changes in air quality	Construction plant and vehicles emit exhausts containing pollutants that can deposit on QI habitats, which can cause direct toxic effects on QI species and habitats or degradation of QI habitat	The ZoI assessed is within 200m of the footprint of the plan Pollutant deposition from vehicles is thought to occur in insignificant amounts beyond 200m from the source	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site

Pathway name	Source-receptor-pathway model	Zone of Influence	Extent of sensitivity of receptors
Habitat degradation – spread of invasive species	Construction activities can cause the spread of invasive species already within the construction site (through transfer on plant or within materials moved during earthworks), or by importing materials from outside the construction site (on the wheels of plant or delivery vehicles, etc). This can cause the degradation of QI habitats or supporting and functionally linked habitats of QI species	The ZoI assessed is within the footprint of the actions or activities of the Plan. The spread or importing of invasive species can only occur within the construction site.	QI habitats are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Supporting habitats of QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site Functionally linked habitats of QI species are sensitive where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site
Disturbance of species	Construction activities could result in disturbance of QI species through changes in noise, vibration, movement (of people and/or vehicles) and lighting. Disturbance may lead to the abandonment of breeding, foraging or resting sites by QI species, potentially resulting in increased energy expenditure, reduced fitness and inability to complete lifecycle stages	The ZoI assessed is within the footprint of the actions or activities of the Plan or within 300m of the construction or operation of the plan 300m is considered to be an appropriate distance to assess disturbance as QI species are unlikely to be significantly disturbed beyond this distance	QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site (in supporting habitat) or within functionally linked habitats where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site
Mortality	Mortality of individuals of QI species could occur directly through killing of individuals by construction works or indirectly as a result of pollution entering the watercourse	The ZoI assessed is within the footprint of the actions or activities of the Plan, or within 50m of watercourse crossings that will be subject to works Direct mortality from construction activities can only occur within the construction footprint. Indirect mortality can occur near to works at watercourses that sever	QI species are sensitive within the boundary of their designated site (in supporting habitat) or within functionally linked habitats where suitable habitat is present within the range of the QI species from their designated site

Pathway name	Source-receptor-pathway model	Zone of Influence	Extent of sensitivity of receptors
		species commuting routes	

4.5 In-combination Effects

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive an assessment of in-combination effects of the Plan with other plans and projects is considered. Consideration will be given to other relevant plans on a similarly strategic level that have clear potential to have an in-combination effect upon European Sites. Relevant projects will be included for in-combination assessment. Given the level of detail that is available for the Plan and the potential for likely significant effects, in-combination effects as a result of the implementation of the Plan cannot currently be ruled out. All potential impact pathways have been screened in for Appropriate Assessment. There may be in-combination effects through these pathways, and these will be addressed in the NIS.

5 Screening Conclusion

Stage 1 of the AA process (Screening for AA) described herein relates to the Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan (the Plan). The Plan is a national scale plan covering approximately 750 <1000PE WWTPs across 46 catchments.

Given the strategic nature of the Plan, the current stage of preparation and in light of a number of uncertainties relating to the implementation of the Plan going forward, it is considered that the potential for LSEs on one or more European sites, in view of the sites' conservation objectives, cannot be excluded either alone or in-combination. In the absence of more detailed information on the Plan and management options listed therein at this stage, the precautionary principle must be applied. The possibility of transboundary effects has also been identified.

Therefore, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Stage 2 AA of the Plan is required. This will be presented in an NIS to fully inform the AA determination to be undertaken by Uisce Éireann.

6 References

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Small Wastewater Treatment Plants National Plan – Issues Paper

Appendix A List of European Sites

A.1 SACs in Ireland

Table A 1 provides a comprehensive list of the SACs currently designated in Ireland. This list was sourced from the NPWS designated sites dated 14 May 2024.

Table A 1: SACs in Ireland

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC	185.02
IE0000007	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC	4686.02
IE0000014	Ballyallia Lake SAC	180.17
IE0000016	Ballycullinan Lake SAC	191.21
IE0000019	Ballyogan Lough SAC	375.27
IE0000020	Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC	7800.73
IE0000030	Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC	38.43
IE0000032	Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	872.1
IE0000036	Inagh River Estuary SAC	392.45
IE0000037	Pouladatig Cave SAC	3.36
IE0000051	Lough Gash Turlough SAC	25.58
IE0000054	Moneen Mountain SAC	6093.94
IE0000057	Moyree River System SAC	475.6
IE0000064	Poulnagordon Cave (Quin) SAC	0.05
IE0000077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	494.82
IE0000090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	1295.18
IE0000091	Clonakilty Bay SAC	511.91
IE0000093	Caha Mountains SAC	6881.61
IE0000097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC	451.73
IE0000101	Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC	14285.34
IE0000102	Sheep's Head SAC	3149.68
IE0000106	St. Gobnet's Wood SAC	43.85
IE0000108	The Gearagh SAC	554.17
IE0000109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	353
IE0000111	Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC	542.81
IE0000115	Ballintra SAC	47.18
IE0000116	Ballyarr Wood SAC	30.01
IE0000129	Croaghonagh Bog SAC	248.72
IE0000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	1810.48
IE0000138	Durnesh Lough SAC	358.45
IE0000140	Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung SAC	1106.64

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0000142	Gannivegil Bog SAC	2150.86
IE0000147	Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC	2365.79
IE0000154	Inishtrahull SAC	483.11
IE0000163	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC	857.58
IE0000164	Lough Nagreany Dunes SAC	218.37
IE0000165	Lough Nillan Bog (Carrickatlieve) SAC	4149.54
IE0000168	Magheradrumman Bog SAC	1000.94
IE0000172	Meenaguse/Ardbane Bog SAC	664.42
IE0000173	Meentygrannagh Bog SAC	527.67
IE0000174	Curraghchase Woods SAC	360.17
IE0000181	Rathlin O'Birne Island SAC	797.72
IE0000185	Sessiagh Lough SAC	71.6
IE0000189	Slieve League SAC	4013.79
IE0000190	Slieve Tooey/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay SAC	9392.48
IE0000191	St. John's Point SAC	1086.35
IE0000194	Tranarossan and Melmore Lough SAC	649.7
IE0000197	West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC	6733.42
IE0000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC	532.72
IE0000202	Howth Head SAC	372.72
IE0000204	Lambay Island SAC	404.19
IE0000205	Malahide Estuary SAC	788
IE0000206	North Dublin Bay SAC	1462.58
IE0000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC	537.76
IE0000210	South Dublin Bay SAC	733.42
IE0000212	Inishmaan Island SAC	801.86
IE0000213	Inishmore Island SAC	14493.61
IE0000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	5820.6
IE0000218	Coolcam Turlough SAC	136.76
IE0000231	Barroughter Bog SAC	170.58
IE0000238	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	165.58
IE0000242	Castletaylor Complex SAC	143.43
IE0000248	Cloonmoylan Bog SAC	552.2
IE0000252	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	1110.08
IE0000255	Croaghill Turlough SAC	47.35
IE0000261	Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve SAC	118.37
IE0000268	Galway Bay Complex SAC	14387.69
IE0000278	Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC	2856.75

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0000285	Kilsallagh Bog SAC	277.83
IE0000286	Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC	0.01
IE0000295	Levally Lough SAC	57.97
IE0000296	Lisnageeragh Bog and Ballinastack Turlough SAC	440
IE0000297	Lough Corrib SAC	24956.62
IE0000299	Lough Cutra SAC	658.5
IE0000301	Lough Lurgeen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough SAC	1148.88
IE0000304	Lough Rea SAC	364.6
IE0000308	Loughatorick South Bog SAC	881.4
IE0000318	Peterswell Turlough SAC	245.47
IE0000319	Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve SAC	80.53
IE0000322	Rahasane Turlough SAC	351.66
IE0000324	Rosroe Bog SAC	264.2
IE0000326	Shankill West Bog SAC	135.07
IE0000328	Slyne Head Islands SAC	2355.13
IE0000330	Tully Mountain SAC	478.91
IE0000332	Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC	1222.7
IE0000335	Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC	1658.47
IE0000343	Castlemaine Harbour SAC	8731.68
IE0000353	Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC	123.57
IE0000364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	17.25
IE0000365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	76478.51
IE0000370	Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC	271.44
IE0000375	Mount Brandon SAC	14363.7
IE0000382	Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SAC	16.85
IE0000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC	155.23
IE0000396	Pollardstown Fen SAC	226.83
IE0000397	Red Bog, Kildare SAC	25.94
IE0000404	Hugginstown Fen SAC	63.9
IE0000407	The Loughans SAC	40.45
IE0000412	Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC	4875.07
IE0000428	Lough Melvin SAC	2258.42
IE0000432	Barrigone SAC	67.86
IE0000439	Tory Hill SAC	78.15
IE0000440	Lough Ree SAC	14356.22
IE0000448	Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	50.69

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	3085.21
IE0000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	5195.57
IE0000458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	2187.73
IE0000461	Ardkill Turlough SAC	25.53
IE0000463	Balla Turlough SAC	49.08
IE0000466	Bellacorick Iron Flush SAC	22.86
IE0000470	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex SAC	14053.03
IE0000471	Brackloon Woods SAC	80.2
IE0000472	Broadhaven Bay SAC	8963.42
IE0000474	Ballymaglancy Cave, Cong SAC	9.3
IE0000475	Carrowkeel Turlough SAC	40.97
IE0000476	Carrowmore Lake Complex SAC	3626.93
IE0000479	Cloughmoyne SAC	96.72
IE0000480	Clyard Kettle-holes SAC	116.8
IE0000484	Cross Lough (Killadoon) SAC	56.47
IE0000485	Corraun Plateau SAC	3895.13
IE0000492	Doocastle Turlough SAC	76.67
IE0000495	Duvillaun Islands SAC	539.36
IE0000497	Flughany Bog SAC	231.03
IE0000500	Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC	13057.21
IE0000503	Greaghans Turlough SAC	43.71
IE0000504	Kilglassan/Caheravoostia Turlough Complex SAC	111.63
IE0000507	Inishkea Islands SAC	1239.38
IE0000516	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC	538.01
IE0000522	Lough Gall Bog SAC	284.43
IE0000525	Shrule Turlough SAC	170.52
IE0000527	Moore Hall (Lough Carra) SAC	0.08
IE0000532	Oldhead Wood SAC	85.29
IE0000534	Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC	27157.98
IE0000541	Skealoghan Turlough SAC	40.02
IE0000542	Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC	2409.65
IE0000566	All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	365.81
IE0000571	Charleville Wood SAC	376.8
IE0000572	Clara Bog SAC	834.52
IE0000575	Ferbane Bog SAC	151.9
IE0000576	Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC	73.98
IE0000580	Mongan Bog SAC	206.51

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0000581	Moyclare Bog SAC	129.95
IE0000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC	203.7
IE0000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	9721.27
IE0000585	Sharavogue Bog SAC	236.39
IE0000588	Ballinturly Turlough SAC	151.69
IE0000592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	1203.72
IE0000595	Callow Bog SAC	616.21
IE0000597	Carrowbehy/Caher Bog SAC	345.66
IE0000600	Cloonchambers Bog SAC	348.25
IE0000604	Derrinea Bog SAC	89.18
IE0000606	Lough Fingall Complex SAC	606.78
IE0000607	Errit Lough SAC	84.59
IE0000609	Lisduff Turlough SAC	69.69
IE0000610	Lough Croan Turlough SAC	155.62
IE0000611	Lough Funshinagh SAC	430.52
IE0000612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	35.89
IE0000614	Cloonshanville Bog SAC	225.81
IE0000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	2143.94
IE0000623	Ben Bulben, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	5993.77
IE0000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC	4404.23
IE0000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	4917.01
IE0000633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC	3202.44
IE0000634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC	269.22
IE0000636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC	488.48
IE0000637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC	74.17
IE0000638	Union Wood SAC	60.83
IE0000641	Ballyduff/Clonfinane Bog SAC	242.28
IE0000646	Galtee Mountains SAC	6414.84
IE0000647	Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC	639.34
IE0000665	Helvick Head SAC	203.47
IE0000668	Nier Valley Woodlands SAC	94.63
IE0000671	Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC	770.13
IE0000679	Garriskil Bog SAC	351.29
IE0000685	Lough Ennell SAC	1723.77
IE0000688	Lough Owel SAC	1121.45
IE0000692	Scragh Bog SAC	23.85

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0000696	Ballyteige Burrow SAC	667.13
IE0000697	Bannow Bay SAC	1287.86
IE0000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	276.36
IE0000704	Lady's Island Lake SAC	507
IE0000707	Saltee Islands SAC	15822.26
IE0000708	Screen Hills SAC	139.42
IE0000709	Tacumshin Lake SAC	527.66
IE0000710	Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	556.36
IE0000713	Ballyman Glen SAC	23.53
IE0000714	Bray Head SAC	263.39
IE0000716	Carriggower Bog SAC	84.3
IE0000717	Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	47.88
IE0000719	Glen of the Downs SAC	73.26
IE0000725	Knocksink Wood SAC	87.89
IE0000729	Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC	302.88
IE0000733	Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	378.25
IE0000764	Hook Head SAC	17006.27
IE0000770	Blackstairs Mountains SAC	5046.85
IE0000781	Slaney River Valley SAC	5948.2
IE0000831	Cullahill Mountain SAC	54.72
IE0000849	Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC	146.86
IE0000859	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	277.15
IE0000869	Lisbigney Bog SAC	35.59
IE0000919	Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC	6.24
IE0000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC	30.37
IE0000930	Clare Glen SAC	21.86
IE0000934	Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC	133.81
IE0000939	Silvermine Mountains SAC	24.89
IE0000979	Corratirrim SAC	116.87
IE0000994	Ballyteige (Clare) SAC	6.43
IE0000996	Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC	12.86
IE0001013	Glenomra Wood SAC	50.27
IE0001021	Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC	4224.49
IE0001040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	796.92
IE0001043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	60.61
IE0001058	Great Island Channel SAC	1437.55
IE0001061	Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC	96.43

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0001070	Myross Wood SAC	3.97
IE0001090	Ballyness Bay SAC	1231.21
IE0001107	Coolvoy Bog SAC	307.79
IE0001125	Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau SAC	2022.65
IE0001141	Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC	6061.511
IE0001151	Kindrum Lough SAC	111.56
IE0001179	Muckish Mountain SAC	1522.15
IE0001190	Sheephaven SAC	1623.59
IE0001195	Termon Strand SAC	85
IE0001197	Keeper Hill SAC	415.87
IE0001209	Glenasmole Valley SAC	147.59
IE0001228	Aughrusbeg Machair and Lake SAC	417.35
IE0001230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	741.63
IE0001242	Carrownagappul Bog SAC	485.66
IE0001251	Cregduff Lough SAC	71.84
IE0001257	Dog's Bay SAC	146.93
IE0001271	Gortnandarragh Limestone Pavement SAC	347.08
IE0001275	Inisheer Island SAC	552.29
IE0001285	Kiltiernan Turlough SAC	52.23
IE0001309	Omey Island Machair SAC	233.26
IE0001311	Rusheenduff Lough SAC	47.58
IE0001312	Ross Lake and Woods SAC	325.85
IE0001313	Rosturra Wood SAC	38.24
IE0001321	Termon Lough SAC	211.7
IE0001342	Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	1150.82
IE0001371	Mucksna Wood SAC	14.07
IE0001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC	45.49
IE0001398	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC	70.48
IE0001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	3941.88
IE0001430	Glen Bog SAC	27.66
IE0001432	Glenstal Wood SAC	8.08
IE0001459	Clogher Head SAC	23.1
IE0001482	Clew Bay Complex SAC	12020.67
IE0001497	Doogort Machair/Lough Doo SAC	187.87
IE0001501	Erris Head SAC	850.97
IE0001513	Keel Machair/Menaun Cliffs SAC	1667.49
IE0001529	Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough SAC	302.69

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0001536	Mocorha Lough SAC	65.98
IE0001547	Castletownshend SAC	17.03
IE0001571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	264.03
IE0001625	Castlesampson Esker SAC	144.2
IE0001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	249.9
IE0001637	Four Roads Turlough SAC	100.18
IE0001656	Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC	1692.09
IE0001669	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC	115.55
IE0001673	Lough Arrow SAC	1454.26
IE0001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	632.83
IE0001683	Liskeenan Fen SAC	43.68
IE0001741	Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC	64.56
IE0001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC	40.65
IE0001757	Holdenstown Bog SAC	4.05
IE0001766	Magherabeg Dunes SAC	75.17
IE0001774	Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC	13462.75
IE0001776	Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC	69.73
IE0001786	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC	56.81
IE0001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC	111.12
IE0001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	1333.82
IE0001831	Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC	77.11
IE0001847	Philipston Marsh SAC	3.8
IE0001858	Galmoy Fen SAC	25.22
IE0001873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	1712.16
IE0001879	Glanmore Bog SAC	1137.36
IE0001880	Meenaguse Scragh SAC	627.35
IE0001881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	424.86
IE0001890	Mullaghanish Bog SAC	60.19
IE0001898	Unshin River SAC	892.01
IE0001899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC	66.93
IE0001912	Glendree Bog SAC	340.71
IE0001913	Sonnagh Bog SAC	462.05
IE0001919	Glenade Lough SAC	115.02
IE0001922	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC	9585.642
IE0001926	East Burren Complex SAC	18741.61
IE0001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC	20969.44
IE0001952	Comeragh Mountains SAC	6292.69

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0001955	Croaghaun/Slievemore SAC	3484.37
IE0001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	576.37
IE0001975	Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC	1226.23
IE0001976	Lough Gill SAC	3286.942
IE0001992	Tamur Bog SAC	1181.95
IE0002005	Bellacragher Saltmarsh SAC	17.44
IE0002006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	10740.84
IE0002008	Maumturk Mountains SAC	13501.28
IE0002010	Old Domestic Building (Keevagh) SAC	0.01
IE0002012	North Inishowen Coast SAC	7037.331
IE0002031	The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC	16161.46
IE0002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	4245.11
IE0002034	Connemara Bog Complex SAC	49169.37
IE0002036	Ballyhoura Mountains SAC	730.37
IE0002037	Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC	94.75
IE0002041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	0.03
IE0002047	Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC	33475.87
IE0002070	Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC	11669.94
IE0002074	Slyne Head Peninsula SAC	4022.5
IE0002081	Ballinafad SAC	0.15
IE0002091	Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC	136.91
IE0002098	Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC	43.43
IE0002110	Corliskea/Trien/Cloonfelliv Bog SAC	727.29
IE0002111	Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC	21390.31
IE0002112	Ballyseedy Wood SAC	39.49
IE0002117	Lough Coy SAC	78.57
IE0002118	Barnahallia Lough SAC	43.86
IE0002119	Lough Nageeron SAC	19.65
IE0002120	Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC	199.12
IE0002121	Lough Lene SAC	490.74
IE0002122	Wicklow Mountains SAC	33220.42
IE0002123	Ardmore Head SAC	29.59
IE0002124	Bolingbrook Hill SAC	204.51
IE0002125	Anglesey Road SAC	32.92
IE0002126	Pollagoona Bog SAC	53.31
IE0002129	Murvey Machair SAC	80.3

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0002130	Tully Lough SAC	142.22
IE0002135	Lough Nageage SAC	152.35
IE0002137	Lower River Suir SAC	7096.91
IE0002141	Mountmellick SAC	2.03
IE0002144	Newport River SAC	1394.195
IE0002147	Lisduff Fen SAC	30.83
IE0002157	Newgrove House SAC	47.41
IE0002158	Kenmare River SAC	43498.86
IE0002159	Mulroy Bay SAC	3495.13
IE0002161	Long Bank SAC	3370.87
IE0002162	River Barrow and River Nore SAC	12367.76
IE0002164	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC	785.91
IE0002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	68638.54
IE0002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	10145.32
IE0002171	Bandon River SAC	317.57
IE0002172	Blasket Islands SAC	22715.96
IE0002173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	5855.74
IE0002176	Leannan River SAC	1703.969
IE0002177	Lough Dahybaun SAC	62.44
IE0002179	Towerhill House SAC	60.71
IE0002180	Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	111.49
IE0002181	Drummin Wood SAC	84.84
IE0002185	Slieve Mish Mountains SAC	9774.42
IE0002187	Drongawn Lough SAC	31.42
IE0002189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	27.3
IE0002193	Ireland's Eye SAC	40.34
IE0002197	Derrinlough (Cloonkeenleananode) Bog SAC	61.1
IE0002199	Ballygar (Aghrane) Bog SAC	27.98
IE0002200	Aughrim (Aghrane) Bog SAC	110.33
IE0002201	Derragh Bog SAC	37.62
IE0002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	71.92
IE0002203	Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC	32.27
IE0002205	Wooddown Bog SAC	49.86
IE0002206	Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC	71.91
IE0002207	Arragh More (Derrybreen) Bog SAC	90.58
IE0002213	Glenloughaun Esker SAC	5.7
IE0002214	Killeglan Grassland SAC	60.91

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0002236	Island Fen SAC	12.02
IE0002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	3652.8
IE0002243	Clare Island Cliffs SAC	409.99
IE0002244	Ardrahan Grassland SAC	200.82
IE0002245	Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC	0.16
IE0002246	Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC	5.74
IE0002247	Toonagh Estate SAC	5.41
IE0002249	The Murrough Wetlands SAC	602.7
IE0002250	Carrowmore Dunes SAC	451.64
IE0002252	Thomastown Quarry SAC	3.88
IE0002256	Ballyprior Grassland SAC	44.18
IE0002257	Moanour Mountain SAC	48.03
IE0002258	Silvermines Mountains West SAC	625.04
IE0002259	Tory Island Coast SAC	3047.18
IE0002261	Magharee Islands SAC	2270.16
IE0002262	Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC	2699.8
IE0002263	Kerry Head Shoal SAC	5794.72
IE0002264	Kilkee Reefs SAC	2877.95
IE0002265	Kingstown Bay SAC	79.89
IE0002267	Porcupine Shelf SAC	1479442
IE0002268	Achill Head SAC	6892.36
IE0002269	Carnsore Point SAC	8736.19
IE0002274	Wicklow Reef SAC	1532.56
IE0002278	Southern Canyons SAC	1443429
IE0002279	Askeaton Fen Complex SAC	284.29
IE0002280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	43.02
IE0002281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	7.01
IE0002283	Rutland Island and Sound SAC	3853.56
IE0002287	Lough Swilly SAC	9298.2
IE0002293	Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	105.62
IE0002294	Cahermore Turlough SAC	64.07
IE0002295	Ballinduff Turlough SAC	60.61
IE0002296	Williamstown Turloughs SAC	232.64
IE0002298	River Moy SAC	15320.48
IE0002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	2317.87
IE0002301	River Finn SAC	5516.652
IE0002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	33.47

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	524.39
IE0002312	Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC	1945.63
IE0002313	Ballymore Fen SAC	42.71
IE0002314	Old Domestic Buildings, Rylane SAC	13.9
IE0002315	Glanlough Woods SAC	16.55
IE0002316	Ratty River Cave SAC	0.72
IE0002317	Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC	0.02
IE0002318	Knockanira House SAC	0.02
IE0002319	Kilkishen House SAC	0.44
IE0002320	Kildun Souterrain SAC	0.65
IE0002324	Glendine Wood SAC	19.64
IE0002327	Belgica Mound Province SAC	41090.4
IE0002328	Hovland Mound Province SAC	108655
IE0002329	South-west Porcupine Bank SAC	32929.9
IE0002330	North-west Porcupine Bank SAC	71629.7
IE0002331	Mouds Bog SAC	586.39
IE0002332	Coolrain Bog SAC	145.27
IE0002333	Knockacoller Bog SAC	129.27
IE0002336	Carn Park Bog SAC	247.15
IE0002337	Crosswood Bog SAC	204.15
IE0002338	Drumalough Bog SAC	277.88
IE0002339	Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	235.2
IE0002340	Moneybeg and Clareisland Bogs SAC	364.13
IE0002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC	116.44
IE0002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC	473.91
IE0002343	Tullaher Lough and Bog SAC	465.18
IE0002346	Brown Bog SAC	73.62
IE0002347	Camderry Bog SAC	283.43
IE0002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	214.11
IE0002349	Corbo Bog SAC	202.76
IE0002350	Curraghlehanagh Bog SAC	277.97
IE0002351	Moanveanlagh Bog SAC	202.05
IE0002352	Monivea Bog SAC	287.02
IE0002353	Redwood Bog SAC	545.78
IE0002354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	102.83
IE0002356	Ardgraigue Bog SAC	177.11
IE0002953	Blackwater Bank SAC	12401.45

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0002998	West Connacht Coast SAC	65945.58
IE0002999	Hempton's Turbot Bank SAC	4492.68
IE0003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC	27285.88
IE0003001	Porcupine Bank Canyon SAC	78110
IE0003002	South-east Rockall Bank SAC	148790
IE0003015	Codling Fault Zone SAC	2982.23

A.2 SPAs in Ireland

Table A 2 provides a comprehensive list of the SPAs currently designated in Ireland. This list was sourced from the NPWS designated sites dated 14 May 2024.

Table A 2: SPAs in Ireland

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0004002	Saltee Islands SPA	870.62
IE0004003	Puffin Island SPA	349.14
IE0004004	Inishkea Islands SPA	1329.76
IE0004005	Cliffs of Moher SPA	873.94
IE0004006	North Bull Island SPA	1943.47
IE0004007	Skelligs SPA	624.08
IE0004008	Blasket Islands SPA	3620.37
IE0004009	Lady's Island Lake SPA	478.6
IE0004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	1842.68
IE0004014	Rockabill SPA	5227.09
IE0004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	645.35
IE0004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	262.65
IE0004017	Mongan Bog SPA	129.33
IE0004019	The Raven SPA	4204.63
IE0004020	Ballyteige Burrow SPA	660.24
IE0004021	Old Head of Kinsale SPA	53.63
IE0004022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	281.22
IE0004023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	586.23
IE0004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	2193.17
IE0004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	764.63
IE0004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	13237.9
IE0004027	Tramore Back Strand SPA	675.68
IE0004028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	869.8
IE0004029	Castlemaine Harbour SPA	12397.41

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0004030	Cork Harbour SPA	2676.73
IE0004031	Inner Galway Bay SPA	13262.13
IE0004032	Dungarvan Harbour SPA	2221.44
IE0004033	Bannow Bay SPA	1363.32
IE0004034	Trawbreaga Bay SPA	1549.16
IE0004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	1731.69
IE0004036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	3202.02
IE0004037	Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA	16218.54
IE0004038	Killarney National Park SPA	10328.14
IE0004039	Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA	31453.73
IE0004040	Wicklow Mountains SPA	30014.31
IE0004041	Ballyallia Lough SPA	140.73
IE0004042	Lough Corrib SPA	18623.94
IE0004043	Lough Derravaragh SPA	1130.09
IE0004044	Lough Ennell SPA	1397.66
IE0004045	Glen Lough SPA	82.27
IE0004046	Lough Iron SPA	933.35
IE0004047	Lough Owel SPA	1118.64
IE0004048	Lough Gara SPA	1689.78
IE0004049	Lough Oughter Complex SPA	1972.94
IE0004050	Lough Arrow SPA	1337.91
IE0004051	Lough Carra SPA	1760.27
IE0004052	Carrowmore Lake SPA	965.52
IE0004056	Lough Cutra SPA	386.72
IE0004057	Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA	889.88
IE0004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	12709.92
IE0004060	Lough Fern SPA	299.91
IE0004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	287.8
IE0004062	Lough Mask SPA	8735.65
IE0004063	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA	2009.5
IE0004064	Lough Ree SPA	12347.98
IE0004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	1900.92
IE0004066	The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA	380.12
IE0004068	Inishmurray SPA	234.66
IE0004069	Lambay Island SPA	599.3
IE0004072	Stags of Broad Haven SPA	136.38
IE0004073	Tory Island SPA	570.77

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0004074	Illanmaster SPA	164.94
IE0004075	Lough Swilly SPA	8559.56
IE0004076	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA	5979.34
IE0004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	32241.2
IE0004078	Carlingford Lough SPA	595.12
IE0004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	593.43
IE0004081	Clonakilty Bay SPA	507.76
IE0004082	Greers Isle SPA	19.13
IE0004083	Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg SPA	600.8
IE0004084	Inishglora and Inishkeeragh SPA	381.89
IE0004086	River Little Brosna Callows SPA	1100.92
IE0004087	Lough Foyle SPA	587.67
IE0004089	Rahasane Turlough SPA	372.3
IE0004090	Sheskinmore Lough SPA	563.04
IE0004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	251.89
IE0004092	Tacumshin Lake SPA	476.17
IE0004093	Termoncarragh Lake and Annagh Machair SPA	405.98
IE0004094	Blackwater Callows SPA	1037.73
IE0004095	Kilcolman Bog SPA	56.71
IE0004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	5814.85
IE0004097	River Suck Callows SPA	3182.03
IE0004098	Owenduff/Nephin Complex SPA	25692.83
IE0004099	Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA	691.28
IE0004100	Inishtrahull SPA	474.24
IE0004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	1355.67
IE0004102	Garriskil Bog SPA	324.11
IE0004103	All Saints Bog SPA	322.64
IE0004105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	1233.78
IE0004107	Coole-Garryland SPA	519.95
IE0004108	Eirk Bog SPA	13.23
IE0004109	The Gearagh SPA	322.58
IE0004110	Lough Nillan Bog SPA	4114.34
IE0004111	Duvillaun Islands SPA	529.8
IE0004113	Howth Head Coast SPA	207.73
IE0004114	Illaunonearaun SPA	45.95
IE0004115	Inishduff SPA	46.48
IE0004116	Inishkeel SPA	124.41

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0004117	Ireland's Eye SPA	214.43
IE0004118	Keeragh Islands SPA	80
IE0004119	Loop Head SPA	377
IE0004120	Rathlin O'Birne Island SPA	153.55
IE0004121	Roaninish SPA	145.76
IE0004122	Skerries Islands SPA	217.12
IE0004124	Sovereign Islands SPA	28.7
IE0004125	Magharee Islands SPA	416.92
IE0004127	Wicklow Head SPA	195.05
IE0004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	2129.06
IE0004132	Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA	419.4
IE0004133	Aughris Head SPA	54.8
IE0004134	Lough Rea SPA	365.41
IE0004135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	148.29
IE0004136	Clare Island SPA	1005.74
IE0004137	Dovegrove Callows SPA	124.51
IE0004139	Lough Croan Turlough SPA	151.26
IE0004140	Four Roads Turlough SPA	99.6
IE0004142	Cregganna Marsh SPA	162.78
IE0004143	Cahore Marshes SPA	191.52
IE0004144	High Island, Inishshark and Davillaun SPA	1216.95
IE0004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	144.41
IE0004146	Malin Head SPA	281.07
IE0004148	Fanad Head SPA	136.07
IE0004149	Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA	296.43
IE0004150	West Donegal Coast SPA	3376.56
IE0004151	Donegal Bay SPA	10455.87
IE0004152	Inishmore SPA	1917.63
IE0004153	Dingle Peninsula SPA	4153.23
IE0004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA	3486.97
IE0004155	Beara Peninsula SPA	2612.08
IE0004156	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA	2500.11
IE0004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	229.68
IE0004159	Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands SPA	3377.68
IE0004160	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA	21774.46
IE0004161	Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA	56648.85

Site Code	Site Name	Site Area (ha)
IE0004162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA	4975.63
IE0004165	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	20913.05
IE0004167	Slieve Beagh SPA	3455.35
IE0004168	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA	59457.16
IE0004170	Cruagh Island SPA	292.44
IE0004172	Dalkey Islands SPA	83.04
IE0004175	Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA	845.35
IE0004177	Bills Rocks SPA	149.66
IE0004181	Connemara Bog Complex SPA	19233.97
IE0004182	Mid-Clare Coast SPA	4638.65
IE0004186	The Murrough SPA	940.78
IE0004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	1733.55
IE0004188	Tralee Bay Complex SPA	3655.61
IE0004189	Kerry Head SPA	961.84
IE0004190	Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA	416.1
IE0004191	Seven Heads SPA	446.85
IE0004192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	784.32
IE0004193	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA	937.06
IE0004194	Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA	2385.34
IE0004212	Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA	26.74
IE0004219	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	1298.71
IE0004220	Corofin Wetlands SPA	599.86
IE0004221	Illaunnanoon SPA	19.78
IE0004227	Mullet Peninsula SPA	325.55
IE0004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA	6457.58
IE0004230	West Donegal Islands SPA	1128.68
IE0004231	Inishbofin, Omey Island and Turbot Island SPA	171.47
IE0004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	460.14
IE0004233	River Nore SPA	414.57
IE0004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	235.41
IE0004235	Doogort Machair SPA	116.43
IE0004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	233342.95
IE0004237	Seas off Wexford SPA	305406.41

A.3 SACs in Northern Ireland

Table A 3: SACs in Northern Ireland

Site Code	Site Name
UK0030318	Aughnadarragh Lough
UK0030319	Ballykilbeg
UK0016599	Ballynahone Bog
UK0030083	Banagher Glen
UK0030089	Binevenagh
UK0016609	Black Bog
UK0030097	Breen Wood
UK0030110	Carn-Glenshane Pass
UK0030116	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River
UK0030321	Cranny Bogs
UK0016603	Cuilcagh Mountain
UK0030322	Curran Bog
UK0030323	Dead Island Bog
UK0030324	Deroran Bog
UK0016620	Derryleckagh
UK0016615	Eastern Mournes
UK0016611	Fairy Water Bogs
UK0030068	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs
UK0016606	Garron Plateau
UK0016610	Garry Bog
UK0030169	Hollymount
UK0030045	Largalinny
UK0030180	Lecale Fens
UK0030047	Lough Melvin
UK0016621	Magheraveely Marl Loughs
UK0016613	Magilligan
UK0030199	Main Valley Bogs
UK0016619	Monawilkin
UK0030211	Moneygal Bog
UK0030212	Moninea Bog
UK0030214	Montiaghs Moss
UK0030233	Owenkillew River
UK0030236	Peatlands Park
UK0016607	Pettigoe Plateau

Site Code	Site Name
UK0030244	Rea`s Wood and Farr`s Bay
UK0030361	River Faughan and Tributaries
UK0030320	River Foyle and Tributaries
UK0030360	River Roe and Tributaries
UK0030268	Rostrevor Wood
UK0016622	Slieve Beagh
UK0030277	Slieve Gullion
UK0016608	Teal Lough
UK0030325	Tonnagh Beg Bog
UK0030326	Tully Bog
UK0030291	Turmennan
UK0030296	Upper Ballinderry River
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne
UK0030300	West Fermanagh Scarplands
UK0030303	Wolf Island Bog
UK0030084	Bann Estuary
UK0016612	Murlough
UK0030224	North Antrim Coast
UK0030055	Rathlin Island
UK0030365	Red Bay
UK0030383	Skerries and Causeway
UK0016618	Strangford Lough
UK0030384	The Maidens
UK0030399	North Channel

[1] Not listed on the DAERA website. Information available at jncc.gov.uk/our-work/north-channel-mpa/

A.4 SPAs in Northern Ireland

Table A 4: SPAs in Northern Ireland

Site Code	Site Name
UK9020301	Antrim Hills
UK9020290	Belfast Lough Open Water
UK9020101	Belfast Lough
UK9020161	Carlingford Lough
UK9020291	Copeland Islands
UK9020221	Killough Bay
UK9020042	Larne Lough

Site Code	Site Name
UK9020031	Lough Foyle
UK9020091	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg
UK9020271	Outer Ards
UK9020051	Pettigoe Plateau
UK9020011	Rathlin Island
UK9020021	Sheep Island
UK9020302	Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad – Lisnaskea
UK9020111	Strangford Lough
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne
TBC	East Coast Marine pSPA[1]
TBC	Carlingford Marine pSPA[1]

[1] Potential SPAs. Site codes have not been confirmed.

A.5 RAMSAR sites in Northern Ireland

Table A 5: RAMSAR sites in Northern Ireland

Site Code	Site Name
UK12001	Ballynahone Bog
UK12002	Belfast Lough
UK12003	Black Bog
UK12004	Carlingford Lough
UK12005	Cuilcagh Mountain
UK12008	Fairy Water Bogs
UK12009	Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs
UK12010	Garron Plateau
UK12011	Garry Bog
UK12012	Killough Bay
UK12013	Larne Lough
UK12014	Lough Foyle
UK12016	Lough Neagh and Lough Beg
UK12017	Magheraveely Marl Loughs
UK12018	Outer Ards
UK12019	Pettigoe Plateau
UK12020	Slieve Beagh
UK12021	Strangford Lough
UK12023	Turmennan Lough
UK12024	Upper Lough Erne

Site Code	Site Name
UK12006	Derryleckagh[1]
UK12022	Teal Lough[1]

[1] Proposed sites. Information from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), last updated January 2025.

Qualifying Habitats and Species B.1 Habitats and Species in Ireland

Table B 1: Qualifying Habitats for SACs in Ireland[10]

Habitat Code	Habitat	No. of SACs	Conservation Status[1]
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*	63	Inadequate, Deteriorating
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	62	Bad, Improving
4030	European dry heaths	59	Bad, Deteriorating
7110	Active raised bogs	55	Bad, Improving
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog	55	Bad, Deteriorating
1170	Reefs	48	Bad, Stable
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")	48	Inadequate, Deteriorating
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	47	Bad, Deteriorating
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	45	Bad, Deteriorating
3180	Turloughs	45	Inadequate, Stable
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	43	Inadequate, Stable
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	41	Bad, Deteriorating
7230	Alkaline fens	39	Bad, Deteriorating
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	39	Inadequate, Deteriorating
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	39	Bad, Deteriorating
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites)	38	Bad, Deteriorating
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	36	Inadequate, Deteriorating
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	35	Bad, Stable
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	35	Inadequate, Stable
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)	34	Inadequate, Deteriorating
91E0	Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*)	28	Bad, Deteriorating
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	28	Inadequate, Stable
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*)	28	Inadequate, Unknown
1150	Coastal lagoons	25	Bad, Deteriorating

[10] *Designated site data | National Parks & Wildlife Service (website)*

Habitat Code	Habitat	No. of SACs	Conservation Status[1]
8240	Limestone pavements	25	Inadequate, Stable
1310	*Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	25	Bad, Deteriorating
2190	Humid dune slacks	24	Inadequate, Deteriorating
5130	*Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	23	Favourable, Stable
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflora* and/or of the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*	23	Bad, Deteriorating
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	22	Bad, Deteriorating
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	22	Inadequate, Stable
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)	21	Inadequate, Stable
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	21	Inadequate, Deteriorating
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	20	Bad, Deteriorating
1130	Estuaries	19	Bad, Stable
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.	19	Bad, Stable
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	18	Inadequate, Stable
7210	Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davalliana*	17	Bad, Deteriorating
6410	*Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caerulea*)	17	Bad, Deteriorating
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	14	Inadequate, Stable
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpina* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)	14	Inadequate, Stable
2170	Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenaria*)	13	Inadequate, Deteriorating
91D0	Bog woodland	12	Bad, Deteriorating
6230	Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	12	Bad, Deteriorating
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	12	Favourable, Stable
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)	11	Inadequate, Deteriorating
6510	Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*)	11	Bad, Improving
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	10	Inadequate, Improving
8310	Caves not open to the public	9	Favourable, Improving

Habitat Code	Habitat	No. of SACs	Conservation Status[1]
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation	9	Inadequate, Unknown
3270	Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodion rubri* p.p. and *Bidention* p.p. vegetation	7	Inadequate, Deteriorating
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	6	Bad, Deteriorating
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminaria*	5	Inadequate, Deteriorating
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*	5	Favourable, Stable
91J0	*Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles	5	Bad, Stable
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	4	Favourable, Stable
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)	3	Inadequate, Stable
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)	2	Bad, Stable
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	1	Favourable, Stable

Data correct as 15 May 2024. Names taken from 2025 status and may vary from those recorded in other documents and publications.

Table B 2: Qualifying species for SACs in Ireland

Species Code	Species Name	No. of SACs	Conservation Status[1]
1355	Otter *Lutra lutra*	45	Favourable, Stable
1303	Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*	42	Inadequate, Improving
1106	Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*	26	Bad, Deteriorating
1833	Slender Naiad *Najas flexilis*	24	Bad, Deteriorating
1395	Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*	21	Favourable, Stable
1029	Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*	19	Bad, Deteriorating
6985	Killarney Fern *Vandenboschia speciosa*[2]	18	Favourable, Stable
1351	Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*	16	Inadequate, Stable
1092	White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	15	Bad, Deteriorating
1013	Geyer's Whorl Snail *Vertigo geyeri*	13	Bad, Deteriorating

Species Code	Species Name	No. of SACs	Conservation Status[1]
1014	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior*	13	Bad, Deteriorating
1365	Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*	13	Favourable, Stable
1065	Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*	12	Favourable, Improving
1095	Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	12	Bad, Deteriorating
1096	Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*	10	Favourable, Stable
1099	River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*	10	Inadequate, Unknown
1349	Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*	10	Favourable, Stable
1364	Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*	10	Favourable, Improving
6216	Shining Sickle Moss *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*[3]	9	Favourable, Stable
1016	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*	8	Inadequate, Deteriorating
1024	Kerry Slug *Geomalacus maculosus*	7	Favourable, Improving
1528	Marsh Saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus*	6	Favourable, Stable
1103	Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax*	4	Bad, Deteriorating
5046	Killarney Shad *Alosa killarnensis*	1	Favourable, Stable
~~1990~~	~~Margaritifera durrovensis~~[4]	~~1~~	N/A

[1] NPWS (2025). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 3: Species Assessments.

[2] Formerly known as *Trichomanes speciosum* (species 1421)

[3] Also known as Slender green feather-moss

[4] Now a junior synonym of Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* (species 1029)

Information on the conservation status of bird species is taken from 'Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland' (BoCCI 4) (Gilbert G, Stanbury A and Lewis L (2021). Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026. Irish Birds 9: 523-544.

Additional information on the status and trends for bird species for the period 2008-2012 is available from NPWS (The status and trends of Ireland's bird species – Article 12 Reporting).

Table B 3 Qualifying Bird Species for SPAs in Ireland

Species Code	Species Name[1]	No. of SPAs	Conservation Status[2]
A200	Razorbill *Alca torda*	12	Red
A229	Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*	2	Amber
A054	Long-tailed Duck *Anas acuta*	11	Amber
A056	Northern Shoveler *Anas (Spatula) clypeata*	15	Red
A052	Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*	21	Amber
A050	Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*	25	Amber
A053	Mallard *Anas (Mareca) platyrhynchos*	9	Amber
A051	Gadwall *Anas (Mareca) strepera*	4	Amber
A395	Greenland White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*[3]	29	Amber
A043	Greylag Goose *Anser anser*	8	Amber
A028	Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*	4	Green
A169	Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*	11	Amber
A059	Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*	6	Red
A061	Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*	11	Amber
A062	Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*	5	Red
A046	Pale-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*[4]	24	Amber
A045	Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*	22	Amber
A067	Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*	6	Red
A144	Sanderling *Calidris alba*	15	Green
A149	Dunlin *Calidris alpina*	23	Red
A466	Southern Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*[5]	6	Red
A143	Red Knot *Calidris canutus*	13	Red
A148	Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*	4	Red
A137	Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*	15	Amber
A179	Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	21	Amber
A082	Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*	8	Amber
A122	Corn Crake *Crex crex*	10	Red
A037	Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*[6]	3	Red
A038	Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*	22	Amber
A098	Merlin *Falco columbarius*	7	Amber

Species Code	Species Name[1]	No. of SPAs	Conservation Status[2]
A103	Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*	10	Green
A204	Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*	11	Red
A125	Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*	12	Amber
A009	Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*	19	Amber
A002	Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*	1	Amber
A003	Common Diver *Gavia immer*	5	Amber
A001	Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*	8	Amber
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*	16	Red
A014	European Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*	11	Amber
A184	European Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*	20	Amber
A182	Common Gull *Larus canus*	22	Amber
A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*	16	Amber
A187	Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*	1	Green
A176	Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*	1	Amber
A177	Little Gull *Larus (Hydrocoloeus) minutus*	1	Amber
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*	24	Red
A156	Blac-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*	25	Red
A065	Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*	10	Red
A069	Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*	10	Amber
A016	Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*	4	Amber
A160	Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*	19	Red
A015	Leach's Storm Petrel *Oceanodroma (Hydrobates) leucorhoa*	1	Red
A018	European Shag *Phalacrocorax (Gulosus) aristotelis*	16	Amber
A017	Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*	24	Amber
A140	European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*	36	Red
A141	Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*	21	Red
A007	Horned Grebe *Podiceps auritus*	1	Red
A005	Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*	9	Amber
A013	Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*	7	Amber
A346	Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	18	Amber
A188	Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*	19	Red
A063	Common Eider *Somateria mollissima*	1	Red
A195	Little Tern *Sterna (Sternula) albifrons*	10	Amber
A192	Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*	6	Amber
A193	Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*	15	Amber
A194	Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*	18	Amber

Species Code	Species Name[1]	No. of SPAs	Conservation Status[2]
A191	Sandwich Tern *Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis*	10	Amber
A004	Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*	6	Green
A048	Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*	17	Amber
A164	Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*	3	Green
A162	Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*	21	Red
A199	Common Murre *Uria aalge*	13	Amber
A142	Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*	23	Red

1 Synonyms included in parentheses where taxonomy differs between the SAC and BoCCI4 species lists.

2 Gilbert, Stanbury & Lewis (2021). Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland 4 (BoCCI4). Irish Birds 43: 1-22.

3 This is the 'Greenland' subspecies of the White-fronted Goose, which breeds in Greenland.

4 This subspecies breeds in the high Arctic (Canada, Greenland, Svalbard).

5 The 'Southern' subspecies of Dunlin which breeds in southern Norway, the Baltic, the UK, Ireland, Iceland and Greenland. This subspecies is not specifically referred to in BoCCI4; it has been assigned red status as a precaution for the purpose of this assessment.

6 'Bewick's Swan' is a subspecies of the Tundra Swan that breeds in Arctic Russia.

B.2 Habitats and Species in Northern Ireland

Table B 4: Habitats for SACs in Northern Ireland

Habitat Code	Habitat	No. of SACs	Conservation Status
7110	Active raised bogs	15	Unfavourable-Bad
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles	13	Unfavourable-Bad
7130	Blanket bogs	8	Unfavourable-Bad
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation	5	Unfavourable-Bad
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	5	Unfavourable-Bad
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	4	Unfavourable-Bad
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes')	4	Unfavourable-Bad
2130	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	4	Unfavourable-Bad
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	4	Unfavourable-Bad
4030	European dry heaths	4	Unfavourable-Bad
7230	Alkaline fens	4	Unfavourable-Bad
H1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	4	Favourable
1170	Reefs	3	Unfavourable-Bad
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	3	Favourable
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	3	Unfavourable-Bad
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*	3	Unfavourable-Bad
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	3	Unfavourable-Bad
91D0	Bog woodland	3	Unfavourable-Bad
91E0	Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion alvae*)	3	Unfavourable-Bad
2170	Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)	2	Unfavourable-Bad
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation	2	Unfavourable-Bad
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	2	Unfavourable-Bad
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*), (note that this includes the priority feature "important orchid rich sites")	2	Unfavourable-Inadequate

Habitat Code	Habitat	No. of SACs	Conservation Status
6230	Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)	2	Unfavourable-Bad
6410	*Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)	2	Unfavourable-Bad
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	2	Unfavourable-Bad
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia al*pinae and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)	2	Unfavourable-Bad
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	2	Unfavourable-Bad
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	2	Unknown
9180	*Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines	2	Unfavourable-Bad
H1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	2	Favourable
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	1	Favourable
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	1	Unfavourable-Bad
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	1	Un favourable-Inadequate
1310	*Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand	1	Unfavourable-Bad
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)	1	Unfavourable-Bad
2190	Humid dune slacks	1	Unfavourable-Bad
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.	1	Unfavourable-Bad
3180	Turloughs	1	Unfavourable-Bad
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	1	Unfavourable-Bad
7210	Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*	1	Unfavourable-Bad
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)	1	Unknown
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)	1	Unfavourable-Bad
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	1	Unfavourable-Bad
8240	Limestone pavements	1	Unfavourable-Bad
H1150	Coastal lagoons	1	Unfavourable-Inadequate

[1] Conservation status of habitats and species sourced from Maddox, L., Flood, M., Vallely, M-C., Carmichael, N., and Moore, C., (2026). *Habitats Regulations Overview Report for the Reporting Period 2019-2024 Northern Ireland - The Conservation Status of Terrestrial and Marine Habitats and non-bird Species - Regulation 3ZA of the Conservation Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).* Natural Science Evidence Series. No. 26/02, Belfast, Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Table B 5: Species for SACs in Northern Ireland

Species Code	Species Name	No. of SACs	Conservation Status[1]
1355	Otter *Lutra lutra*	6	Unfavourable-Bad
1106	Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*	5	Unfavourable-Bad
S1065	Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas* (*Eurodryas*, *Hypodryas*) *aurinia*	5	Favourable
1365	Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*	4	Unfavourable-Bad
1351	Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*	3	Unfavourable-Bad (based on two UK Management Units, West Scotland and Celtic & Irish Seas)
1528	Marsh Saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus*	3	Unfavourable-Bad
1364	Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus*	2	Favourable
1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*	1	Unfavourable-Inadequate
1029	Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*	1	Unfavourable-Bad
1092	White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	1	Unfavourable-Bad
1349	Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*	1	Unknown
1395	Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*	1	Unfavourable-Bad

[1] Conservation status of habitats and species sourced from Maddox, L., Flood, M., Vallely, M-C., Carmichael, N., and Moore, C., (2026). *Habitats Regulations Overview Report for the Reporting Period 2019-2024 Northern Ireland - The Conservation Status of Terrestrial and Marine Habitats and non-bird Species - Regulation 3ZA of the Conservation Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).* Natural Science Evidence Series. No. 26/02, Belfast, Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Appendix C Third Schedule Non-Native Species

Table C-1 presents Third Schedule non-native animal species listed in Ireland. These listings came into force in 2024. Most species are listed for the whole of Ireland; note that some species (identified in the footnote) are only classed as invasive species on offshore islands. These are species that pose a current or potential future threat to island biodiversity, especially seabird breeding colonies.

Outcomes of two risk assessments are also provided to inform risk assessment under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Some of the fauna listed below have been subject to a comprehensive risk assessment using the Non-native species Application based Risk Analysis (NAPRA) tool v. 2.66, in a joint project by Inland Fisheries Ireland and the National Biodiversity Data Centre, supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Of the remaining species, some have been assessed under the rapid prioritisation risk assessment by Invasive Species Ireland.

Table C 1: Third-schedule Non-native Fauna Species

Higher classification	Species Name	Environment	Risk assessment[1]	Risk assessment confidence[2]
Tunicate	Colonial sea squirts *Didemnum* spp.	Marine	High impact (21)	N/A
Tunicate	A colonial sea squirt *Perophora japonica*	Marine	not assessed	—
Crustacean	All freshwater crayfish species except the white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*	Freshwater	**Major:** ***Astacus astacus*** ***A. leptodactylus*** ***Oronectes limosus*** ***Pacifastacus leniusculus*** ***Procambarus spp.***	**Very High**
Amphibian	American bullfrog *Rana (Lithobates) catesbeiana*	Terrestrial	**Major**	**Medium**
Mammal	American mink *Neogale (Neovison) vison*	Terrestrial	High impact (20)	N/A
Mollusc	American oyster drill *Urosalpinx cinerea*	Marine	not assessed	—
Mollusc	Asian oyster drill *Ceratostoma inornatum*	Marine	not assessed	—
Mollusc	Asian rapa whelk *Rapana venosa*	Marine	not assessed	—
Bivalve	Asian river clam *Corbicula fluminea*	Freshwater	**Major**	**High**
Crustacean	Bay barnacle *Balanus improvisus*	Marine	Medium impact (15)	N/A
Mammal	Black rat *Rattus rattus*[3]	Terrestrial	High impact (22)	N/A
Mammal	Brown hare *Lepus europaeus*	Terrestrial	High impact (21)	N/A
Mammal	Brown rat *Rattus norvegicus*[3]	Terrestrial	High impact (24)	N/A

Higher classification	Species Name	Environment	Risk assessment[1]	Risk assessment confidence[2]
Bird	Canada goose *Branta canadensis*	Terrestrial	High impact (18)	N/A
Ray-finned Fish	Carp *Cyprinus carpio* except Koi Carp	Freshwater	**Moderate to Major**	**Medium**
Crustacean	Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*	Freshwater (Estuarine)	High impact (21)	N/A
Mammal	Chinese water deer *Hydropotes inermis*	Terrestrial	**Moderate**	**Medium**
Ray-finned Fish	Chub *Leuciscus cephalus*	Freshwater	**Moderate**	**Medium**
Amphibian	Common toad *Bufo bufo*	Terrestrial	**Moderate**	**High**
Mammal	Coypu *Myocastor coypus*	Terrestrial	High impact (20)	N/A
Ray-finned Fish	Dace *Leuciscus leuciscus*	Freshwater	Medium impact (17)	N/A
Mammal	Fallow deer *Dama dama*	Terrestrial	High impact (21)	N/A
Mammal	Fox *Vulpes vulpes*[3]	Terrestrial	not assessed	—
Crustacean	Freshwater Shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*[3]	Freshwater	not assessed	—
Mammal	Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*	Terrestrial	High impact (20)	N/A
Bird	Greylag goose *Anser anser*	Terrestrial	not assessed	—
Insect (Beetle)	Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*	Terrestrial	High impact (19)	N/A
Mammal	Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*[3]	Terrestrial	not assessed	—
Mammal	Irish stoat *Mustela erminea hibernicus*[3]	Terrestrial	not assessed	—
Crustacean	Japanese skeleton shrimp *Caprella mutica*	Marine	Medium impact (16)	N/A
Mammal	Muntjac deer *Muntiacus reevesi*	Terrestrial	**Moderate**	**Medium**
Mammal	Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*	Terrestrial	not assessed	—
Bivalve	Quagga Mussel *Dreissena rostriformis*	Freshwater	not assessed	—
Bivalve	Zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*	Freshwater	High impact (19)	N/A

[1] Risk assessment information sourced from two separate assessments. Information in bold is from the NAPRA detailed risk assessment; information not in bold is from the rapid prioritisation risk assessments.

[2] Risk assessment confidence only applies to NAPRA risk assessment.

[3] Species non-native invasive status only applies to offshore islands. All other species are invasive throughout the State.

Table C-2 presents Third Schedule non-native plants. As per Table C-1 above, outcomes of risk assessments (either comprehensive ecological assessments where available, or rapid assessments to prioritise invasive species by risk level) are also provided. In the case of invasive flora, all species are listed as invasive across the entirely of Ireland. Again, all species were listed in 2024.

Table C 2: Third-schedule Non-native Flora Species

Species Name	Environment	Risk assessment[1]	Risk assessment confidence[2]
American skunk-cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*	Freshwater	**Major**	**Medium**
A red alga *Grateloupia doryphora*		*not assessed*	—
Brazilian giant-rhubarb *Gunnera manicata*	Terrestrial	**Minimal**	**Low**
Broad-leaved rush *Juncus planifolius*	Terrestrial	**Minor**	**Medium**
Cape pondweed *Aponogeton distachyos*	Freshwater	**Minor to Moderate**	**Low**
Cord-grasses *Spartina* (all species and hybrids)	Terrestrial	High impact (18)	N/A
Curly waterweed *Lagarosiphon major*	Freshwater	**Major**	**Very High**
Dwarf eel-grass *Zostera japonica*	Marine	*not assessed*	—
Fanwort *Cabomba caroliniana*	Freshwater	*not assessed*	—
Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	Freshwater	**Major**	**High**
Fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*	Freshwater	**Moderate to Major**	**High**
Giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*	Terrestrial	High impact (19)	N/A
Giant knotweed *Reynoutria sachalinensis*	Terrestrial	*not assessed*	—
Giant-rhubarb *Gunnera tinctoria*	Terrestrial	**Major**	**Medium**
Giant salvinia *Salvinia molesta*	Freshwater	*not assessed*	—
Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*	Terrestrial	**Major**	**Medium**
Himalayan knotweed *Koenigia polystachya*	Terrestrial	*not assessed*	—
Hottentot-fig *Carpobrotus edulis*	Terrestrial	**Major**	**Medium**

Species Name	Environment	Risk assessment[1]	Risk assessment confidence[2]
Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*	Terrestrial	*not assessed*	—
Large-flowered waterweed *Egeria densa*	Freshwater	**Moderate to Major**	**Medium**
Mile-a-minute weed *Polygonum perfoliatum* (syn. *Persicaria perfoliolata*)	Freshwater	**Major**	**Medium**
New Zealand pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*	Freshwater	**Major**	**Very High**
Parrot 's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*	Freshwater	**Moderate to Major**	**Medium**
Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* (including *R.x superponticum*)	Terrestrial	**Major to Massive**	**High**
Salmonberry *Rubus spectabilis*	Freshwater	**Moderate to Major**	**High**
Sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*	Marine	**Moderate**	**Medium**
Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*	Terrestrial	**Minor**	**Medium**
Three-cornered leek *Allium triquetrum*	Freshwater	**Moderate**	**Medium**
Wakame *Undaria pinnatifida*	Marine	High impact (19)	N/A
Water chestnut *Trapa natans*	Freshwater	*not assessed*	—
Water fern *Azolla filiculoides*	Freshwater	**Moderate to Major**	**Very High**
Water-primrose *Ludwigia* (all species)	Freshwater	**Major**	**High**
Waterweeds *Elodea* (all species except *Elodea canadensis*)	Freshwater	**Major (*E. nuttallii*)**	**Very High**
Wireweed *Sargassum muticum*	Marine	High impact (18)	N/A

[1] Risk assessment information sourced from two separate assessments. Information in bold is from the NAPRA detailed risk assessment; information not in bold is from the rapid prioritisation risk assessments.

[2] Risk assessment confidence only applies to NAPRA risk assessment.

Appendix D Relevant Legislation

List of Legislative Acts

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive).

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011).

Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive).

Directive 2009/42/EC (as indicated in the text – referred to as the "Birds Directive"; note: the currently applicable Birds Directive is 2009/147/EC, but the original wording has been retained).

European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004.

European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.