

# MEATH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 – 2029

## APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING AND NATURA IMPACT REPORT

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# Environmental Assessment **Built Environment**

Client:

Meath County Council

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This document comprises an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) and Natura Impact Report (NIR), prepared in order to support the Appropriate Assessment of the proposed *Meath County Council (MCC) Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029* (hereafter referred to as - “MCC CAP”), in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

Meath County Council (MCC) has prepared the *Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029* for the County to promote best practice in climate action, at the local level. The MCC CAP aligns with the Irish Government’s overall National Climate Objective, which seeks to achieve a transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by no later than the end of 2050. This also aligns with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which frames Ireland’s legally binding climate ambition, to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% by 2030.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 specifically requires all local authorities in Ireland to prepare a Climate Action Plan, in consideration of wider national climate and energy targets, addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures. The MCC CAP has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines*, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (March 2023).

The MCC CAP sets out the responsibility of Meath County Council for enhancing climate resilience, increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, across its own assets, services and infrastructure, for which it is fully accountable, while also demonstrating a broader role in influencing, advocating and facilitating other sectors to meet their own climate targets and ambitions.

The potential impacts on European sites (also known as Natura 2000 sites), both as a result of the MCC CAP and in-combination with other plans and projects, are appraised in this report.

This report should be read in conjunction with the MCC CAP and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Environmental Report prepared by Brady Shipman Martin.

## 1.2 Expertise and Qualifications

This Report has been prepared by Namrata Kaile, Ecologist and Environmental Consultant with Brady Shipman Martin. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree (BSc) in Life Sciences from University of Delhi and a Master’s Degree (MSc) with distinction in Environmental Sciences from Trinity College Dublin. She is an associate member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and has been working professionally in the field of environmental consultancy for the last four years. Namrata is experienced in drafting and reviewing AA Screening Reports, EIA Screening Reports as well as in coordination of EIARs. She is also experienced in undertaking baseline ecological surveys and preparing Ecological Impact Assessments Reports (EclIA).

A technical review of this document has been completed by Senior Ecologist and Associate, Matthew Hague BSc MSc Adv. Dip. Plan. & Env. Law CEnv MCIEEM. Matthew is a highly experienced and qualified ecologist, with a master’s degree in Ecosystem Conservation and Landscape Management. He has over

20 years of experience in ecological and environmental consultancy, across a wide range of sectors. Matthew is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Matthew has also completed an Advanced Diploma in Planning and Environmental Law, at King’s Inns and is a member of the Irish Environmental Law Association (IELA).

### 1.3 Legal requirement for Appropriate Assessment

European sites make up a network of sites designated for nature conservation under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the “Habitats Directive”) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the “Birds Directive”). The requirements for Appropriate Assessment are set out under *Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*, transposed into Irish law by the *European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)* (the “Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations”) and the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 - 2023* (the “Planning Acts”).

European sites are also known as Natura 2000 Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)). As defined in section 177R of the Planning Acts “European site” means:

- (a) a candidate site of Community importance,
- (b) a site of Community importance,
- (ba) a candidate special area of conservation,
- (c) a special area of conservation,
- (d) a candidate special protection area and
- (e) a special protection area.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states that:

*“(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have 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 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.”*

The first test is to establish whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, appropriate assessment is required. Sections 177U of the Planning Acts requires that the AA screening test must be applied to the Masterplan, as follows:

- To assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site;

An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the development (plan or project), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

### 1.3.1 Stages in the Appropriate Assessment Process

There are four main stages in the AA process and are as follows:

#### 1.3.1.1 Stage 1 - Screening

The stage identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

#### 1.3.1.2 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects.

#### 1.3.1.3 Stage 3 – Alternative Solutions

This stage examines any alternative solutions or options that could enable the plan or project to proceed without adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

#### 1.3.1.4 Stage 4 – Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

Stage 4 examines whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) for allowing a plan or project that will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site to proceed in cases where it has been established that no less damaging alternative solution exists.

## 1.4 Baseline data collection

This report takes the following guidance documents into account:

- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine, September 2018, updated in September 2019 (V1.1), further updated in April 2022 (V1.2)*;
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) (2010a). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*;
- DoEHLG (2010b). *Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10: Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*;
- European Commission (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 (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*;
- Directorate – General for Environment (European Commission), (2021). *Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community Interest under the Habitats Directive*;



- National Roads Authority (NRA)<sup>1</sup> (2009). *Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes*;
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021). *Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*;
- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2021). *Guidance for Public authorities on the Application of Articles 12 and 16 of the EU Habitats Directive to development/works undertaken by or on behalf of a Public authority*.

Information was collated from the organisations and websites listed below:

- Data on European sites and rare and protected plant and animal species contained in the following databases:
  - The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht ([www.NPWS.ie](http://www.NPWS.ie));
  - The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) ([www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie));
  - BirdWatch Ireland ([www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie));
  - Bat Conservation Ireland ([www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)).
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (<http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>);
- Recent and historical OSi mapping and aerial photography, including [www.geohive.ie](http://www.geohive.ie);
- Information on local watercourses from [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie);
- Information on water quality in the area ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie));
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie));
- Information on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (Article 17 report) (NPWS, August 2019);
- Third National Biodiversity Plan 2017 – 2021 (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2017);
- Meath County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 and the accompanying reports;

The report takes full account of the details of the MCC CAP and a detailed examination of all relevant elements was undertaken. The Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report (Brady Shipman Martin, 2023) was also reviewed in the preparation of this report.

A desk-based assessment of the receiving environment was undertaken and this focussed on habitats and species that are listed as Qualifying Interests (QI) (in the case of SACs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) (in the case of SPAs) for European sites. An assessment of habitat suitability for species with links to European sites was undertaken, in order to appraise the potential for *ex-situ* effects on European sites.

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<sup>1</sup> Now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

## 2 Meath County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

### 2.1 Introduction

Meath County Council (MCC) has prepared the *Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029* (“MCC CAP”) for the County to promote best practice in climate action, at the local level. As previously stated, the MCC CAP aligns with the Irish Government’s overall National Climate Objective, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines*, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (March 2023). The MCC CAP also takes account of other relevant climate legislation and policy, a climate change risk assessment and a climate mitigation baseline assessment at a County scale. The CAP is set within a broader context of international, EU, national and sectoral climate policy.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021 commits Ireland to reach a legally binding target to deliver a reduction of 51% by 2030. An overall emission reduction of 2,170 ktCO<sub>2</sub>eq is required for the County Meath across all sectors to achieve the target to reduce GHG emissions by 51% by 2030.

The MCC CAP sets a pathway for Meath to actively translate national climate policy to local circumstances with evidence-based measures, to assist in achieving the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels and to identify and deliver ‘Decarbonising Zones’ within Meath to act as a test for a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures in a specifically defined area, through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.

### 2.2 Climate Action Plan – Vision, Mission and Targets

The MCC CAP sets out the following:

#### 2.2.1 Vision

*Meath aims to be a climate resilient, biodiverse rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy that supports healthy lifestyles and jobs growth.*

#### 2.2.2 Mission

*Meath County Council is committed to lead in translating the National Climate Policy into local actions through inclusive engagement, capacity building and leadership to the people of County Meath.*

#### 2.2.3 Targets

*Meath County Council’s Climate Action Plan contains four key targets, as follows:*

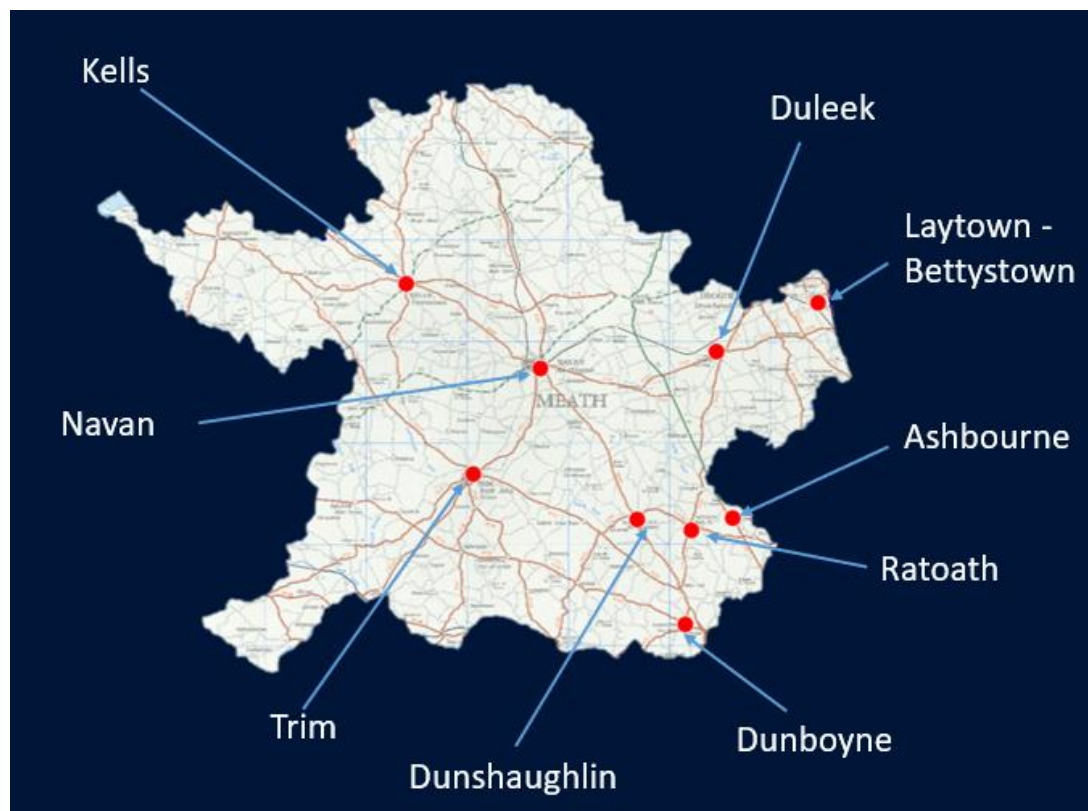
- *Energy Efficiency – 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030*
- *GHG Reduction – 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030*
- *Resilience – Making Meath a climate resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate-change related events*
- *Awareness – Actively engaging and informing citizens, communities and businesses on climate change*

## 2.3 Content of the Climate Action Plan

The MCC CAP has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines*, published by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (March 2023) and has been set out as follows:

- Evidence based climate action within the administrative area of Meath County Council has been presented, including:
  - Climate Change Risk Assessment – A summary of the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) findings for County Meath which has been established using details of past climate events and contemporary data sources as evidence, coupled with a determination of the potential future climate risks predicted for the County as a result of a changing climate; and
  - Baseline Emissions Inventory – A summary of the Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) for County Meath which establishes the current greenhouse gas emissions from all sources (transport, residential, commercial, agriculture, municipal, social housing, wastewater and waste) for the set baseline year (2018).
- Decarbonising Zones (DZs), including Strategic Priority Areas – The nine DZs described in the CAP are Ashbourne, Duleek, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Laytown/Bettystown, Kells, Navan, Ratoath and Trim (refer to **Figure 2.1**). The four main sectors where the emissions were material across the nine DZs are residential, manufacturing & commercial, transport and waste.

**Figure 2.1 The nine Decarbonising Zones (DZs) to be identified in the MCC CAP**



- Meath County Council's approach to implementing climate action – this includes opportunities of climate action, action planning, MCC's scope and role on Climate Action, environmental governance, MCC's climate role, funding and collaboration.

- The Plan provides an overview of climate change legislation and policy- MCC CAP is set within a broader context of international, EU, national and sectoral climate policy.
- The framework for climate actions across five different Thematic Areas – to address both mitigation and adaptation. These are described in Section 3.3.1.
- The Council’s approach to measuring progress and reporting on actions over the lifetime of the Plan – this will include internal monitoring and reporting, reporting to Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) on progress regarding climate action at county level as part of the delivery of the national climate objective via CARO reporting tool, annual reporting by MCC.

### 2.3.1 Goals, Actions and Tracking Measures

To support the vision and mission of the MCC CAP set out in Section 2.2, strategic goals across five thematic areas have been set to devise objectives and actions under the Plan. The format of the information presented for each Strategic Goal has been aligned with the *Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines 2023* and *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030* (DECA). The actions within the Plan also align with *Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030*, the *National Implementation Plan for SDGs* and *Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027*.

Actions set within the Plan prioritised reduction in emissions from Meath County Council’s own assets and operations, influence sectors in the delivery of their own emission reductions, raise awareness of climate change and promote positive climate action at community level.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 specifically requires all local authorities in Ireland to prepare and make a Climate Action Plan, in consideration of wider national climate and energy targets, addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures, where:

- **Mitigation** relates to changing how we live, move, consume and manufacture, so as to reduce and/or eliminate the production of harmful greenhouse gases, it also includes how we best use our land;
- **Adaptation** refers to dealing with the impacts of climate change and involves taking practical actions to manage risks, protect communities and strengthen the resilience of the economy (e.g. from flooding, sea level rise etc.).

Refer to **Table 2.1** for the strategic goals, actions, tracking measures, timeframe and adaptation and mitigation measures.

Table 2.1 Strategic goals, actions, tracking measures, timeframe and adaptation and mitigation measures for the MCC CAP 2024 - 2029

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
<p><b>Goal 1</b> Develop appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing effective climate action</p> <p><b>Thematic Area</b> Governance &amp; Leadership</p> <p><b>Objective 1.1</b> Support the development and implementation of positive climate action across all services and operations of Meath County Council, collaborating with others to enable and inspire endeavours to reduce their climate impact.</p>	1	Implement ISO 50001 Energy Management System.	Combined	Certification to ISO 50001 attained	Q2 2024	7.3, 13.2
	2	Use green procurement where feasible in all procurement of good and services.	Combined	% Green Public Procurement spend	Annual	13.2
	3	Prepare a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Guidance Document to support the inclusion of the global goals in all plans, strategies and grant programmes published by the LA.	Combined	Document published	QR1 2025	13.2
	4	Mainstreaming of climate mitigation and adaptation considerations into all policies, strategies and plans adopted by LA.	Combined	Climate mitigation and adaptation considered within all LA documents	2024 - 2029	13.2, 16.6, 16.7
	5	Identify an appropriate monitoring and reporting protocol on the implementation of low carbon construction in public tenders and grant schemes.	Combined	Annual Report on embodied, operations and sequestered carbon	QR4 2027	13.2
	6	Undertake annual audits of climate expenditure that considers cost effectiveness, efficiency, governance, relevance, coherence and impacts (environment and societal).	Combined	Annual audit completed and actions identified	Annual	13.2
	7	Identify and put in place appropriate business continuity measures to ensure continuity of service provision during severe weather events.	Combined	Business Continuity Plan published	QR4 2024	13.1, 13.2
	8	Conduct detailed study of staff modal split to identify measures to reduce staff travel emissions.	Mitigation	Study complete and measures identified	QR4 2024	13.2
	9	Organise awareness, information, knowledge sharing and capacity initiatives with staff on mitigation and adaptation measures.	Combined	4 No. staff initiatives annually	Annual	13.3
	10	Delivery of EV Charging Strategy for County Meath.	Mitigation	Strategy published; No. of chargers installed annually	QR4 2025	8.2, 13.2

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
	11	Continue to support and expand the 'Bus It 2 School' Pathfinder Project.	Combined	No. of children transitioning to travelling to school by bus	Q4 2024	13.2, 13.3
	12	Develop strategic partnerships to assist in achieving emissions targets.	Combined	No. of partnerships established	Annual	13.2
	13	Ensure readily available information, advice, knowledge and awareness of climate friendly actions via LA Climate Action Website and social media posts.	Combined	No. of media interactions	Annual	13.3
	14	LA staff to receive climate action training under Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme	Mitigation	No. and percentage of staff trained; Percentage of staff trained in adaptation scenario planning	Annual	15.9, 13.3
<b>Goal 2</b> Achieve local government carbon emissions and energy efficiency Targets for 2030 <b>Thematic Area</b> Built Environment & Transport <b>Objective 2.1</b> Minimize the Council's contribution to climate change by increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon	1	Incorporate biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation actions into the design and delivery of urban regeneration plans.	Combined	No. of regeneration projects with climate action initiatives delivered	Annual	11.1, 11.2
	2	Continue to work with appropriate external stakeholders to deliver social housing at a BER B2 or cost optimal standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, as feasible.	Mitigation	No. of Properties Retrofitted per year; Percentage of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, SuDs and nature based solutions per property	Annual	7.3
	3	Reduce and remove where feasible plastic waste generated, through removing single use plastics within LA owned buildings and services.	Mitigation	Percentage reduction in plastic waste	Annual	12.4, 14.1
	4	Switch to digital marketing and advertising materials wherever possible. Reduce production/waste on programmes and posters.	Mitigation	Percentage of digital marketing/advertising campaigns run	Annual	8.2
	5	Switch out on cleansing products to eco-friendly products	Mitigation	Transition to eco products only	Annual	3.9, 14.1
	6	Introduce water usage conservation measures within LA owned buildings	Combined	Percentage reduction in water usage	Annual	6.1, 12.2

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
emissions, and encouraging sustainable opportunities for the broader County Meath community.	7	Management of municipal waste from LA owned buildings. Increase recycling/organise waste collection and reduce general waste.	Mitigation	Percentage reduction in solid waste annually; Percentage waste recycled from LA waste	Annual	9.1
	8	Management of energy efficient LA fleet including implementation of driving efficiency software and associated eco driving training for all staff driving LA fleet	Mitigation	Fleet management system implemented. Software installed/training delivered	QR1 2027	7.3
	9	Undertake deep retrofit and install renewable energy sources as appropriate on LA owned buildings.	Combined	No. of retrofits on LA owned buildings, member of renewable energy installs completed	Annual	7.3
	10	Construct all new LA properties to A2 Energy Rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, where feasible.	Mitigation	No. Properties Built per year; Percentage of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, SuDs and nature based solutions per development	Annual	7.1, 7.2, 7.3
	11	All Buy and Renew acquisition properties should be retrofitted to a B2 BER rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, as feasible.	Mitigation	No. properties retrofitted per year; percentage of energy efficient design, on-site renewable energy, SuDs and nature-based solutions utilised per development	Annual	7.1, 7.2, 7.3
	12	Increase energy efficiency of ICT Infrastructure.	Mitigation	Ensure energy efficiency requirements form part of the procurement process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure existing components for energy usage (baseline)</li> <li>• Measure future components for energy usage (comparison)</li> </ul>	Annual	7.3
	13	Deliver public lighting LED retrofit project under PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficient Project).	Combined	Percentage reduction in energy usage from LED public lighting	Retrofit programme	7.3

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
				energy efficiencies since baseline year	QR4 2027; Annual	
	14	New Building projects designed to nZEB standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions.	Mitigation	No. of projects completed	Annual	7.1, 7.2, 7.3
	15	Promote the reuse and refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties in town centres and simultaneously promote the sustainable use of these properties for appropriate active town centre uses.	Mitigation	No. of vacant and derelict properties brought back into use	Annual	11.1
	16	Increase active travel usage in town centres through improved sustainable active travel proposals and an enhanced pedestrian and public realm environment.	Mitigation	No. of schemes completed or length of scheme completed.	Annual	3.6, 11.2
	17	Explore the feasibility of sustainable energy and heating solutions in County Meath	Combined	Feasibility report	QR4 2027	7.3
<b>Goal 3</b> Protect and enhance Meath’s natural environment by supporting biodiversity and increasing climate resilience <b>Thematic Area</b> Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure <b>Objective 3.1</b>	1	Installation of water butts at public buildings, to aid tidy towns committees, staff and contractors access a sustainable water source for garden maintenance.	Mitigation	No. of water butts installed	Annual	6.1, 12.2
	2	Commence a programme of auditing of LA lands to carry out ecological and habitat surveys and highlight areas at risk and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage.	Combined	Surveys and action listing; Biodiversity improvement evidenced by monitoring	QR2 2027	15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.9
	3	Develop options for the delivery of a National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions and interim guidance to the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas.	Adaptation	No. of nature based solutions for the management of rainwater and surface run-off	QR2 2025	6.1, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5
	4	Plant native woodland on appropriate LA owned lands.	Combined	Hectares of land planted	Q4 2024	15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.b
	5	Major Emergency Plan - co-ordinate update of emergency response plans and revise based on	Adaptation	Plan updated.	Q4 2024	1.5, 6.3



Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
Support the responsible management, protection and enhancement of Meath’s natural heritage, biodiversity, and natural environment		learnings of response to events, having regard to environment sensitivities				
	6	Critical Infrastructure Routes on the existing network for climate related extreme weather events.	Adaptation	Portal with critical infrastructure routes	QR2 2026	11.2
	7	Develop and implement a County (Local) Biodiversity Action Plan, to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures	Combined	Local Biodiversity Action Plan adopted	Q4 2027	15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.a, 15.b
	8	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned heritage assets (natural, built and cultural). Carry out regular programme of inspection, maintenance and phased conservation works to develop climate resilience.	Combined	Two conservation projects commenced per year. Programme of inspections underway. Risk assessment complete.	Annual	15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.a, 15.b
	9	Carry out an assessment of Section 4 discharges to Water Licenses	Adaptation	No. of Discharge licenses reviewed	Annual	15.1
	10	Support the creation of community gardens through partnership with local communities and external agencies.	Mitigation	No. of community gardens	Annual	2.1
	11	Support and facilitate the planting of groups of trees within the boundary/built footprint of existing built-up areas.	Adaptation	Yearly Measurement	Annual	15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.a, 15.b
<b>Goal 4</b> Mobilise Climate Action in Local Communities, whilst achieving a just transition <b>Thematic Area</b>	1	Installation of water refill stations at public buildings/amenity areas, to reduce the use of single use plastics.	Mitigation	No. of water refill stations installed.	Annual	6.1, 12.2
	2	Expand Trim Air Quality Project to other Decarbonising Zones	Combined	Air quality report for each Decarbonising Zone	Q4 2029	3.9, 14.1
	3	Monitor implementation of flood risk management guidelines in planning applications, having regard to environmental sensitivities e.g. biodiversity, archaeology, amenity value.	Adaptation	Guidelines adhered to	Annual	12.b, 15.5

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
Communities: Resilience & Transition <b>Objective 4.1</b> Promote through collaboration and partnership sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities, focusing on actions which promote health and wellbeing benefits and supports local economies.	4	Expand operation and availability of bike and car share schemes. Promote bike and car share scheme.	Combined	No. and location of bike and car schemes; Percentage usage	Annual	11.2
	5	Identify and map areas most susceptible to climate related extreme weather events on the road network	Adaptation	Portal with susceptible road network mapped areas	QR2 2027	11.2, 11.5
	6	Promote & publicise the benefits of using the Home Energy Kits from the Library.	Mitigation	Number of times the kits dispensed from libraries/number of promotional events held	Annual	7.3
	7	Increase number of safe routes to school scheme, where feasible.	Mitigation	No. of active safe route to school schemes in County	Annual	11.2
	8	To liaise with the OPW in the identification of new or the reinforcement of existing flood defences and protection measures.	Combined	No. of schemes identified	Annual	13.1
	9	Review of Flood events and Flood susceptibility of infrastructure and liaise with relevant MCC Sections and Uisce Éireann to identify assets at risk from flooding/extreme rainfall to inform and implement low-cost 'minor works' flood relief schemes	Combined	No. of schemes identified and implemented	Annual	11.5, 13.1
	10	Carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Study for County Meath and implement the recommendations while prioritising nature based solutions.	Combined	Study complete; No. of recommendations implemented	Study QR4 2024; Implementation ongoing	11.5, 13.1
	11	Develop and provide information on Sustainable Living to engage Council Tenants on how they can reduce consumption of energy, water and waste	Mitigation	Percentage of tenants receiving information	Annual	6.1, 13.3
	12	Promote, support the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme and deliver workshops	Mitigation	No. of active SECs; 2 No. SEC workshops per year	Annual	7.1, 7.2, 7.3
13	Administer and support Strand 1 & 1A of Community Climate Action Programme to deliver selected Climate Action projects.	Combined	Percentage draw down of Community Fund; No. of completed projects	Annual	8.2	

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
	14	Encourage all events approved by MCC to incorporate sustainability and integrated consideration for biodiversity and other environmental sensitives	Mitigation	Guidance produced on Events Updated Terms and Conditions	QR2 2025	11a
	15	Guided by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the GAA and CCMA, towards working together on sustainability and climate action projects, engage with the Green Club Programme through a nominated lead, working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives, and during key phases, of the programme to 2029	Combined	% Clubs Engaged in Green Club Programme	2024-2029	13.3
	16	Develop and introduce a "Greening Festival" funding criteria for a selection of Meath-based festivals.	Mitigation	No. of applications; Evaluation and Recommendations Report	Annual	11.a
<b>Goal 5</b> Create a culture of sustainability, promoting a circular economy throughout the County <b>Thematic Area</b> Sustainability & Resource Management <b>Objective 5.1</b> Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure, focusing on	1	Increase use of recycling and recovery for bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste.	Adaption	10% increase in free events for householders; Metric tonnes of bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste recycled	Annual	12.3, 12.4, 12.5
	2	Increase kerbside collection of Household Organic Waste using Brown Bin Scheme. Countywide Awareness Campaign in relation to roll out of Brown Bin using Radio, Print and social media	Adaption	Campaign carried out Percentage uptake of scheme	QR1 2025	12.3, 12.4, 12.5
	3	Support the establishment of 'Circular Economy Hubs' that act as physical material hubs for the drop-off and recirculation of materials and products from and for both commercial and residential activities	Combined	No. of circular economy hubs	Annual	8.2, 9.2
	4	Engage with businesses and residents to support adoption of reused and recycled materials	Combined	4 No. engagements per year	Annual	9.2
	5	Support locally produced sustainable food products and promote sustainable farm practices.	Combined	4 No. of promotions	Annual	8.2

Strategic Goals	No.	Action	Adaptation / Mitigation	Tracking Measure	Timeframe	UN SDG
prevention, reuse, repair and recycling and promote green business opportunities.	6	Provision of a 2 Day Green for Business Environmental Audit amongst small businesses in the County (1-50 employees).	Mitigation	20 No. businesses availing of the scheme.	Annual	9.4
	7	Support business in their transition via Government initiatives e.g., green for micro	Mitigation	20 No. businesses supported	Annual	9.1, 10.4
	8	Encourage and promote projects that will contribute positively and grow the circular and bioeconomy to promote sustainable rural and urban low carbon economic development	Combined	4 No. of promotions/events held	Annual	8.2, 9.4
	9	Promotion of local jobs and local workspaces to reduce the amount of commuting outside of the county.	Mitigation	2 No. of promotions/events held	Annual	9.1
	10	Support development of enterprise hubs to facilitate remote working	Mitigation	No. of enterprise hubs facilitating remote working	QR3 2025	9.2, 9.4
	11	Implement improved management of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from LA activities.	Combined	Evaluation and recommendation report/s	QR3 2025	9.2
	12	In4Green Urbact Network project: Complete the Integrated Action Plan for Navan. (plan objectives include strengthening walking and cycling, and optimising traffic access to reduce through traffic and to facilitate high quality public transport services; behavioural change linking to 2050 Vision)	Combined	IAP in place	Q3 2025	11.2
	13	Develop a waste management plan with particular attention to the circular economy principles. Promotion of the circular economy e.g., recycling facilities / repair hubs and Bike repair days to be organised. On street waste segregation to be trialled.	Combined	Plan published; 1 No. annual promotion event per DZ	Annual	12.3, 12.4, 12.5

## 3 Stage 1: Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction

The first part of the Appropriate Assessment process is the Screening phase. Screening identifies the likely effects of the MCC CAP on European sites that could arise, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and considers whether these impacts are likely to have a significant effect on the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

In accordance with sections 177U of the Planning Acts, screening for appropriate assessment must be carried out:

- To assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the 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;
- An appropriate assessment is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

Screening must be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation and it is in this context that this AA Screening Report is prepared.

Following screening therefore, if there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of compliance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. This means that if the conclusions at the end of the screening exercise are that significant effects on any European sites, as a result of the MCC CAP, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, are likely, uncertain or unknown, then an Appropriate Assessment must be carried out. This is in accordance with established precedent and case law.

### 3.2 Potential Zone of Influence

This assessment is based on the source-pathway-receptor model, which dictates that, for an effect to occur, there must be a 'source' (such as a construction site); a 'receptor' (such as a designated site for nature conservation); and a 'pathway' between the two (such as a watercourse). A construction site or completed development may also create a barrier to movement, for example, by preventing the migration of fauna along a river corridor, or by obstructing the migration of birds.

Identification of a potential effect means that there is a possibility of ecological or environmental damage occurring, with the level and significance of the impact depending upon the nature and exposure to the potential effect and the characteristics of the receptor. Although there may be a risk of an impact, it may not necessarily occur, and if it does occur, it may not be significant.

There are no set recommended distances for projects to consider European sites as being relevant for assessment. DoEHLG (2010a, pp. 31 – 32) states that:

*"The approach to screening is likely to differ somewhat for plans and projects, depending on scale and on the likely effects, but the following should be included:*

1. Any Natura 2000 sites within or adjacent to the plan or project area

2. *Any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of impact of the plan or project. A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects*
3. *Natura 2000 sites that are more than 15km from the plan or project area depending on the likely impacts of the plan or project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, bearing in mind the precautionary principle. In the cases of sites with water dependent habitats or species, and a plan or project that could affect water quality or quantity, for example, it may be necessary to consider the full extent of the upstream and/or downstream catchment."*

The 2021 OPR guidelines, *Practice Note PNO1: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, state that the Zone of Influence "should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor framework and not by arbitrary distances (such as 15 km)" (p. 8).

Therefore, considering the nature, scale and location of the MCC CAP, and in accordance with the source-pathway-receptor model, the potential Zone of Influence for the MCC CAP includes any site to which there is a potential for impacts, as set out in the following sections.

### 3.3 Description of the Receiving Environment and the Potential Zone of Influence

The description of the receiving environment presented in this section has been based on a desktop study of relevant available information, as cited in the text.

The natural heritage of County Meath is an important asset and a unique resource. Biodiversity is vulnerable to climate change as this accelerates the destruction of the natural world through droughts, flooding and wildfires, while the loss and unsustainable use of nature are in turn key drivers of climate change. However, biodiversity and nature are also vital in the fight against climate change.

Habitat biodiversity in County Meath includes the Boyne and Blackwater Rivers as well as the short coastline which supports a wide range of rare or threatened flora and fauna species. Protecting and conserving these habitats is critically important, not just to the residents of the County but also in a national and international context.

Woodlands in Meath tend to be small and fragmented and are more frequent near rivers, particularly along the lower stretches of the River Boyne. The most abundant native woodland habitat type in the County is Oak-Ash-Hazel woodland (Fossitt habitat category WN2) reflecting the limestone derived soils. A large proportion of the County's woodlands are parklands associated with historic demesnes.

Hedgerows are perhaps the most characteristic feature of the County's landscape and provide an important habitat for many species and act as a wildlife corridor in a landscape dominated by large tracts of intensive agriculture. The County contains significant stretches of both operational and derelict waterways including the River Boyne, River Blackwater, River Nanny, River Inny, River Delvin, River Tolka, River Broadmeadow and the Royal Canal.

Article 10 of the EU Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna.

### 3.3.1 Designated European Sites

Within County Meath, there are a total of 14 sites designated for protection under the Natura 2000 network (there are nine SACs and five SPAs).

All designated European Sites located within County Meath are listed in **Table 3.1** and shown in **Figure 3.1** below.

There are a further 13 SPAs and 19 SACs within the potential ZoI (ZoI) of the MCC CAP listed in **Table 3.1**. These sites (a total of 46) are the sites located within the potential zone of influence of the MCC CAP.

Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs have been set for the habitats and species for which the sites have been selected. Site specific detailed conservation objectives are available on the NPWS website<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 3.1 European sites located in County Meath and within the potential Zone of Influence of the MCC CAP**

European Sites in County Meath			
Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC
004065	Lough Sheelin SPA	002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	002340	Moneybeg & Clareisland Bogs SAC
004236	North-West Irish Sea SPA	002120	Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC
		002203	Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC
		001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC
		001398	Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC
		001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs & Lough Doo SAC
European Sites within a zone of influence (15km) of the County Boundary			
Site Code	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Site Code	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
004061	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA	002201	Derragh Bog SAC
004043	Lough Derravarragh SPA	002121	Lough Lene SAC
004102	Garriskill Bog SPA	000679	Garriskil Bog SAC
004044	Lough Ennell SPA	002341	Ardagullion Bog SAC
004006	North Bull Island SPA	002205	Wooddown Bog SAC
004024	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA	000582	Raheenmore Bog SAC
004016	Baldoyle Bay SPA	000685	Lough Ennell SAC
004025	Malahide Estuary SPA	000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC
004015	Rogerstown Estuary SPA	000391	Ballynafagh Bog SAC

<sup>2</sup> NPWS website 2019: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>

004122	Skerries Islands SPA	001387	Ballynafagh Lake SAC
004014	Rockabill SPA	001831	Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	000206	North Dublin Bay SAC
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	000210	South Dublin Bay SAC
		000199	Baldoyle Bay SAC
		000205	Malahide Estuary SAC
		000208	Rogerstown Estuary SAC
		003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC
		001459	Clogher Head SAC
		000455	Dundalk Bay SAC

### 3.3.2 Nationally Designated Sites

Nationally Designated Sites include Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) which are legally protected areas that are considered important for their habitats or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection. Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) are also of significance for wildlife and habitats but have not yet been statutorily designated. However, under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000) NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation<sup>3</sup>.

Refer to **Table 3.2** and **Figure 3.2** below for the NHAs and pNHAs located in County Meath and within the zone of influence of the MCC CAP.

**Table 3.2 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) located in County Meath and within the zone of influence of the County Boundary**

Natural Heritage Areas in County Meath			
Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)
001324	Jamestown Bog NHA	000006	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally)
001580	Girley Bog NHA	000987	Lough Sheelin
001582	Molerick Bog NHA	001814	Lough Naneagh
		001810	White Lough, Ben Loughs And Lough Doo
		000556	Lough Shesk
		002103	Royal Canal
		001398	Rye Water Valley/Carlton
		001584	Mount Hevey Bog
		001357	Trim
		000557	Rathmoylan Esker

<sup>3</sup> NPWS website 2019: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha>

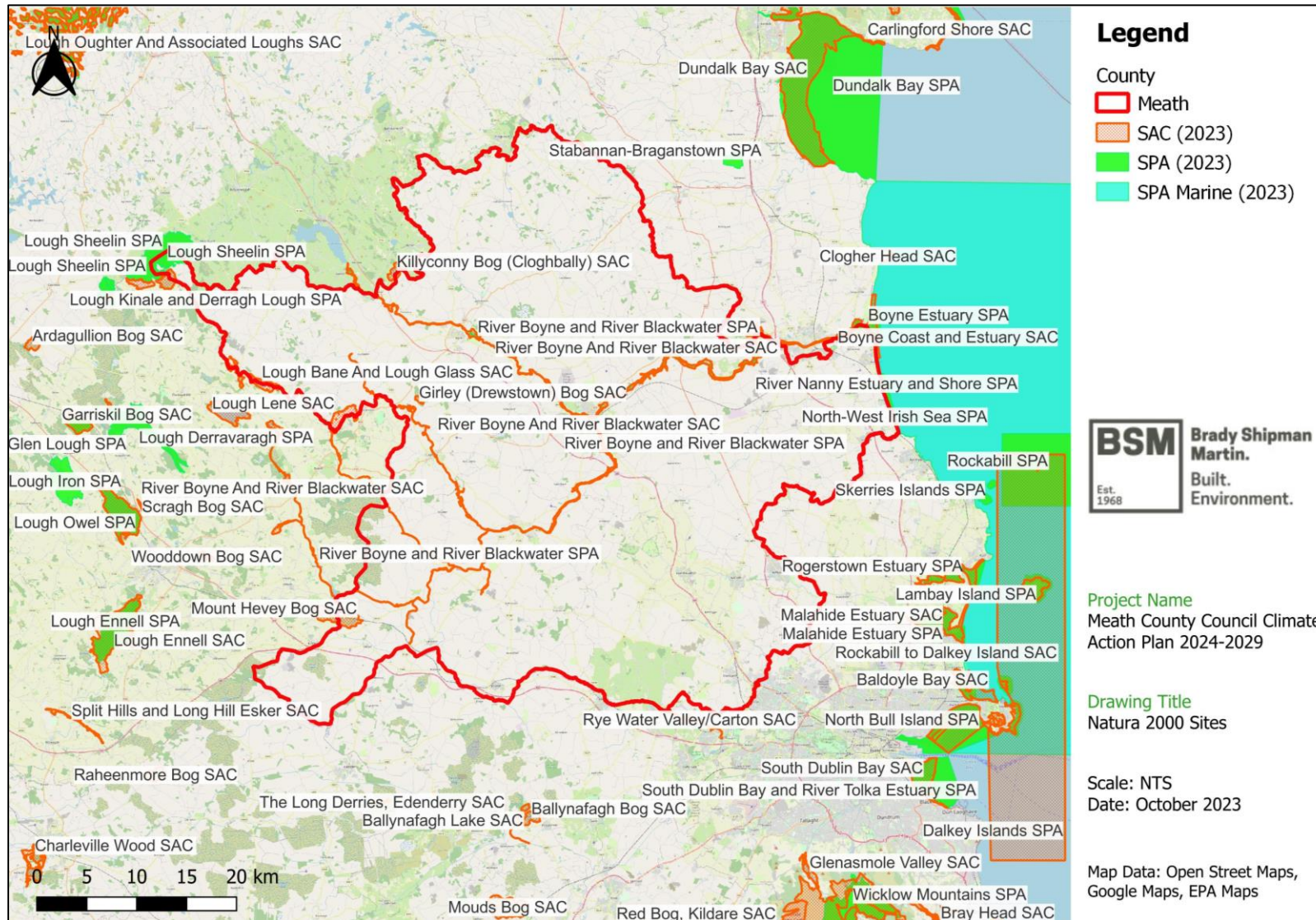


		001592	Boyne Woods
		000553	Crewbane Marsh
		001591	Slane Riverbank
		001589	Rossnaree Riverbank
		001593	Thomastown Bog
		001578	Duleek Commons
		001579	Balrath Woods
		001576	Cromwell's Bush Fen
		000554	Laytown Dunes / Nanny Estuary
		001957	Boyne Coast And Estuary
		001861	Dowth Wetland
		001862	Boyne River Islands
		001587	Mentrim Lough
		000552	Corstown Loughs
		001594	Ballyhoe Lough
		001558	Breakey Loughs
		001573	Ballynabarny Fen
<b>Natural Heritage Areas within the zone of influence (15km) of the County Boundary</b>			
Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)	Site Code	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)
000985	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough	001203	Knock Lake
000684	Lough Derravaragh	001204	Bog of the Ring
000694	Wooddown Bog	002000	Loughshinny Coast
002323	Milltownpass Bog	000207	Rockabill Island
000677	Cloncrow Bog (New Forest)	001616	Louth Hall and Ardee Woods
001725	Nure Bog	001856	Dunany Point
000570	Black Castle Bog	001801	Barmeath Woods
001388	Carbury Bog	001454	Ardee Cutaway Bog
001393	Hodgestown Bog	001464	Melifont Abbey Woods
001218	Skerries Islands NHA	001293	Blackhall Woods
		000208	Rogerstown Estuary
		000205	Malahide Estuary
		001215	Portraine Shore
		001208	Feltrim Hill
		000199	Baldoyle Bay
		001763	Sluice River Marsh
		000178	Santry Demesne

	000206	North Dublin Bay
	000128	Liffey Valley
	000390	Ballina Bog
	001391	Donadea Wood
	001387	Ballynafagh Lake
	000391	Ballynafagh Bog
	002104	Grand Canal
	000925	The Long Derries, Edenderry
	000582	Raheenmore Bog
	000685	Lough Ennell
	000690	Lough Sheever Fen/ Slevin's Lough Complex
	002069	Ardagullion Bog
	000679	Garriskil Bog
	000672	Aghalasty Fen
	000686	Lough Glore
	000681	Hill of Mael and the Rock of Curry
	000992	Lough Gowna
	000008	Lough Ramor
	001608	Monalty Lough
	001671	Spring and Corcrin Lough
	001828	Reaghstown Marsh
	000560	Lough Fea Demesne
	000561	Lough Naglack
	002077	Nafarty Fen
	000456	Stabannan-Braganstown
	001806	Kildemock Marsh
	001464	Mellifont Abbey Woods
	001804	King William's Glen
	001721	Lough Bane
	001459	Clogher Head
	001458	Castlecoo Hill
	000692	Scragh Bog
000978	Cordonaghy Bog	
000690	Lough Sheever Fen / Slevin's Lough Complex	
001599	Creevy Lough	

	001461	Darver Castle Woods
	001462	Drumacg, Toprass and Cortial Lough
	000455	Dundalk Bay
	001803	Stephenstown Pond
	000991	Dodder Valley
	000211	Slade of Saggart and Crooksling Glen
	001212	Lugmore Glen

Figure 3.1 European Sites in County Meath and in the surrounding zone of influence





### 3.3.3 Hydrology

The latest *Water Quality in Ireland* report, for the period 2016-2021, was published by the EPA in 2022. This report contains the most up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of the ecological health of Ireland’s groundwater, rivers, lakes, canals, transitional waters and coastal waters following the completion of the first six-year cycle of the WFD.

The status of the **river waterbodies** in County Meath range from ‘*poor*’ to ‘*high*’, however the majority of the major river waterbodies range from ‘*poor*’ to ‘*moderate*’.

EPA data, on the biological quality of watercourses, based on monitoring up to 2021, indicates that one river achieved ‘*high*’ status, 21 of the monitored river waterbodies in County Meath achieved a ‘*good*’ status, 29 achieved a ‘*moderate*’ status and 33 were categorized as ‘*poor*’.

There are 8 No. **lakes** in the County Meath which are designated WFD operational monitoring lakes. They are as follows:

- Lough Sheelin;
- Lough Doo;
- Lough Ben;
- Lough Glass
- Lough Ervey (poor);
- Lough Bracken;
- Lough Bane; and
- Annagh - White Lake.

The *Water Quality in Ireland report 2016-2021* reports that the water quality in Annagh / White lake was classified as ‘*high*’ status, Lough Bane, Lough Ben, Lough Glass and Lough Doo were classified as being of ‘*good*’ status, Lough Sheelin and Lough Bracken were both classified with a ‘*moderate*’ status and Lough Ervey was classified as ‘*Poor*’.

The Meath coastline extends for a distance of c.10km and stretches from the mouth of the River Boyne at Mornington, bordering County Louth, to Gormanston at the mouth of the River Delvin, bordering County Dublin. The coastal waterbody of County Meath is the Northwestern Irish Sea (IE\_EA\_020\_0000) waterbody and has a ‘*good*’<sup>4</sup> water quality status, while the Boyne Estuary transitional waterbody and Nanny Estuary both have a ‘*moderate*’ status.

Table 3.3 below has a list of the **WFD Catchments** and **WFD Sub-Catchments** in County Meath.

**Table 3.3 WFD Catchments and Sub-Catchments in Meath**

Catchment (WFD Catchment Code)	Sub-catchment Name (WFD Sub-catchment Code)
Newry, Fane, Glyde and Dee Catchment (06)	Glyde_SC_010 (06_7)
	Dee_SC_010 (06_3)
	Dee_SC_020 (06_1)
	Dee_SC_030 (06_4)
Boyne Catchment (07)	Moynalty_SC_010 (07_14)
	Blackwater[Kells]_SC_020 (07_10)

<sup>4</sup> EPA 2019, Coastal Waterbody WFD Status 2016-2021: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default>

Catchment (WFD Catchment Code)	Sub-catchment Name (WFD Sub-catchment Code)
	Blackwater[Kells]_SC_030 (07_8)
	Boyne_SC_070 (07_13)
	Boyne_SC_050 (07_12)
	Boyne_SC_100 (07_18)
	Boyne_SC_120 (07_15)
	Boyne_SC_130 (07_17)
	Boyne_SC_110 (07_1)
	Boyne_SC_080 (07_3)
	Boyne_SC_060 (07_20)
	Boyne_SC_090 (07_19)
	Boyne_SC_040 (07_9)
	Boyne_SC_030 (07_2)
	Boyne_SC_010 (07_4)
	Boyne_SC_020 (07_16)
	Blackwater[Longwood]_SC_10 (07_6)
	Deel[Raharney]_SC_010 (07_7)
Yellow[Castlejordan]_SC_010 (07_11)	
Upper Shannon Catchment (26F)	Inny[Shannon]_SC_010 (26F_6)
	Mountnugent_SC_010 (26F_3)
	Inny[Shannon]_SC_020 (26F_7)
Nanny-Delvin (08)	Nanny[Meath]_SC_020 (08_5)
	Nanny[Meath]_SC_010 (08_4)
	Delvin_SC_010 (08_1)
	Broadmeadow_SC_010 (08_3)
Liffey and Dublin Bay (09)	Tolka_SC_010 (09_10)
	Liffey_SC_080 (09_5)
	Liffey_SC_100 (09_1)
	RyeWater_SC_010 (09_3)

A number of protected areas are present within Meath and these are as follows:

- The entire ground waterbody beneath the county is included on the Drinking Water - Ground Waterbody.
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Lake, Coastal & Transitional waterbodies) – Boyne Estuary.
- WFD RPA Nutrient Sensitive Areas (Rivers) - River Boyne.
- WFD RPA Recreational Waters – Bettystown bathing water
- WFD RPA Shellfish Areas - Balbriggan \ Skerries Shellfish Area.
- Salmonid Rivers – River Boyne.

### 3.3.3.1 Designated Shellfish Waters

The EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) aims to protect and improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth. Pollution reduction programmes are in operation for these areas. The identified pressures on these designated waters include urban wastewater systems, on-site wastewater treatment systems and port activities. The coastal waters provide an important resource, supporting and generating employment and recreational activities and must be protected.

There is one area of Shellfish waters - Balbriggan / Skerries (IE\_EA\_020\_0000) off the Meath coast designated as Shellfish Waters pursuant to the Shellfish Directive and Section 6 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) require the development of Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRPs) for designated shellfish areas in order to support shellfish life and growth and to contribute to the high quality of directly edible shellfish products. Shellfish PRPs relate to bivalve and gastropod molluscs, including oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams. They do not cover shellfish crustaceans such as crabs, crayfish and lobsters.

### 3.3.3.2 Salmonid Waters

The Salmonid Regulations (S.I. No. 293 of 1988) designate the waters capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*) as protected in Ireland. Thirty-four rivers, tributaries and lakes are listed and protected under these Regulations that prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters, sampling programmes and methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards.

The River Boyne in County Meath is a designated Salmonid Water under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive.

## 3.3.4 Other Designations

### 3.3.4.1 RAMSAR Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention<sup>5</sup>. Wetlands are important ecosystems, which improve water quality, provide storm protection, flood mitigation, stabilise shorelines, maintain biodiversity, and provide natural products such as fish and shellfish. Ireland presently has 45 no. RAMSAR sites. There are no Ramsar sites located in County Meath. However, relevant authorities are expected to manage their Ramsar Sites so as to maintain their ecological character and retain their essential functions and values for future generations. The nearest Ramsar Site to County Meath is Lough Derravaragh, <10km south-west of the County boundary in County Westmeath.

### 3.3.4.2 Wildfowl Sanctuaries

Wildfowl sanctuaries<sup>6</sup> are areas that have been excluded from the 'Open Season Order' so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. There are 68 no. sanctuaries in the State<sup>7</sup>. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these sanctuaries. The Boyne Estuary (part) (WFS-41) is located within Meath County.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/wildfowl-sanctuaries>

<sup>7</sup> NPWS (2021).



### 3.3.4.3 Nature Reserves

Other nature conservation designations are Statutory Nature Reserves, which are protected under Ministerial order.

In January 2019 the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht published notice of making Statutory Instrument (S.I. No. 602 of 2018) under section 16 of the Wildlife Act established the first Nature Reserve in County Meath at Newcastle Lough<sup>8</sup> (a private nature reserve located in the northern most part of the County Meath, 4km south of Kingscourt). The reason for recognising the land as nature reserve is the presence of lake, reed bed, wet grassland and woodland habitats and an associated diversity of flora and fauna.

### 3.3.4.4 Invasive Species

Invasive species constitute a threat to biodiversity and ecosystems and can have major economic costs. In Ireland, there are currently 377 recorded non-native species and 342 non-native 'potential invaders', 66% are considered to have a low impact risk, 21% to have a medium impact risk and 13% have a high impact risk. The majority of invasive species in Ireland are plants, however, there is potential for rising trends of invasive vertebrate and invertebrate species.

In Meath, c. 350 species of alien vascular plant, accounting for around one third of the county's total vascular plant species, though only a handful of these cause problems. The most destructive of these species are Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), usually occasionally found along watercourses, completely taking over areas of the riverbank.

To date, an invasive species audits have been carried out along the Boyne and it is an objective of the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 to continue to monitor alien invasive species in the County and ensure adequate training is carried out to contain, manage and effectively dispose of such species.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves/meath>

Table 3.4 Potential for significant effects on designated sites in the potential Zone of Influence?

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<b>European sites <i>within</i> Co. Meath</b>			
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (site code 004232), within County Meath	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A229 Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
Lough Sheelin SPA (site code 004065), within County Meath	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)</li> <li>■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)</li> <li>■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)</li> <li>■ A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the first order site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	maintain or restore the favourable condition of the bird species listed.		
Boyne Estuary SPA (site code 004080), within County Meath	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>■ A142 Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)</li> <li>■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)</li> <li>■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)</li> <li>■ A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 26 February, 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (site code	The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:	A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any	<b>Yes</b>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
004158), within County Meath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 21 September 2012), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
North-West Irish Sea SPA (site code 004236), within County Meath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)</li> <li>■ A001 Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</li> <li>■ A003 Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>)</li> <li>■ A009 Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)</li> <li>■ A013 Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)</li> <li>■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)</li> <li>■ A177 Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>)</li> <li>■ A188 Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)</li> <li>■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)</li> <li>■ A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)</li> <li>■ A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>)</li> <li>■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)</li> <li>■ A187 Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)</li> <li>■ A195 Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)</li> <li>■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)</li> <li>■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)</li> <li>■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)</li> <li>■ A204 Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>)</li> <li>■ A200 Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)</li> <li>■ A199 Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated 19 September 2023), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the species for which the SPA has been selected.</p>	<p>surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<p>River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (site code 002299), within County Meath</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1099 River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)</li> <li>■ 1106 Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)</li> <li>■ 1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</li> <li>■ 7230 Alkaline fens</li> <li>■ 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)*</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 03 December, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Mount Hevey Bog SAC (site code 002342), within County Meath</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 March,</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC (site code 000006), within County Meath</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 November, 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Moneybeg &amp; Clareisland Bogs SAC (site code 002340), within County Meath</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 25 February, 2016), for the listed QIs, the Conservation</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.	
Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC (site code 002120), within County Meath	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)</li> <li>■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 October, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC (site code 002203), within County Meath	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 July, 2023), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p>	<b>Yes</b>



European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.	
Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC (site code 001957), within County Meath	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1130 Estuaries</li> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand</li> <li>■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> <li>■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</li> <li>■ 2130 *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 31 October, 2012), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC (site code 001398), within County Meath	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i></li> <li>■ 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></li> <li>■ 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 22 December, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	Yes
White Lough, Ben Loughs & Lough Doo SAC (site code 001810), within County Meath	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 October, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is within the MCC CAP area and there is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		
<b>European sites <i>outside</i> Co. Meath but potentially within the Zone of Influence of the MCC CAP</b>			
Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA (site code 004061), c. 4km north-west of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)</li> <li>■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October, 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 4km north-west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the Inny (Shannon) River. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
Lough Derravarragh SPA (site code 004043), c. 11km to the west of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A038 Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)</li> <li>■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)</li> <li>■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)</li> <li>■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October, 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.11km west of the County MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the Inny (Shannon) River.</p>	<b>Yes</b>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	maintain or restore the favourable condition.	There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.	
Garriskill Bog SPA (site code 004102), c. 15.6km to the west of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A395 Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October, 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.15.6km west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the Inny (Shannon) River. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>
Lough Ennell SPA (site code 004044), c. 12km to the south-west of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A059 Pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)</li> <li>■ A061 Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)</li> <li>■ A125 Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October, 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.12km to the south-west of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways, there is no potential for</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.	
North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006), c. 13km to the south-east of the County boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)</li> <li>■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)</li> <li>■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)</li> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)</li> <li>■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)</li> <li>■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>■ A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)</li> <li>■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)</li> <li>■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)</li> <li>■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetland</li> </ul> <p>According to this SPA’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.13km to the south-east of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the River Tolka, which flows through County Meath. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>March 2015), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		
<p>South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024), c. 17km south-east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A144 Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)</li> <li>■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)</li> <li>■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)</li> <li>■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)</li> <li>■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)</li> <li>■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)</li> <li>■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.17km to the south-east of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the River Tolka, which flows through County Meath. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to this SPA’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 9 March 2015), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>		
<p>Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016), c. 14.7km to the east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)</li> <li>■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>According to this SPA’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated 27 February 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.14.7km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
<p>Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025), c. 9.5km to the east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)</li> <li>■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)</li> <li>■ A067 Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)</li> <li>■ A069 Red-breasted (Merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i>)</li> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>)</li> <li>■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)</li> <li>■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>According to this SPA’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 16 August 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.5km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the River Ward (drains into Malahide Estuary). There are therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>Yes</p>



European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.		
Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015), c. 10km to the east of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)</li> <li>■ A046 Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)</li> <li>■ A056 Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)</li> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)</li> <li>■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)</li> <li>■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>)</li> <li>■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)</li> <li>■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands</li> </ul> <p>According to this SPA's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated 20 May 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.10km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.		
Skerries Islands SPA (site code 004122), c. 11.7km to the east of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A017 Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)</li> <li>■ A018 Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)</li> <li>■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)</li> <li>■ A148 Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)</li> <li>■ A169 Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)</li> <li>■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 12 October, 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.11.7km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	No
Rockabill SPA (site code 004014), c. 13.7km to the east of the County boundary	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A148 Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)</li> <li>■ A192 Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)</li> <li>■ A193 Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)</li> <li>■ A194 Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to this SPA’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1 - dated 08 May 2013), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the species and wetland habitat for which the SPA has been selected.</p>	<p>surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.13.7km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Stabannan-Braganstown SPA (site code 004091), c.11km to the north-east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 15 November 2022), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11km to the north-east of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the Glyde river. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>
<p>Dundalk Bay SPA (site code 004026), c. 14.8km to the north-east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A005 Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A043 Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) (wintering)</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A046 Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A048 Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A052 Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A053 Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A054 Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A065 Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A069 Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) (winterin)</li> <li>■ A130 Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A137 Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A140 Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A141 Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A142 Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A143 Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A149 Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) (wintering)</li> </ul>	<p>surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14.8km to the north-east of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the Glyde and Dee rivers. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A156 Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A157 Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A160 Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A162 Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A179 Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A182 Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A184 Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) (wintering)</li> <li>■ A999 Wetlands &amp; Waterbirds</li> </ul> <p>According to the site-specific Conservation Objectives for the SPA (dated 19 July, 2011), for each of the listed SCIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>		
<p>Derragh Bog SAC (site code 002201), c. 7km to the north-west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 July 2023), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>(both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 7km north-west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the Inny (Shannon) River. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Lough Lene SAC (site code 002121), c. 3km to the west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1092 White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)</li> <li>■ 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 21 October, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.3km to the west of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Garriskil Bog SAC (site code 000679), c. 15.3km to the east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 November, 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>(both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 15.3km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Ardagullion Bog SAC (site code 002341), c. 16.5km to the north-east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 06 November, 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.5km to the north-east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Wooddown Bog SAC (site code 002205), c. 16.2km to the east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 July 2023), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.2km to the east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Raheenmore Bog SAC (site code 000582), c. 13km to the south-east of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 02 November, 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 13km to the south-east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Lough Ennell SAC (site code 000685), c. 13km to</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC</p>	<p>No</p>



European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
the south-east of the County boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7230 Alkaline fens</li> </ul> <p>The following habitat is listed as Qualifying Interests on the NPWS website, but are not included in the Conservation Objectives document: 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.</p> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 12 January, 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 13km to the south-east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC (site code 000925), c. 9.6km to the south of the County boundary	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (*important orchid sites)</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 11 November, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.6km to the south of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
		effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.	
Ballynafagh Bog SAC (site code 000391), c. 11km to the south of the County boundary	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7110 Active raised bogs*</li> <li>■ 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</li> <li>■ 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 10 November, 2015), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 11km to the south of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	No
Ballynafagh Lake SAC (site code 001387), c. 10.4km to the south of the County boundary	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)</li> <li>■ 1065 Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)</li> <li>■ 7230 Alkaline fens</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 10 december, 2021), for the listed QIs, the Conservation</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 10.4km to the south of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity.</p>	No

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.	Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.	
Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC (site code 001831), c. 16.8km to the south-east of the County boundary	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 20 June, 2018), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 16.8km to the south-east of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	No
North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206), c. 17.8km to the south-west of the County boundary	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>■ 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines</li> <li>■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> <li>■ 1395 Petalwort (<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.17.8km to the south-west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the River Tolka,</p>	Yes

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> <li>■ 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</li> <li>■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*</li> <li>■ 2190 Humid dune slacks</li> </ul> <p><i>*indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive</i></p> <p>According to this SAC’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 06 November 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>which flows through County Meath. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210), c. 17km to the south-west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> </ul> <p>The following habitats are listed as Qualifying Interests on the NPWS website,</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>but are not included in the Conservation Objectives document:</p> <p>(1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 2110 Embryonic shifting dunes)</p> <p>According to this SAC’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 22 August 2013), for the listed QI, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.17km to the south-west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the River Tolka, which flows through County Meath. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Baldoyle Bay SAC (site code 000199), c. 14.7km to the west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.14.7km to the west of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>According to this SAC’s site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 19 November 2012), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
<p>Malahide Estuary SAC (site code 000205), c. 9.5km to the west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>■ 1320 Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)</li> <li>■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</li> <li>■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)</li> <li>■ 2120 Shifting dunnes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)</li> <li>■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 9.5km to the west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via the River Ward (drains into Malahide Estuary). There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p><i>*indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive</i></p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 27 May 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>		
<p>Rogerstown Estuary SAC (site code 000208), c. 10km to the west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1130 Estuaries</li> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>■ 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> <li>■ 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)</li> <li>■ 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)*</li> </ul>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.10km to the west of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>No</p>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	<p>*indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive</p> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 14 August 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>		
<p>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (site code 003000), c. 17.3km to the west of the County boundary</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1170 Reefs</li> <li>■ 1351 Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to this SAC's site Conservation Objectives document (Version 1, dated 07 May 2013), for each of the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c.17.3km to the west of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Clogher Head SAC (site code 001459), c. 7.5km</p>	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any</p>	<p>No</p>



European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
to the north-west of the County boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts</li> <li>■ 4030 European dry heaths</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 27 January, 2017), for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.</p>	<p>development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 7.5km to the north-west of the MCC CAP area and there is no hydrological or other connectivity. Therefore, due to the lack of pathways there is no potential for effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	
Dundalk Bay SAC (site code 000455), c. 14.8km to the north-west of the County boundary	<p>The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of this site are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 1130 Estuaries</li> <li>■ 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>■ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>■ 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand</li> <li>■ 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>■ 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)</li> </ul> <p>According to the site specific Conservation Objectives for the SAC (dated 19 July 2011),</p>	<p>A total of 15 of the Actions presented within the MCC CAP have potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites. Any development or refurbishment works proposed under the MCC CAP could have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water, air and, potentially disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.</p> <p>This Natura 2000 Site is c. 14.8km to the north-west of the MCC CAP area and there is a hydrological pathway via Glyde and Dee rivers. There is therefore potential for significant effects on this site as a result of the actions proposed under the MCC CAP.</p>	<b>Yes</b>

European Site (Site Code)	Reasons for designation (information correct as of November 2023) (*denotes a priority habitat)	Discussion of Source-Pathway-Receptor Link and potential effects	Likely Significant Effect? (If yes, the site is Screened In)
	for the listed QIs, the Conservation Objective is to maintain or restore the favourable condition, as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.		

### 3.4 Screening for Appropriate Assessment - Summary

According to the draft Guidance published by the European Commission (*Managing Natura 2000 sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, 21st November 2018) the “integrity of a site” relates to the site’s conservation objectives. For example, it is possible that a plan or project will adversely affect the site only in a visual sense or only affect habitat types or species other than those listed in Annex I or Annex II. In such cases, the effects do not amount to an adverse effect for the purposes of Article 6(3). If none of the habitat types or species for which the site has been designated is significantly affected then the site’s integrity cannot be considered to be adversely affected.

In addition, plans or projects or applications for developments which have “no appreciable effect” on the protected site are excluded from the requirement to proceed to appropriate assessment<sup>9</sup> (Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston in *Sweetman*, para. 48).

In other words, if, following Screening, there is a possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site, this will generate the need for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

European sites with no connection/pathway to the MCC CAP area can be screened out (Appropriate Assessment Screening) and they are not considered any further in this report. By virtue of their locations, and the presence of potential pathways, of the 46 European sites listed in **Table 3.1** there is the possibility of there being a significant effect on a total of 27 sites (these are listed in **Table 3.4**), and this results in a requirement for an appropriate assessment for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

There is potential for significant effects (at least, the potential for significant effects cannot be excluded) as a result of:

- Habitat loss and/or fragmentation;
- Impacts to habitat structure;
- Disturbance to species of conservation concern;
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill);
- Noise pollution;
- Emissions to air;
- Emissions to water.

Despite its positive intent there is the possibility that the implementation of certain of the actions listed in the MCC CAP could result in significant effects on 27 European sites. Applying the precautionary principle therefore, and in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62011CC0258>

## 4 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

As set out in Section 3.4 the implementation of the MCC CAP has the potential to impact on up to 27 European sites. Given this conclusion, which is based on the Precautionary Principle, it is necessary to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

At this stage it is necessary to determine whether the MCC CAP would result in *significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any European site* with respect to the site's structure, function, and/or conservation objectives.

These potential adverse effects may arise either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

The MCC CAP, once implemented, will provide for the sustainable development of County Meath. It is driven by local, regional, national, European and International policy on climate change. It will be implemented by Meath County Council in line with the Irish Government's overall National Climate Objective.

Nevertheless, as set out in the preceding sections, there is the potential that the implementation of certain elements of the CAP could lead to impacts on these European sites. This is particularly the case for actions that will result in construction or other development, including refurbishment or retrofitting of buildings.

It is not expected that there will be any direct reduction of habitat area, or any loss of habitat within any European site. However, any development works, no matter how minor, adjacent to watercourses (such as those associated with the River Boyne/River Blackwater SAC and SPA) have the potential to cause habitat loss or a reduction in habitat / water quality, with indirect effects on the European sites themselves. Similarly no works are likely within any European sites that would lead to fragmentation (breakup) of habitats, resulting in impacts on site integrity. No works are likely that would interfere with integrity of, or cause degradation to, any habitats associated with any European site.

There is the possibility of disturbance to key species arising as a result of the implementation of certain actions within the MCC CAP LAP. The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European sites are sensitive to disturbance from noise, light, vibration and other construction activities including inappropriately timed works, as well as from recreational and amenity activity. Estuaries and coastal sites such as the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA, the Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC and the Boyne Estuary SPA rely on large quantities of sediment to function, however, they are prone to contamination risk due to surface water runoffs during construction. Although no works are expected within the European sites themselves, any works near the Malahide Estuary could lead to disturbance of these species.

There is the possibility of changes to key indicators of conservation value arising as a result of the implementation of the MCC CAP. This could arise via pollution, siltation or other run-off to watercourses that could ultimately discharge to the European sites. Any pollution-related impacts on the QIs/SCIs of any European site could adversely affect the integrity of the sites.

## 4.2 Potential impacts from the MCC CAP, including in-combinations effects

### 4.2.1 Is the MCC CAP necessary for the management of European sites?

As set out in the Habitats Directive (Article 6(3)), plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require Appropriate Assessment. Management in this context means management for nature conservation and the qualifying interests of the European site, specifically the conservation objectives – to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and species for which the site has been selected.

While the MCC CAP has been developed with biodiversity and sustainability as core elements its purpose is to deliver and promote best practice in climate action within the County. Therefore, the MCC CAP is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European designated sites.

### 4.2.2 Are there elements of the MCC CAP with potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites

The elements/actions of the MCC CAP with potential to give rise to significant effects on European sites are restricted to construction phase effects. Any development or refurbishment works located within the potential zone of influence of any European site have the potential to give rise to impacts on European sites, via demolition and construction, habitat loss/replacement (both temporary and permanent), increased risk of pollution of surface water and, potentially, disturbance due to an increase in human activity in the vicinity of European sites.

The CAP, once implemented, will provide for sustainable development of Meath and will align with the Government's overall National Climate Objective.

Despite its positive intent, the MCC CAP has the potential to give rise to effects on European sites within its zone of influence under the following scenarios:

- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect water quality, flow and/or morphology and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly increase risk of flooding and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect groundwater quality or supply and potentially affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any Action that could directly or indirectly affect air quality due to emissions and affect the European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any risk of habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation to European sites or network supporting European sites, protected habitats and species;
- Any potential for a risk of direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species, e.g. development at coastal sites /along rivers/within bogs, noise disturbance due to construction, light pollution etc.;
- Any Action that could risk a reduction in ecological connectivity between European sites and/or the ecological networks supporting them.

#### 4.2.3 Appraisal of the Goals, Thematic Areas and Objectives of the Meath Climate Action Plan

The finding of the appraisal of the Goals, Thematic Areas and Objectives (refer to **Section 2.2** of this report) of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is that they will all have an overall positive effect on all aspects of the environment, including on European sites. The assessment is presented in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Appraisal of the Goals, Thematic Areas and Objectives of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

Strategic Goals	Protective intent?	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required?
<p><b>Vision</b>                      Meath aims to be a climate resilient, biodiverse rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy that supports healthy lifestyles and jobs growth.</p> <p><b>Mission</b>                      Meath County Council is committed to lead in translating the National Climate Policy into local actions through inclusive engagement, capacity building and leadership to the people of County Meath.</p> <p><b>Targets</b>                      Meath County Council’s Climate Action Plan contains four key targets, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Energy Efficiency – 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.</li> <li>■ GHG Reduction – 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.</li> <li>■ Resilience – Making Meath a climate resilient region by reducing the impacts of future climate-change related events.</li> <li>■ Awareness – Actively engaging and informing citizens, communities and businesses on climate change.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The intent and output of the Vision, Mission and Targets of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 will result in positive effects across all SEOs for environmental factors, including European sites.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>

Strategic Goals	Protective intent?	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required?
<p><b>Goal 1</b> Develop appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing effective climate action</p> <p><b>Thematic Area</b> Governance &amp; Leadership</p> <p><b>Objective 1.1</b> Support the development and implementation of positive climate action across all services and operations of Meath County Council, collaborating with others to enable and inspire endeavours to reduce their climate impact.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The governance and leadership intent and output of Goal 1, of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, will result in positive or neutral effects across the SEOs for environmental factors, including European sites.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 2</b> Achieve local government carbon emissions and energy efficiency Targets for 2030</p> <p><b>Thematic Area</b> Built Environment &amp; Transport</p> <p><b>Objective 2.1</b> Minimize the Council's contribution to climate change by increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and encouraging sustainable opportunities for the broader County Meath community.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The built environment and transport intent and output of Goal 2, of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, will result in positive or neutral effects across the SEOs for environmental factors, including European sites.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>However, six of the individual Actions required in order to give effect to the Goal, Thematic Area and Objective may require mitigation. See Section 4.2.4, Table 4.2 and Section 4.4.</p>



Strategic Goals	Protective intent?	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required?
<p><b>Goal 3</b> Protect and enhance Meath’s natural environment by supporting biodiversity and increasing climate resilience</p> <p><b>Thematic Area</b> Natural Environment &amp; Green Infrastructure</p> <p><b>Objective 3.1</b> Support the responsible management, protection and enhancement of Meath’s natural heritage, biodiversity, and natural environment.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The natural environment and green infrastructure intent and output of Goal 3, of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, will result in positive or neutral effects across the SEOs for environmental factors, including European sites.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>However, two of the individual Actions required in order to give effect to the Goal, Thematic Area and Objective may require mitigation. See Section 4.2.4, Table 4.2 and Section 4.4.</p>
<p><b>Goal 4</b> Mobilise Climate Action in Local Communities, whilst achieving a just transition</p> <p><b>Thematic Area</b> Communities: Resilience &amp; Transition</p> <p><b>Objective 4.1</b> Promote through collaboration and partnership sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities, focusing on actions which promote health and wellbeing benefits and supports local economies.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The intent and output of Goal 4 in relation to communities: resilience and transition, of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, will result in positive effects across all SEOs for environmental factors, including European sites.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>However, four of the individual Actions required in order to give effect to the Goal, Thematic Area and Objective may require mitigation. See Section 4.2.4, Table 4.2 and Section 4.4.</p>

Strategic Goals	Protective intent?	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation Required?
<p><b>Goal 5</b>                      Create a culture of sustainability, promoting a circular economy throughout the County</p> <p><b>Thematic Area</b>                      Sustainability &amp; Resource Management</p> <p><b>Objective 5.1</b>                      Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure, focusing on prevention, reuse, repair and recycling and promote green business opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	<p><b>No</b>                      The intent and output of Goal 5 in relation to sustainability and resource management, of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, will result in positive effects across all SEOs for environmental factors including European sites.</p> <p>No negative or uncertain environmental effects arise and therefore, mitigation is not required.</p>	<p><b>No</b>                      However, two of the individual Actions required in order to give effect to the Goal, Thematic Area and Objective may require mitigation. See Section 4.2.4, Table 4.2 and Section 4.4.</p>

#### 4.2.4 Appraisal of the Actions of the Meath Climate Action Plan

The Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 includes a total of 71 Actions set out under the 5 Goals, Thematic Areas and Objectives (refer to **Section 2.3** of this report).

The finding of the assessment is that 56 of the Actions will have either potential positive effects or no effects impact on European sites. The remaining 15 Actions have potential for either potential negative effects or potential uncertain effects on European sites. Refer to **Table 4.2**.

Where potential negative or uncertain effects on European sites have been identified appropriate mitigation has been provided. See **Section 4.4** of this Report.

The full appraisal of the Actions is provided in **Appendix 1** of this report.

Table 4.2 Appraisal of the Actions of the Meath Climate Action Plan

Summary list of Actions from the MCC CAP with potential to result in adverse effects to any of the European sites within the Zone of Influence

Actions	Description	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation required?
<b>Goal 1</b>			
There are no Actions associated with Goal 1 that have the potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence. Mitigation is not required.			
<b>Goal 2</b>			
2	Continue to work with appropriate external stakeholders to deliver social housing at a BER B2 or cost optimal standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, as feasible.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
9	Undertake deep retrofit and install renewable energy sources as appropriate on LA owned buildings.	Given the potential locations of works that could arise there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
10	Construct all new LA properties to A2 Energy Rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, where feasible.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
11	All Buy and Renew acquisition properties should be retrofitted to a B2 BER rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, as feasible.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes

Actions	Description	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation required?
14	New Building projects designed to nZEB standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
15	Promote the reuse and refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties in town centres and simultaneously promote the sustainable use of these properties for appropriate active town centre uses.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
16	Increase active travel usage in town centres through improved sustainable active travel proposals and an enhanced pedestrian and public realm environment.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
<b>Goal 3</b>			
4	Plant native woodland on appropriate LA owned lands.	Given the potential locations for woodland planting, there is potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
8	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority owned heritage assets (natural, built and cultural). Carry out regular programme of inspection, maintenance and phased conservation works to develop climate resilience.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
<b>Goal 4</b>			
7	Increase number of safe routes to school scheme, where feasible.	Given the potential locations of works, no matter how minor, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes

Actions	Description	Potential to negatively impact on any of the 27 European sites within the Zone of Influence?	Mitigation required?
8	To liaise with the OPW in the identification of new or the reinforcement of existing flood defences and protection measures.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
9	Review of Flood events and Flood susceptibility of infrastructure and liaise with relevant MCC Sections and Uisce Éireann to identify assets at risk from flooding/extreme rainfall to inform and implement low-cost 'minor works' flood relief schemes.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
10	Carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Study for County Meath and implement the recommendations while prioritising nature based solutions.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
<b>Goal 5</b>			
10	Support development of enterprise hubs to facilitate remote working.	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes
12	In4Green Urbact Network Project: Complete the Integrated Action Plan for Navan. (Plan objectives include strengthening walking and cycling, and optimising traffic access to reduce through traffic and to facilitate high quality public transport services; behavioural change linking to 2050 Vision)	Given the potential locations of works, including potential construction site locations, there is the potential for adverse effects on all European sites within the Zone of Influence	Yes

#### 4.2.5 Direct, indirect or secondary effects?

None of the Actions of the MCC CAP require any land take from any European site, and there are no resource requirements from any European site as a result of any of the actions contained therein.

In general, with the exception of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA, and the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (in County Kildare), which run through or are in close proximity to towns/urban areas, the European sites under appraisal in this report are not likely to be affected by reductions in water quality.

Nevertheless, any pollution could adversely affect the habitats and species listed as qualifying interests in any of the European sites, many of which rely on good water quality. Also, during construction works there is potential for an increase in run-off due to compaction of the soil which will in turn reduce the infiltration capacity and increase the rate and volume of surface water run-off. This can increase surface water run-off and sediment loading which has potential to impact the local drainage and in turn on the European sites.

In addition to the habitats and species associated with the European sites, bird species, particularly kingfisher (the sole SCI species associated with the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA) may be sensitive to disturbances arising as a result of any proposed development. Construction works have the potential for indirect impacts on the Natura 2000 sites and their qualifying features of interest. Potential impacts include habitat degradation as well as disturbance to habitats, species and ecosystem dynamics due to noise, vibration, air quality, and disturbance due to human activities. In addition there is a potential risk to flora and fauna arising from dust deposition, which in extreme cases can inhibit photosynthesis in plants and can increase turbidity in watercourses.

#### 4.2.6 In-combination / Cumulative effects with other plans and programmes

It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that when considering whether a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of a European site the assessment must take into account in-combination effects with other current or reasonably foreseeable plans and projects.

If it can be clearly demonstrated that the plan or project will not result in any impact on the integrity of a European site then the plan or project should proceed without considering the in-combination test; further, if there are identified effects arising from the plan or project even if they are perceived as minor and not likely to have an impact on the integrity of a European site alone, then any such impacts must be considered 'in-combination' with the effects arising from other plans and projects.

The Actions listed within the MCC CAP will be required to comply with the relevant international, national and regional policies, plans and programmes and also undertaken individual environmental assessments for Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and any other relevant processes as appropriate.

**Table 4.3** below lists the relevant plans and programmes that have potential for in-combination/cumulative effects with the MCC CAP.

Table 4.3 In-combination / cumulative effects with other plans and programmes

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
National Planning Framework (NPF) Project 2040  National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 ( <i>As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030</i> )	The appropriate assessment undertaken for the NPF concludes that subject to the mitigation proposed, there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of the NPF either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.	No
Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022	The appropriate assessment undertaken for the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) concludes that subject to the mitigation proposed, there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of the RPG either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.	No
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031 for the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA)	The appropriate assessment undertaken for the RSES concludes that subject to the mitigation proposed, there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of the RSES either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.	No
National CFRAMS Programme  Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study	Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies and their product – Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) – are at the core of national policy for flood risk management and the strategy for its implementation. These studies are required by The Floods Directive [2007/60/EC], which is being implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 [S.I.122/2010]. Each FRMP is accompanied by an associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. The appropriate assessment prepared as part of individual FRMPs concludes that the Plan individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will not adversely affect the conservation objectives or integrity of any European site.	No
Greater Dublin Drainage Project	The Natura Impact Statement prepared for the Greater Dublin Drainage Project concludes that with the implementation of the mitigation measures the project will not result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the qualifying interests/special conservation interests of the Natura 2000 sites within the study area.	No



Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
National 3 <sup>rd</sup> Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and Draft National 4 <sup>th</sup> Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027	The Biodiversity Action notes the requirements and purposes of AA and SEA and the vision of the plan to conserve and restored for the benefit of all sectors of society.	No
Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042	The Natura Impact Statement prepared for the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 concludes that with the implementation of the mitigation measures the Strategy will not result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the qualifying interests/special conservation interests of the Natura 2000 sites within the study area.	No
National Sustainable Mobility Policy (2022)	The policy sets a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel and public transport to support Ireland's overall requirement to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by the end of this decade. The projects which will be implemented as a result of this national policy will be subject to their individual appropriate assessment processes (as appropriate) and hence there would be no potential adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites as a result of the implementation of this policy either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.	No
River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland 2022-2027	The Natura Impact Statement prepared for the RBMP 2022-2027 concludes that with the implementation of the mitigation measures the Plan will not result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the qualifying interests/special conservation interests of any Natura 2000 sites.	No
County Development Plans (Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029, Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027, Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028, Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027, Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, Offaly County Development Plan 2021-	The County Development Plan (CDP) provides the principal planning strategy document for the development of a local authority area over the statutory time period of the plan. Each of the CDP with Zone of Influence of County Meath has been subject to appropriate assessment and it has been concluded that with the inclusion of mitigation measures which will prioritise the avoidance of effects, and will reliably mitigate these effects where they cannot be avoided, no likely significant effects to the ecological integrity of European sites are predicted following implementation of the CDP.	No

Plan, Programme etc.	Potential Cumulative effect	Likely Cumulative Effect
2027, Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025)		

The assessment of in-combination / cumulative effects above focused on national, regional and local plans, programmes, strategy and policy documents that have the potential to affect the same European sites that could be affected by the MCC CAP.

The Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 sets out policies and objectives for land use, settlement strategy, sustainable development, transport, infrastructure, environmental protection and management, climate change, land use etc. for County Meath. Other higher-level international, national and regional plans are integrated within the Meath County Development Plan and have been assessed as such. The MCC CAP will comply with the provisions set within the Meath County Development Plan which itself has been subject to standalone environmental assessment (SEA, NIR, SSFRA etc.).


The assessment of in-combination / cumulative effects concludes that the implementation of the MCC CAP will not result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the qualifying interests/special conservation interests of any Natura 2000 sites.

#### 4.2.7 Screening of minor, non-material modifications to the Meath CAP

The CE’s Report provides a summary of the CE’s recommendations for 2no. minor, non-material modifications to the Meath CAP as a result of the public consultation process. The minor alterations were screened for the requirement for Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment and no likely significant environmental effects were identified. Refer to **Table 4.4** below.

**Table 4.4 Screening of Modifications for AA and SEA**

CAP Section and Page	Proposed Modifications	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)
Page 20 Impacts of Climate Change on County Meath	<p>Wording changed/nonmaterial change new text to read:</p> <p>The assessment identified windstorms as posing the highest level of climate change risk for County Meath. Key impacts from windstorms include damage to buildings and infrastructure including roads, powerlines, and communications systems. Coastal locations like Laytown and Bettystown will be more exposed to wind as there are no land barriers to slow the wind.</p> <p>Flooding has been identified as posing a relatively high risk for County Meath with impacts experienced on a localised scale including damage to assets and infrastructure and potential for isolation of communities and reduction in business activities. Inland locations through which rivers run are exposed to fluvial flooding. There are many small rivers intertwining throughout</p>	<p>This is a minor non-material change relating to information on potential climate change risks for County Meath. The text does not include any reference to proposed actions or works.</p> <p>No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this text in the Plan and the</p>

CAP Section and Page	Proposed Modifications	Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA)
	<p>County Meath, such as the Inny, Delvin, and Broadmeadow. One of the principal rivers in Meath is the Boyne which flows through large urban centres.</p> <p>Laytown Bettystown will also be exposed to sea level rise in a high warming scenario. Coastal flooding in Laytown and Bettystown is considered to be a potential risk in a four-degree temperature increase scenario to 2050.</p> <p>The impact of heavy snowfall and cold spells on County Meath will likely decrease due to the decrease in intensity and duration of these events.</p> <p>The whole of County Meath will be exposed to drought as the frequency and duration of drought events are projected to increase. Agriculture will be particularly vulnerable to drought and water stress for the growth of crops including grass, this in turn will potentially impact livestock.</p> <p>This Climate Change Risk Assessment is linked with the ongoing planning for Meath County Council in terms of adaptation to the changing climate and continued support services to citizens and businesses.</p> <p>This Climate Change Risk Assessment will be repeated when new more granular scientific data on climate becomes available. Meath County Council’s response to climate change will evolve over time as will the impact of future weather events, this residual risk should continue to be modelled alongside the inherent risk.</p>	<p>requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.</p> <p>The requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.</p>
<p>Strategic Goals</p>	<p>All 5 Strategic Goals were updated to align to the DECA Goals as per the example shown.</p>  <p>The graphic titled 'Policy Alignment' features a dark blue header. Below it are five UN Sustainable Development Goal icons: 7 (Renewable Energy), 8 (Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). To the right of these are two DECA goal icons: DECA 1 (orange oval) and DECA 2 (dark blue oval).</p>	<p>This is a minor, non-material change to align the strategic goals with the DECA Goals.</p> <p>The change does not involve proposed actions or works.</p> <p>No likely significant environmental effects on European sites arise as a result of this text in the Plan and the requirement for Stage 2 AA is screened out.</p>

### 4.3 Conservation objectives, threats and vulnerabilities of the European Sites

A key aim of the Habitats Directive is to ‘maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest’. Site-specific conservation objectives aim to define favourable conservation condition for particular habitats or species within a European site. In the case of European sites for which site-specific conservation objectives have not yet been prepared, generic conservation objectives have been provided by NPWS.

The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

Site specific conservation objectives for each of the 27 European sites under appraisal in the NIS have been published by NPWS. For every SAC the conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of each of the Qualifying Interests (habitats), as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out. For every SPA the conservation objectives are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of each of the Special Conservation Interests (the bird species and the wetland habitat), as defined by the range of attributes and targets set out.

### 4.4 Mitigation measures

The findings set out in **Section 4.2** of this Natura Impact Report confirm that, notwithstanding the positive intent and purpose of the MCC CAP, if unmitigated, a total of 15 of the listed actions have potential for adverse effects on the integrity of a total of 27 European sites.

Mitigation for these potential adverse effects will be achieved through the implementation of the detailed environmental protective policies and objectives as set out in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. The Development Plan provides for sustainable planning and management control of all development in County Meath – including any development or works deriving from the Meath CAP.

The environmental protective policies and objectives of the Development Plan that specifically relate to European sites (and the protection of the habitats and species associated with European sites) are set out in **Table 4.5**.

**Table 4.5 Meath Development Plan 2021-2027 (Protective Policies for European sites)**

Theme	Protective Policies
<b>Chapter 07: Community Building Strategy</b>	
Open space and Protection of Natura Sites	<b>SOC POL 39:</b> <i>To protect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites during the identification of suitable sites for recreation, in particular in terms of their design and use.</i>
<b>Chapter 08: Cultural and Natural Heritage Strategy</b>	
Protection of Habitats and Species, including European Sites	<b>HER POL 31:</b> <i>To ensure that the ecological impact of all development proposals on habitats and species are appropriately assessed by suitably qualified professional(s) in accordance with best practice guidelines – e.g. the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment,</i>

Theme	Protective Policies
	<i>Environmental Impact Assessment, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), species surveys etc. (as appropriate).</i>
Protection of European Sites	<b>HER POL 32:</b> <i>To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where the development has been subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process and has been carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife.</i>
Liaison in relation to Protection of sites of European and National Designation	<b>HER POL 33:</b> <i>To have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site or a site proposed for such designation.</i>

Other environmental protective policies and objectives of the Development Plan that do not specifically relate to European sites (and the protection of the habitats and species associated with European sites), but which, through their implementation, will further ensure that there will be no adverse impacts on European sites (and biodiversity in general) are set out in **Table 4.6**.

**Table 4.6 Meath Development Plan 2021-2027 (Additional Protective Policies for Environmental Receptors including European sites)**

Theme	Protective Policies
<b>Chapter 01: Introduction</b>	
International Guidance	<b>INT POL 1:</b> <i>To promote the UNs Sustainable Development Goals within Meath County Council for our customers and stakeholders through the actions and policies taken by the organisation.</i>
<b>Chapter 05: Movement Strategy</b>	
Integration of Sustainable Land Use and Transport Planning	<b>MOV POL 3:</b> <i>To promote sustainable land use planning measures which facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public transportation throughout the County.</i>
Meath Road Safety Strategy	<b>MOV POL 25:</b> <i>To implement the actions of the Meath Road Safety Strategy and promote road and traffic safety measures in conjunction with Government Departments, the Road Safety Authority and other agencies.</i>
<b>Chapter 06: Infrastructure Strategy</b>	
Water Conservation	<b>INF POL 7:</b> <i>To continue to support Irish Water’s Water Conservation Programme.</i>
Water and Public Health	<b>INF POL 8:</b> <i>To continue to work with Irish Water to ensure the protection of public health through the ongoing provision of high-quality drinking water in compliance with drinking water standards.</i>

Theme	Protective Policies
Protection of Water Resources	INF POL 10: <i>To liaise and work in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the protection and improvement of the County’s water resources.</i>
Wastewater Capacity & Access	INF POL 12: <i>To require that in the case of all developments where the public foul sewer network is available or likely to be available and has sufficient capacity, that development shall be connected to it.</i>
Surface Water Quality	INF POL 15: <i>To continue efforts to improve water quality under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, as amended and by implementing the measures outlined under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and complying with the requirements of the European Communities Environment Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and other relevant regulations.</i>
Surface Water Management	INF POL 16: <i>To ensure that all planning applications for new development have regard to the surface water management policies provided for in the GSDSDS.</i>
Surface Water Drainage and Flood Management	INF POL 17: <i>To liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for surface water drainage and flood management, including the separation of foul and surface water drainage networks where feasible and undertake drainage network upgrades to help remove surface water misconnection and infiltration.</i>
Flood Risk Management	INF POL 18: <i>To implement the “Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009) through the use of the sequential approach and application of Justification Tests for Development Management and Development Plans, during the period of this Plan.</i>
Flood Risk Assessment	INF POL 20: <i>To require that a Flood Risk Assessment is carried out for any development proposal, where flood risk may be an issue in accordance with the “Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (DoECLG/OPW, 2009). This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to and from the potential development and shall consider the impact of climate change.</i>
Surface Water Liaison	INF POL 21: <i>To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible.</i>
Riparian Corridor	INF POL 22: <i>To retain a strip of 10 metres on either side of all channels/flood defence embankments where required, to facilitate access thereto.</i>
River Basin Management and Groundwater Protection	INF POL 32: <i>To ensure, through the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan(s) and the associated Programmes of Measures and any other associated legislation or revised plans with all relevant stakeholders, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the County.</i>

Theme	Protective Policies
Protection of Salmonid Water Courses	INF POL 33: <i>To protect recognised salmonid water courses (in conjunction with Inland Fisheries Ireland) such as the Boyne and Blackwater catchments, which are recognised to be exceptional in supporting salmonid fish species.</i>
Renewable Energy Sources and Protection of the Environment	INF POL 34: <i>To promote sustainable energy sources, locally based renewable energy alternatives, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment (including water quality), landscape, biodiversity, natural and built heritage, residential or local amenities.</i>
<b>Chapter 07: Community Building Strategy</b>	
Open space and Protection of Natura Sites	SOC POL 39: <i>To protect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites during the identification of suitable sites for recreation, in particular in terms of their design and use.</i>
<b>Chapter 08: Cultural and Natural Heritage Strategy</b>	
Protection of Sites, Monuments, Places, Areas or Objects of Archaeology Heritage Significance	HER POL 1: <i>To protect sites, monuments, places, areas or objects of the following categories:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sites and monuments included in the Sites and Monuments Record as maintained by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;</i></li> <li>• <i>Monuments and places included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under the National Monuments Acts;</i></li> <li>• <i>Historic monuments and archaeological areas included in the Register of Historic Monuments as established under the National Monuments Acts;</i></li> <li>• <i>National monuments subject to Preservation Orders under the National Monuments Acts and national monuments which are in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or a local authority;</i></li> <li>• <i>Archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts; and Wrecks protected under the National Monuments Acts or otherwise included in the Shipwreck Inventory maintained by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</i></li> </ul>
Protection of Archaeological Heritage	HER POL 3: <i>To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.</i>
Protection of Archaeological Heritage	HER POL 4: <i>To require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than half a hectare or for linear developments over one kilometre in length; or developments in proximity to areas with a density of known archaeological monuments</i>

Theme	Protective Policies
	<i>and history of discovery as identified by a suitably qualified archaeologist.</i>
Protection of Architectural Heritage	HER POL 13: <i>To protect and preserve in situ all surviving elements of medieval town defences.</i>
Protection of Architectural Heritage	HER POL 14: <i>To protect and conserve the architectural heritage of the County and seek to prevent the demolition or inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures.</i>
Protection of Protected Structures	HER POL 16: <i>To protect the setting of Protected Structures and to refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a protected structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.</i>
Protection of Protected Structures	HER POL 17: <i>To require that all planning applications relating to Protected Structures contain the appropriate accompanying documentation in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable the proper assessment of the proposed works.</i>
Protection of Architectural Conservation Areas	HER POL 19: <i>To protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in Meath.</i>
Protection of Architectural Heritage	HER POL 21: <i>To encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.</i>
Protection of Landscape Heritage	HER POL 26: <i>To encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</i>
Protection of Natural Heritage	HER POL 27: <i>To protect, conserve and enhance the County's biodiversity where appropriate.</i>
Protection of Natural Heritage	HER POL 28: <i>To integrate in the development management process the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate.</i>
Protection of Habitats and Species, including European Sites	HER POL 31: <i>To ensure that the ecological impact of all development proposals on habitats and species are appropriately assessed by suitably qualified professional(s) in accordance with best practice guidelines – e.g. the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), Screening Statement for Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Natura Impact Statement (NIS), species surveys etc. (as appropriate).</i>
Protection of European Sites	HER POL 32: <i>To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where the development</i>



Theme	Protective Policies
	<i>has been subject to the outcome of the Appropriate Assessment process and has been carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife.</i>
Liaison in relation to Protection of sites of European and National Designation	HER POL 33: <i>To have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site or a site proposed for such designation.</i>
Protection of Biodiversity	HER POL 35: <i>To ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</i>
Liaison in relation to Protection of Protected Plants, Animals and Birds	HER POL 36: <i>To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and take account of their views and any licensing requirements, when undertaking, approving or authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</i>
Protection of Woodlands, hedgerows and trees	HER POL 37: <i>To encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where practically possible. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required.</i>
Planting of Native Species	HER POL 38: <i>To promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species in new developments and as part of the Council's own landscaping works.</i>
Protection of Townland Boundary Heritage	HER POL 39: <i>To recognise the archaeological importance of townland boundaries including hedgerows and promote their protection and retention.</i>
Protection of Trees and Woodlands	HER POL 40: <i>To protect and encourage the effective management of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees and to encourage the retention of mature trees and the use of tree surgery rather than felling, where possible, when undertaking, approving or authorising development.</i>
Control of Invasive Species	HER POL 43: <i>To promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out its functions in association with relevant authorities including TII and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.</i>
Management of Invasive Species	HER POL 44: <i>To require all development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.</i>

Theme	Protective Policies
s	HER POL 46: <i>To maintain the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Geological Sites listed in Table 8.7 (of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027) and, through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, protect them from inappropriate development.</i>
Protection of Waterways and Associated Towpaths and Wetlands	HER POL 47: <i>To protect the ecological, recreational, educational, amenity and flood alleviation potential of navigational and non-navigational waterways within the County, towpaths and adjacent wetlands.</i>
Protection of Wetlands	HER POL 48: <i>To manage, enhance and protect the wetlands of the County having regard to the 'County Meath Wetland Survey 2010' and ensure that there is an appropriate level of assessment in relation to proposals which would involve draining, reclaiming or infilling of wetland habitats.</i>
Protection of Coastal Zones	HER POL 49: <i>To protect the character, visual, recreational, ecological and amenity value of the coast and provisions for public access, in assessing proposals for development.</i>
Protection of Natural Coastal Defences	HER POL 50: <i>To ensure that the County's natural coastal defences, such as beaches, sand dunes, coastal wetlands and estuaries are not compromised by inappropriate works or development.</i>
Protection of Landscape and Landscape Character	HER POL 52: <i>To protect and enhance the quality, character, and distinctiveness of the landscapes of the County in accordance with national policy and guidelines and the recommendations of the Meath Landscape Character Assessment (2007) in Appendix 5, to ensure that new development meets high standards of siting and design.</i>
<b>Chapter 09: Rural Development Strategy</b>	
Development Management Standards and Environmental Protection	RD POL 44: <i>To ensure that new development meets the highest standards in terms of environmental protection.</i>
Protection of Groundwater	RD POL 45: <i>To utilise a "Groundwater Protection Response Matrix" to assist in deciding the appropriateness of various categories of development to areas that have different levels of vulnerability in terms of groundwater contamination. This approach will support the proper input of information into planning decision-making processes.</i>
<b>Chapter 10: Climate Change Strategy</b>	
Environmental Protection	This chapter includes policies listed in other chapters of the Development Plan, including the following, which are also highlighted in this table: MOV POL 3; INF POL 20; INF POL 34; HER POL 43; and HER POL 44.
<b>Chapter 11: Development Management Standards and Land Use Zoning Objectives</b>	
Protection of Field Boundaries	DM POL 9: <i>To support the retention of field boundaries for their ecological/habitat significance, as demonstrated by a suitably qualified professional. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other</i>

Theme	Protective Policies
	<i>distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same boundary type will be required.</i>

#### 4.5 Summary and Conclusion

This Natura Impact Report has considered the potential impacts of the implementation of the Meath County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 on the integrity of the relevant European sites.

This report concludes on the best scientific evidence that it can be clearly demonstrated that no elements of the MCC CAP will result in any impact on the integrity or Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests of any relevant European site, either on their own or in-combination with other plans or projects, in light of their conservation objectives, provided mitigation measures are implemented.

## Appendix 1 – Environmental Assessment of the Actions of the Meath Climate Action Plan – as they relate to European sites

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
<b>Goal 1</b> Develop appropriate structures and processes for directing and managing effective climate action <b>Thematic Area</b> Governance & Leadership <b>Objectives 1.1</b> Support the development and implementation of positive climate action across all services and	1	Implement ISO 50001 Energy Management System.	This action will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs, including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	2	Use green procurement where feasible in all procurement of good and services.	This action will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs, including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	3	Prepare a Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Guidance Document to support the inclusion of the global goals in all plans, strategies and grant programmes published by the LA.	This action will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs, including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	4	Mainstreaming of climate mitigation and adaptation considerations into all policies, strategies and plans adopted by LA.	This action will support in raising awareness regarding climate change and measures to mitigate and adapt to it. This action will have a likely positive effect on climate.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
operations of Meath County Council, collaborating with others to enable and inspire endeavours to reduce their climate impact.	5	Identify an appropriate monitoring and reporting protocol on the implementation of low carbon construction in public tenders and grant schemes.	This action will assist to monitor and report the implementation of carbon reduction measures and will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	6	Undertake annual audits of climate expenditure that considers cost effectiveness, efficiency, governance, relevance, coherence and impacts (environment and societal).	This action will assist in annual monitoring to ensure that effective implementation of the climate budget is undertaken and will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs, including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	7	Identify and put in place appropriate business continuity measures to ensure continuity of service provision during severe weather events.	This action will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs, including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	8	Conduct detailed study of staff modal split to identify measures to reduce staff travel emissions.	This action will result in a better understanding of the baseline, encourage modal shift away from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and encourage use of active travel measures, resulting in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
	9	Organise awareness, information, knowledge sharing and capacity initiatives with staff on mitigation and adaptation measures.	This action will support the implementation of effective climate action measures and support behavioural change resulting in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	10	Delivery of EV Charging Strategy for County Meath.	This action will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs, including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	11	Continue to support and expand the 'Bus It 2 School' Pathfinder Project.	This action promotes energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emission and will have a positive effect on climate, air quality and population and human health.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	12	Develop strategic partnerships to assist in achieving emissions targets.	This action can potentially result in reduced energy consumption and reduced GHG emissions. This can result in positive effects on climate and assist in achieving national GHG emission reduction targets and requirements.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	13	Ensure readily available information, advice, knowledge	This action will support in raising awareness regarding climate change and		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		and awareness of climate friendly actions via LA Climate Action Website and social media posts.	measures to mitigate and adapt to it. This action will have a positive effect on climate.		
	14	LA staff to receive climate action training under Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme	This action will support in raising awareness regarding climate change and measures to mitigate and adapt to it. This action will have a positive effect on climate.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
<b>Goal 2</b> Achieve local government carbon emissions and energy efficiency Targets for 2030  <b>Thematic Area</b> Built Environment & Transport  <b>Objective 2.1</b>	1	Incorporate biodiversity, mitigation and adaptation actions into the design and delivery of urban regeneration plans.	This action will ensure biodiversity is appropriately protected and managed at the site along with climate mitigation and adaptation measures and will have a positive effects on the environment, including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	2	Continue to work with appropriate external stakeholders to deliver social housing at a BER B2 or cost optimal standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, as feasible.	While the overall intention is positive, resulting actions (e.g. renewable energy, EV charging etc.) could have negative or uncertain effects for European sites.	In the absence of mitigation, works involved in the construction of social housing infrastructure have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.	

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
Minimize the Council's contribution to climate change by increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and encouraging sustainable opportunities for the broader County Meath community.	3	Reduce and remove where feasible plastic waste generated, through removing single use plastics within LA owned buildings and services.	This action will support proper management of waste, reduce the risk of improper waste disposal and thereby reduce environmental pollution, and will have positive effects on the environment including European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	4	Switch to digital marketing and advertising materials wherever possible. Reduce production/waste on programmes and posters.	This action would result in positive effects for the environment and climate and will not result in adverse environmental consequences.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	5	Switch out on cleansing products to eco-friendly products	This action would result in positive effects for the environment and reduce existing pollution risks.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	6	Introduce water usage conservation measures within LA owned buildings	This action would result in positive effects for the environment and climate and will not result in adverse environmental consequences.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	7	Management of municipal waste from LA owned buildings. Increase recycling/organise waste collection and reduce general waste.	This action will support proper management of waste, reduce the risk of improper waste disposal and thereby reduce environmental pollution and will have a positive effects on the environment, including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out



Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
	8	Management of energy efficient LA fleet including implementation of driving efficiency software and associated eco driving training for all staff driving LA fleet	This action will result in positive effects on the climate and air quality by reduction of emissions.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	9	Undertake deep retrofit and install renewable energy sources as appropriate on LA owned buildings.	This action will support energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emissions reduction. This action will have positive effects on climate and air.	In the absence of mitigation, works involved in retrofitting of existing infrastructure have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.	
	10	Construct all new LA properties to A2 Energy Rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, where feasible.	This action promotes energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emission and will have a positive effects on climate and air quality.	In the absence of mitigation, construction works involved in the provision of this infrastructure have the potential to impact on European sites.	
	11	All Buy and Renew acquisition properties should be retrofitted to a B2 BER rating or higher including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions, as feasible.	This action will support energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emissions reduction. This action will have positive effects on climate and air quality.	In the absence of mitigation, works involved in retrofitting of existing infrastructure have the potential to impact on European sites.	

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
	12	Increase energy efficiency of ICT Infrastructure.	This action will have a positive effects on the environment including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	13	Deliver public lighting LED retrofit project under PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficient Project).	This action aims to deliver LED lighting infrastructure. This has potential for positive effects on the environment including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	14	New Building projects designed to nZEB standard including provision of Energy Efficient Design, on-site renewable energy, EV Charging Facilities, SuDs, and nature based solutions.	This action will support energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emissions reduction. This action will have positive effect on climate.	In the absence of mitigation, works involved in provision of new infrastructure have the potential to impact on European sites.	
	15	Promote the reuse and refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties in town centres and simultaneously promote the sustainable use of these properties for appropriate active town centre uses.	This action will provide support urban regeneration and have positive to population and human health and climate change.	In the absence of mitigation, works involved in refurbishment have the potential to impact on European sites.	
	16	Increase active travel usage in town centres through improved sustainable active travel proposals and an enhanced	This action will, in general result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs.	In the absence of mitigation, works involved as part of these proposals have the	

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		pedestrian and public realm environment.		<b>potential to impact on European sites.</b>	
	17	Explore the feasibility of sustainable energy and heating solutions in County Meath	This action will result in overall positive or neutral effects on the environmental themes and SEOs including European sites		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
<b>Goal 3</b> Protect and enhance Meath’s natural environment by supporting biodiversity and increasing climate resilience  <b>Thematic Area</b>  Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure  <b>Objective 3.1</b>	1	Installation of water butts at public buildings, to aid tidy towns committees, staff and contractors access a sustainable water source for garden maintenance.	This action will promote sustainable water use and is will not result in any adverse environmental effects including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	2	Commence a programme of auditing of LA lands to carry out ecological and habitat surveys and highlight areas at risk and those suitable for restoration and enhanced carbon storage.	This action will provide useful baseline data and will not result in any adverse environmental effects including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	3	Develop options for the delivery of a National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions and interim guidance to the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas.	This action will provide useful baseline data for delivery of nature-based solution and water management and will not result in any adverse environmental effects including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
Support the responsible management, protection and enhancement of Meath’s natural heritage, biodiversity, and natural environment	4	Plant native woodland on appropriate LA owned lands.	This action is likely to have a positive environmental effect on many environmental factors. However, the action could also have uncertain effects for existing biodiversity and European sites.	<b>Planting of native woodland in unsuitable locations has the potential to impact on European sites.</b>	
	5	Major Emergency Plan - co-ordinate update of emergency response plans and revise based on learnings of response to events, having regard to environment sensitivities	This action will result in likely positive effects for population and human health. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	6	Identification of Critical Infrastructure Routes on the existing network for climate related extreme weather events.	This action will identify potential for extreme weather-related issues on key infrastructure routes for improved management of and reaction to same. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	7	Develop and implement a County (Local) Biodiversity Action Plan, to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including climate-relevant measures	This action will ensure biodiversity is appropriately protected and managed at the site along with climate mitigation and adaptation measures. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	8	Undertake climate risk assessment of local authority	This action will provide useful baseline data for climate risk assessment and	<b>In the absence of any mitigation, works involved</b>	

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		owned heritage assets (natural, built and cultural). Carry out regular programme of inspection, maintenance and phased conservation works to develop climate resilience.	assist to develop climate resilience measures. However, the action could also have uncertain effects for existing biodiversity and European sites.	<b>have the potential to result in impacts on European sites</b>	
	9	Carry out an assessment of Section 4 discharges to Water Licenses	This action will provide useful baseline data for Section 4 discharges and water licences. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	10	Support the creation of community gardens through partnership with local communities and external agencies.	This action will increase engagement with the environment and is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect on biodiversity, water management, carbon sequestration, soil management, climate and air quality. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>
	11	Support and facilitate the planting of groups of trees within the boundary/built footprint of existing built-up areas.	This action will increase engagement with the environment and is likely to have a slight positive environmental effect on biodiversity, water management, carbon sequestration, soil management, climate and air quality. No likely adverse		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
			environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		
<b>Goal 4</b> Mobilise Climate Action in Local Communities, whilst achieving a just transition  <b>Thematic Area</b> Communities: Resilience & Transition  <b>Objective 4.1</b> Promote through collaboration and partnership sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities, focusing on	1	Installation of water refill stations at public buildings / amenity areas, to reduce the use of single use plastics.	This action will reduce the use of single use plastic and reduce the risk of improper waste disposal and thereby reduce environmental pollution. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	2	Expand Trim Air Quality Project to other Decarbonising Zones	This action would provide valuable baseline data on air quality and will thereby assist in air quality reporting. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	3	Monitor implementation of flood risk management guidelines in planning applications, having regard to environmental sensitivities e.g. biodiversity, archaeology, amenity value.	Monitoring programme will lead to positive environmental consequences. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	4	Expand operation and availability of bike and car share schemes. Promote bike and car share scheme.	This action supports the development of bike and car share infrastructure. The provision of these proposals have the potential for likely positive effects on population and human health through the promotion of active travel modes that benefit human health. The promotion of		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
actions which promote health and wellbeing benefits and supports local economies.			bike and car share schemes also has potential for likely positive effects on climate change and air quality due to reduction of GHG emissions. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		
	5	Identify and map areas most susceptible to climate related extreme weather events on the road network	This action would provide valuable baseline data on climate change susceptible areas. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	6	Promote & publicise the benefits of using the Home Energy Kits from the Library.	This action will raise awareness and provide better understanding of the energy usage at home and help improve energy efficiency. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	7	Increase number of safe routes to school scheme, where feasible.	This action supports the development of safe routes to school scheme infrastructure. The provision of these proposals have the potential for likely positive effects on population and human health through the promotion of active travel modes that benefit human health. The promotion of this schemes also has potential for likely positive	In the absence of mitigation, infrastructure works involved as part of these proposals have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.	

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
			effects on climate change and air quality due to reduction of GHG emissions.		
	8	To liaise with the OPW in the identification of new or the reinforcement of existing flood defences and protection measures.	This action will enhance flood protection measures and provide likely positive effects on water management and population and human health. This action will also support to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	<b>In the absence of mitigation, infrastructure works for provision of flood defences have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.</b>	
	9	Review of Flood events and Flood susceptibility of infrastructure and liaise with relevant MCC Sections and Uisce Éireann to identify assets at risk from flooding/extreme rainfall to inform and implement low-cost 'minor works' flood relief schemes	This action will enhance flood protection measures and provide likely positive effects on water management and population and human health. This action will also support to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	<b>In the absence of mitigation, infrastructure works for provision of flood defences have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.</b>	
	10	Carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Study for County Meath and implement the recommendations while prioritising nature based solutions.	This action will enhance flood protection measures and provide likely positive effects on water management and population and human health. This action will also support to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	<b>In the absence of mitigation, infrastructure works for provision of flood and coastal defences have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.</b>	
	11	Develop and provide information on Sustainable Living to engage Council Tenants on how they can	This action will raise awareness and provide better understanding of the energy usage, water consumption and		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>



Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		reduce consumption of energy, water and waste	waste generation at home and help improve energy efficiency and water/water management. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		
	12	Promote, support the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme and deliver workshops	This action will raise awareness and provide better understanding of the energy usage and help improve energy efficiency. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	13	Administer and support Strand 1 & 1A of Community Climate Action Programme to deliver selected Climate Action projects.	This action will support to build low carbon communities. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	14	Encourage all events approved by MCC to incorporate sustainability and integrated consideration for biodiversity and other environmental sensitives	This action will incorporate sustainability and increase awareness of biodiversity and receiving environment as a whole. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	15	Guided by the Memorandum of understanding signed between the GAA and CCMA, towards working together on sustainability and climate action projects, engage with the Green	No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		Club Programme through a nominated lead, working with the CARO and GAA, in the promotion and support of projects by participating clubs, to meet the objectives, and during key phases, of the programme to 2029			
	16	Develop and introduce a "Greening Festival" funding criteria for a selection of Meath-based festivals.	This action will provide overarching environmental benefits. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
<b>Goal 5</b> Create a culture of sustainability, promoting a circular economy throughout the County	1	Increase use of recycling and recovery for bulky household items, hazardous waste, electrical waste and green waste.	This action will provide behavioural change and raise awareness on circular economy principles. This action will result in reduction of GHG emissions and provide likely positive effects for climate change and waste management. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
<b>Thematic Area</b> Sustainability & Resource Management	2	Increase kerbside collection of Household Organic Waste using Brown Bin Scheme. Countywide Awareness Campaign in relation to roll out of Brown Bin using Radio, Print and social media	This action will provide behavioural change and raise awareness on proper waste segregation. This action will result in reduction of GHG emissions and provide likely positive effects for climate change and waste management. No likely		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
<b>Objective 5.1</b> Support circular economy initiatives and infrastructure, focusing on prevention, reuse, repair and recycling and promote green business opportunities.			adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		
	3	Support the establishment of 'Circular Economy Hubs' that act as physical material hubs for the drop-off and recirculation of materials and products from and for both commercial and residential activities	This action will provide behavioural change and raise awareness on circular economy principles. This action will result in reduction of GHG emissions and provide likely positive effects for climate change and waste management. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	4	Engage with businesses and residents to support adoption of reused and recycled materials	This action will provide behavioural change and raise awareness on circular economy principles. This action will result in reduction of GHG emissions and provide likely positive effects for climate change and waste management. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	5	Support locally produced sustainable food products and promote sustainable farm practices.	No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	6	Provision of a 2 Day Green for Business Environmental Audit	The audit process will help to raise awareness amongst small businesses on measures to reduce carbon emissions. No		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		amongst small businesses in the County (1-50 employees).	likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		
	7	Support business in their transition via Government initiatives e.g., green for micro	This action will support to build low carbon communities and will not result in adverse environmental effects. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	8	Encourage and promote projects that will contribute positively and grow the circular and bioeconomy to promote sustainable rural and urban low carbon economic development	This action will support to build low carbon communities and will not result in adverse environmental effects. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	9	Promotion of local jobs and local workspaces to reduce the amount of commuting outside of the county.	This action will promote opportunities for local jobs and reduce travel based emissions. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out
	10	Support development of enterprise hubs to facilitate remote working	This action will promote opportunities for remote working and reduce travel based emissions.	In the absence of mitigation, these works have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.	
	11	Implement improved management of construction and	This action will provide behavioural change and raise awareness on circular economy principles. This action will result in reduction of GHG emissions and		No significant effects on European sites – Screened out

Strategic Goals	No	Action	Potential Environmental Effects	Potential Uncertain or Negative Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites	Potential Positive or Neutral Effects on the QIs/SCIs of European sites
		demolition (C&D) waste from LA activities.	provide likely positive effects for climate change and waste management. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		
	12	In4Green Urbact Network Project: Complete the Integrated Action Plan for Navan. (Plan objectives include strengthening walking and cycling, and optimising traffic access to reduce through traffic and to facilitate high quality public transport services; behavioural change linking to 2050 Vision)	This action supports the development of active travel infrastructure and high quality public transport services. The provision of active travel proposals have the potential for likely positive effects on population and human health and through the promotion of active travel modes that benefit human health. The promotion of modal shift also has potential for likely positive effects on climate change and air quality due to reduction of GHG emissions.	<b>In the absence of mitigation, these works have the potential to result in impacts on European sites.</b>	
	13	Develop a waste management plan with particular attention to the circular economy principles. Promotion of the circular economy e.g., recycling facilities/ repair hubs, and Bike repair days to be organised. On street waste segregation to be trialled.	This action will provide behavioural change and raise awareness on circular economy principles. This action will result in reduction of GHG emissions and provide likely positive effects for climate change and waste management. No likely adverse environmental effect is predicted including on European sites.		<b>No significant effects on European sites – Screened out</b>









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