

FODC104



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council

Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Local Development Plan 2030
Habitats Regulations Assessment
October 2018





CONSULTATION

This Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is issued for consultation purposes alongside the Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy 2030 for an 8-week period commencing on Friday 26th October 2018 and closing at 12 noon on Friday 21st December 2018.

We welcome your comments on any aspects of the HRA Report, and in particular if any of the predicted effects are likely or if you agree or not with the recommendations of the HRA.

Comments received will be considered to help further drafting of policies or may lead to revisions or updated versions of this HRA Report prior to an Independent Examination conducted by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) or other appointed Independent Examiner.

Commenting on the Habitats Regulations Assessment

To make comments on the HRA document, you can:

By mail

- Write to the Development Plan Team, Planning Department, Strule House, 16 High Street, Omagh, BT78 1BQ

By email

- E-mail the Development Plan Team at developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com
(Please ensure the subject line says 'Draft Plan Strategy – HRA')



CONTENTS

Non-technical Summary	5
1. The Fermanagh and Omagh Plan Strategy	9
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Development Plan	10
2. Habitats Regulations Assessment: The Approach	13
Introduction	13
The Directives	13
HRA - The Stages and Steps.....	14
In combination and cumulative effects.....	14
Integrating HRA with Plan Preparation	15
Assessment Assumptions and Limitations	15
Consideration of CJEU Cast C323/17.....	16
3. Stage 1 Screening for likely significant effects – Plan and Sites	19
4. Stage 1 Screening for Likely Significant Effects – Plan Proposals and Sites	22
Overview	22
Vision and Strategic Objectives.....	23
Draft Strategic Policies	23
Draft Development Management Policies.....	25
Potential Impacts of Development	32
Pathways to International Sites.....	36
5. Protective measures in the draft Plan Strategy	46
Introduction	46
Part One: Introduction Vision, Strategic Objectives and Spatial Growth Strategy.....	46
Part Two Development Management Policies	48
Monitoring and Review.....	50
6. Preparation for Appropriate Assessment	51
Introduction	51
7. Outcome and Recommendations	56
Overview	56
In combination and Cumulative Effects	60
Recommendations.....	60
Conclusions of the HRA.....	65
Abbreviations	66
Glossary	67
Appendices	69
Appendix 1: References and Evidence Sources	70
Appendix 2: The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), Regulation 43	71
Appendix 3: Planning Policies for International Designations	72
Appendix 4: The Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment for Plans	75
Appendix 5: Detailed Review of draft Plan Strategy Proposals	82
Appendix 7: Maps	148

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Regulation 43 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), requires an appropriate assessment to be undertaken of plans and projects which are likely to have a significant effect on an International site in Northern Ireland, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and provides for assessment of the implications of a land use plan for International sites in view of their conservation objectives. It is accepted practice to also carry out HRA for International sites in adjoining jurisdictions where there is potential for a transboundary effect.

This draft HRA Report is prepared in support of the draft Plan Strategy for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Development Plan (LDP). It documents the assessment of the draft Plan Strategy proposals and its potential impacts on International sites which include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Ramsar sites are also considered in HRA as a matter of policy.

Overview of draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy provides a plan-led policy framework for making day-to-day decisions to help Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (herein referred to as 'the Council' or 'Council area') deliver sustainable development including future housing, employment, retail and infrastructure provision across the District. It sets out how the area will change and grow over the period up to 2030. It provides a vision and set of objectives to deliver a strategy for the growth of the area; a suite of strategic planning policies and detailed policies to guide development; and details of how the Plan Strategy will be monitored. The draft Plan Strategy will be published for public consultation and independent examination before it is adopted.

The nature of the draft Plan Strategy is that it has potential to have a significant effect on some International sites therefore we are undertaking a HRA in our role as a competent authority to ensure the legal requirements of the Habitats Regulations are fully met.

International sites Considered

A total of 70 sites that have the potential to be connected to the plan area were reviewed. These included sites within the Council area, ranging from large sites such as Upper Lough Erne SAC to a number of much smaller sites focused on protecting a





single habitat such as Tonnagh Beg Bog. Sites beyond the Council area but with an ecological connection were included, for example the River Foyle and Tributaries which is hydrologically connected. On a precautionary basis, all sites within 15km of the plan area were considered.

Assessment of the Plan

All of the Plan Strategy proposals were reviewed, from the vision, aims and objectives through to the strategic and topic-based policies. This found that some proposals, for example the vision and aims, were policy statements that are too general to assess. Some policies are such that they could not have an effect on International sites, for example those relating to design principles or protecting assets such as open space. The remainder of the proposals and policies are too general to assess at this strategic stage, but are identified as having potential for either minor or significant effects on International sites.

Potential Impacts

On a precautionary basis all the potential impacts of these proposals were considered. It was found that the draft Plan Strategy could have the potential to affect International sites through the following impacts:

- **Habitat Loss:** Direct habitat loss in an International site or loss of supporting habitat such as salmon spawning areas.
- **Direct Disturbance:** This includes noise, vibration or light disturbance during construction or operation, or the presence of people on land developed for recreational use.
- **Indirect Disturbance:** Disturbance beyond development sites arising from increased levels of recreation including watersports.
- **Introduced Species:** The introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species.
- **Aerial Emissions:** Aerial emissions primarily arise from industry and transport but domestic fuel and agricultural intensification are also sources.
- **Water Pollution:** Deterioration of or failure to improve water quality due to direct runoff of pollutants, including fuel, chemicals and sediments, from development during construction or operation or indirect pollution due to inadequacy of wastewater treatment infrastructure.
- **Hydrological Change:** Alteration of the hydrology of sensitive habitats and species by either increasing or decreasing runoff or water percolation into aquifers.

Screening sites for likely significant effects

On review of the long list of International sites, it was found that 12 of the 70 sites identified in the baseline list could be eliminated because they are beyond the distance where aerial emissions could have an effect and have no other connection with the plan area. The screening of all sites found that significant effects could not be entirely ruled out for the remaining 58 sites, 36 of which are in Northern Ireland with 22 in Ireland.

Protective measures incorporated in the draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy includes overarching policies which protect all International sites, and restrictive designations which give added protection, directly or indirectly, to International sites. There are also many statements in the Context and Justification or Policy Clarification for the draft policies which emphasise that development should not be at the expense of the natural environment. These are all such that no project can be brought forward under the draft Plan Strategy which would have an adverse effect on an International site. Some recommendations are made however, to enhance the protection for International sites under the LDP, and further reduce the risks of adverse effects on site integrity.

Need for Appropriate Assessment

In light of the fact that the draft policies that may have an effect were all found to be too general to assess it was not considered that the HRA could be meaningfully progressed to appropriate assessment. However it is considered beneficial to further consider potential impacts and to compile information about to help developers bringing forward, and planners determining, projects under the Plan Strategy. This will assist in the identification of potential pathways to, impacts on, and mitigation to protect International sites and their selection features and will help avoid adverse effects on site integrity.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The draft Plan Strategy vision, objectives and strategic and development management policies are such that they are general policy statements, not likely to have a significant effect, or too general to assess. It also includes several cross cutting policies which, together with regional policy and regulations, mean that projects cannot be brought forward under the Plan Strategy that would have an adverse effect on the integrity of International sites.





Care needs to be taken however, to ensure that the policies are operated as intended and regulations implemented. A number of recommendations are included to support implementation of the Plan Strategy and reinforce the importance of considering and addressing potential impacts on International sites.

Next Steps

The HRA will be added to and finalised following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy, then published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy. Before finalising the HRA, relevant plans will be reviewed to assess potential in combination effects. Regulation 43 (4) of the Habitats Regulations allows for the competent authority to obtain the opinion of the general public on the HRA if it considers it appropriate and therefore comments are also invited on this HRA. Details on how to comment can be found at the front of this report.

1. THE FERMANAGH AND OMAGH PLAN STRATEGY

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Development Plan

The Draft Plan Strategy for Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out how the area will change and grow over the period up to 2030. It provides:

- a vision for Fermanagh and Omagh towards the end of the plan period;
- a set of objectives to deliver the vision;
- a strategy for the growth of the area - how much development should be provided, where it should go and where it shouldn't go;
- a suite of strategic planning policies and detailed policies to guide development; and
- details of how the Plan Strategy will be monitored.

The LDP shares the Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan Vision:

Our Vision is of a welcoming, shared and inclusive Fermanagh and Omagh district, where people and places are healthy, safe, connected and prosperous, and where our outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage is cherished and sustainably managed.

The Plan Strategy is the first of two development plan documents which will comprise the LDP. The draft Plan Strategy provides a plan-led policy framework for making day-to-day decisions to help Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (herein referred to as 'the Council' or 'Council area') deliver sustainable development including future housing, employment, retail and infrastructure provision across the District.

Preparation - the process and progress

The Plan Strategy has been developed following extensive consultation and dialogue with a wide range of individuals, organisations and interest groups. Consultation began in October 2016 with the publication of the Preferred Options Paper which outlined the main issues and policy options to address them. The responses to this consultation stage have been important in developing the strategy and development management policies within the Plan Strategy. In addition, specialist studies including a Retail Capacity Study, Landscape Wind Capacity Study and a Landscape Character Review have provided strong supporting evidence.





Overview of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area

The Council area covers 3,000 km² and is the largest Council area in terms of land mass and the smallest in terms of population. A high proportion of the population reside across a wide rural area in villages, small settlements and single dwellings. The two main towns of Enniskillen and Omagh are recognised as hubs in the Regional Development Strategy. The Council area comprises a mixture of landscapes, containing the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Fermanagh Lakelands and Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark. Map 1 in Appendix 7 illustrates the council Area.

Local Development Plan - The Stages

Preferred Options Paper

The Preferred Options Paper (POP) published in October 2016 outlined the main issues and policy options to address them. It was accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Interim Report which was informed by HRA baseline information.

Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy has taken account of representations on the POP, further evidence gathering and discussions with stakeholders and Elected Members. This draft HRA has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Plan Strategy on International sites.

Local Policies Plan

The Local Policies Plan will be prepared following adoption of the Plan Strategy. It will define settlement limits, land use zonings, local environmental designations, and introduce local policies as appropriate for these zones. Key site requirements will be provided for any sites allocated within the LPP (e.g. for housing, industrial or business, town centre/opportunity sites). Another draft HRA will be prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Local Policies Plan on International sites.

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Local Development Plans must also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and to Sustainability Appraisal during their preparation with reports required at defined stages. The Sustainability Appraisal process both informed, and was informed by, the HRA process.

Structure of the draft Plan Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy is presented in three parts as detailed in Part One 1.4 and summarised as follows. Part One presents the legal and policy context; profile of the District; and the process of plan preparation. It sets out the vision and objectives, the spatial growth strategy and strategic policies.

Part Two contains all the proposed development management policies grouped under five themes under which policy groups are presented.

- Development and Design
- People and Places
 - o Housing in Settlements
 - o Housing in the Countryside
 - o Community Facilities
 - o Open Space, Sport and Recreation
 - o Rural Community Areas
- Economy
 - o Industry and Business
 - o Town Centres and Retailing
 - o Tourism
 - o Minerals Development
- Environment
 - o Historic Environment
 - o Natural Environment
 - o Landscape
- Infrastructure
 - o Flood Risk Management
 - o Renewable Energy
 - o Transportation
 - o Public Utilities
 - o Waste Management

For each theme or policy group the Context and Justification is set out first followed by the draft development management policies. Every policy is followed by a section of Policy Clarification. There is no plan to prepare further supplementary policies guidance. Key site requirements will be provided for any sites allocated within the LPP (e.g. for housing, industrial or business, town centre/opportunity sites).





Some of the policy groups include a strategy. The Open Space Strategy identifies how open space will be protected, provided, planned and designed to maximise the benefits it provides. The Town Centres and Retail Strategy adopts a town centre first approach for retail and other main town centres uses. This is to support and sustain vibrant town centres while also recognising that retail facilities in the villages and at local level can complement the main town centres and be important to local communities. The Tourism Strategy aims to sustain and increase the number of visitors to the area. The priority for location of new accommodation and facilities is in the main towns followed by tourism hubs. Outside these locations tourism development must be appropriately sited and designed and all development must safeguard our tourism assets from inappropriate development.

Part Two also sets out how the plan will be monitored and reviewed. Finally Part Three comprises all the appendices including the Council's Wind Energy Strategy; and other areas of guidance which forms part of the Plan.

2. HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT: THE APPROACH

Introduction

This Chapter describes the overall approach taken to carry out Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for plans in general and how that approach has been applied to the draft Plan Strategy. The tools for this assessment were developed in accordance with the Directives and Habitats Regulations described below and informed by the Habitats Regulations Handbook and further reference material (Appendix 1).

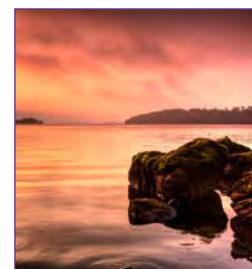
In the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended), hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations, Regulation 43 requires an appropriate assessment to be undertaken of plans and projects which are likely to have a significant effect on an International site in Northern Ireland, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This is known as HRA and provides for assessment of the implications of a land use plan for European sites in view of their conservation objectives. European sites are defined in the Habitats Regulations as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), candidate SACs and proposed SPAs. Ramsar sites are also considered as a matter of policy and included in the term 'International sites' for this report. It is accepted practice to also carry out HRA for SACs and SPAs in adjoining jurisdictions where there is potential for a transboundary effect.

The nature of the draft Plan Strategy is that it has potential to have a significant effect on the selection features of some International sites therefore we are undertaking a HRA in our role as a competent authority. Shared Environmental Service (SES) in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council provides support to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on HRAs for plans and projects. SES has therefore, in conjunction with the council, prepared this draft HRA for the draft Plan Strategy to ensure the legal requirements of the Habitats Regulations are fully met.

The HRA will be finalised following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy and published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy. Regulation 43 (4) of the Habitats Regulations allows for the competent authority to obtain the opinion of the general public on the HRA if it considers it appropriate. Therefore comments are also invited on this HRA.

The Directives

These are Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (codified version). These Directives are referred to as the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive respectively and together are called the Directives for the purposes of this report.





The overall aim of the Directives is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to habitats and species listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives. These designations form a suite of sites that are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

HRA – The Stages and Steps

HRA is normally described in four stages

- Stage 1: Screening for likely significant effects
- Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test
- Stage 3: Alternative Solutions
- Stage 4: Imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures

The stages and steps for each are detailed in Appendix 3.

Stage 1 involves firstly deciding whether a plan or project should be subject to HRA (Step 1). If through the review there is found to be a requirement for HRA, those proposals with potential likely significant effects are identified along with the types of impact that they may have. Steps 2, identifying International sites, and 3, gathering information about those sites, help to identify the International sites which the plan may affect and compiles information about those sites.

Analysis of the information collated in steps 1 to 3 enables steps 4, discretionary discussion with the statutory nature conservation body, and 5, screening for likely significant effects on the selection features of International sites, to be carried out.

In combination and cumulative effects

Consideration must be given to any cumulative effects of proposals during plan preparation. These include potential cumulative effects within the plan and in combination with other relevant plans and strategies. Local Development Plans are in preparation by neighbouring councils in Northern Ireland, however none have progressed beyond the Preferred Options Paper stage. Development Plans in neighbouring counties in Ireland or other strategies such as those for infrastructure could have an in combination effect. As the Plan Strategy is scheduled to be adopted in the 1st quarter of 2021/2022 two years will have elapsed from this draft HRA. Relevant plans will therefore need to be reviewed before the HRA is finalised to assess in combination effects.

Integrating HRA with Plan Preparation

HRA is an iterative process carried out in parallel with plan preparation. The HRA will be updated in line with knowledge of plan effects and any changes or further information relating to International sites and their features. SES provided HRA baseline information during preparation of the POP. The updated baseline information, Appendix 6, was prepared with a precautionary approach. It provides a long list of sites that should be considered in the context of potential effects of the draft Plan Strategy.

The policies proposed within the draft Plan Strategy will be assessed to determine whether any of the potential impacts could materialise as a result of the draft Plan Strategy. This draft HRA will be published for consultation with the draft Plan Strategy. A draft HRA will also be published for consultation with the draft Local Policies Plan. A final HRA will be published when each of these are adopted.

Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland

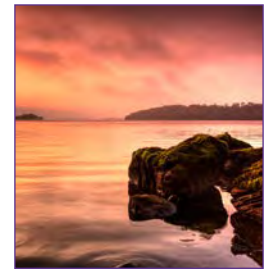
The SPPS, published in September 2015, sets out regional planning policies for securing the orderly and consistent development of land in Northern Ireland under the reformed two-tier planning system. The provisions of the SPPS must be taken into account in the preparation of LDPs and are material to all decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. Furthering sustainable development underpins the SPPS and the five core planning principles include 'Preserving and improving the built and natural environment'.

The SPPS includes regional strategic objectives for natural heritage that are general in nature, for example

- protect, conserve, enhance and restore the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;
- take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

There are however several SPPS policies that must be taken into account in the determination of planning applications and which specifically apply to International Designations as detailed in paragraphs 6.173 – 6.178 in Appendix 3

It is therefore assumed that these policies can be taken as applying to the draft Plan Strategy and the LDP as a whole and that they are material to all decisions on individual planning applications.





Previous Plans

The previous area plans, Omagh Area Plan 2002 and Fermanagh Area Plan 2007, includes a variety of spatial designations, some of which will be retained until the LPP or may be retained for the life of this LDP.

Other Regulations

An assumption is made that existing regulations and legislation that are independent of planning are implemented and enforced by the relevant authority. These include Water Order discharge consents, abstraction licensing and Pollution Prevention Control permits for which HRA may also be required. Major development would normally be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment in addition to HRA. NI Water is responsible for public wastewater treatment works and is a competent authority. It must approve all connections to mains sewerage and will not do so where there is insufficient treatment capacity.

HRA at other Stages of Plan Making and Development Management

The LPP will be subject to HRA at which stage revised or new zonings and local policies will be reviewed. The need for HRA will also be considered on a case by case at the development management stage and assessment carried out where required.

Consideration of CJEU Case C323/17 (People over Wind & Sweetman)

On 12 April 2018, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) issued a judgment, Case C323/17 (*People over Wind & Sweetman*), which ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures, referred to in the judgment as measures which are intended to avoid or reduce effects, should be assessed within the framework of an appropriate assessment. It is therefore no longer permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on an International site at the Stage 1 test of likely significance.

In light of this, a cautious approach has been taken to screening the plan for potential impacts. Stage 1 Assessment does consider essential features and characteristics of the plan; it also takes account of regional and strategic context and other regulatory controls that will apply to development under the plan. However measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been adverse effects on the integrity of International sites are not taken into account in Stage 1 and instead will be assessed at Stage 2 appropriate assessment. Unless there is certainty that a site can be screened out at Stage 1, assessments will be progressed to Stage 2 appropriate assessment, where it is possible to do so, for those features for which

there may be a likely significant effect. Incorporated and additional measures to avoid or reduce significant adverse effects are assessed at Stage 2 appropriate assessment.

Climate Change

Northern Ireland faces changes to its climate over the next century. Indications are that we will face hotter, drier summers, warmer winters and more frequent extreme weather events. The Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme was published in January 2014. This contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment for Northern Ireland (published January 2012) as part of the overall UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019.

It is acknowledged that increased levels of development that will arise from the plan have the potential to add to anthropogenic drivers of climate change. However the causes of climate change are global and it is not within the scope of the LDP to bring about levels of change such that they will have an evident impact on climate change as it affects International sites. Climate change is therefore not assessed as an impact that the draft Plan Strategy directly contributes to. The draft Plan Strategy however, has identified measures to mitigate climate change, specifically in Draft Strategic Policy SPO1 - Furthering Sustainable Development:

The Council will permit development proposals which further sustainable development and promote measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and which accord with the Local Development Plan and other material considerations.

It recognises the importance of sustainable building practices in DE02 and the need to protect carbon stores by not permitting commercial peat extraction in MIN1. The draft Plan Strategy also seeks to create the conditions to promote use of public transport and reduce reliance on the private car where it is feasible to do so.

Strategic Nature and Timescale of draft Plan Strategy

Some approaches represent a continuation of a previous policy, however each proposal was considered on its own merits in the assessment. Many of the proposals affect multiple locations or locations which have not been defined. This makes it hard to determine the significance of overall effects. This meant that, while many proposals were found to be too general to assess, potential minor or significant effects cannot be ruled out for some proposals at this stage.





The assessment of strategic plans can present a challenge in terms of deciding what effects may come about as a result of the plan and which cannot occur due to other strategic and regulatory requirements to which the LDP and development management decisions must comply. The view could be taken that, given that NE01 is included to meet the requirements of the SPPS, and that all planning applications must comply with the Habitats Regulations, then the draft Plan Strategy cannot result in an adverse effect on the integrity of any International site. To terminate the HRA on this basis would miss the opportunity to draw attention to the extent of International sites in or connected to the Council area. Deferring HRA to development management stage would also fail to consider cumulative impacts within the plan or in combination effects with other plans and projects.

As the Plan Strategy is scheduled to be adopted in the 1st quarter of 2021/2022 two years will have elapsed from this draft HRA. New information about International sites, selection features and plans and projects to be considered in combination will therefore need to be incorporated. The HRA will be reviewed before finalisation to ensure that it is proportionate while also fully meeting the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, Directives and related case law. It will be amended where necessary to ensure that it is up to date before it is finalised.

Brexit

The Northern Ireland Assembly produced a paper on 'Northern Ireland's environment – Background and Potential 'Brexit' Considerations' (September 2016) which states, "*A complete departure from the EU may give the UK Government more scope and control over environmental objectives. Whether this would involve a relaxation, tightening, or continuation of environmental standards remains to be seen depending on requirements to be retained by International/global agreements and priorities and negotiations between the EU and UK*".¹

As the Habitats and Birds Directives requirements have been incorporated in domestic regulations, it is assumed that the procedures for protection of European sites will continue to have effect. It is not clear however what the influence of future European case law on interpretation of the Habitats Regulations will be or how long it will have a bearing on domestic legislation.

¹ <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/research-papers-2016/northern-irelands-environment---background-and-potential-brexit-considerations/>

3. STAGE 1 SCREENING FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS – PLAN AND SITES

Step 1: Deciding whether a plan should be subject to HRA

The EC Guidance (referenced in Appendix 1) does not specify the scope of a plan which should be subject to the Directive and related transposing legislation but it does state that the key consideration is whether it is likely to have a significant effect. Guidance on application of HRA (referenced in Appendix 1) recommends reviewing proposals against a number of criteria. These may lead to plans being exempted, eliminated or excluded from the need for HRA. The criteria are explained in more detail in Appendix 3.

The draft Plan Strategy does not directly relate to the management of any International site therefore it cannot be exempted from the requirement of the Habitats Regulations. The draft Plan Strategy is part of the Local Development Plan and clearly represents a strategic and local development plan therefore HRA is required on this account.

The outcome of this step is that the draft Plan Strategy requires HRA as a strategic and local development plan.

Step 2: Identifying the International sites that should be considered in the Appraisal

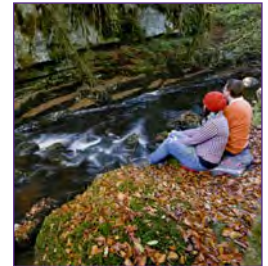
Baseline information on International sites that are connected with the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area is provided in Appendix 6. This includes sites within or adjacent to the Council area, with an ecological connection such as a hydrological link, those within 15km as a precautionary approach and those that are connected by infrastructure. This provides a 'long list' of sites to be considered as listed in Table 1.

Step 3: Gathering information about the International sites

Information for each site on the long list identified at Step 2 was compiled in the baseline information, Appendix 6, to summarise location relative to the plan area, qualifying interests, conservation objectives and potential threats to site integrity.

Step 4: Discretionary discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal

The Statutory Nature Conservation Body is represented by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) of the Department of Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). NIEA has already provided input in relation to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the draft Plan Strategy and conservation objectives are published on its website therefore it was not considered necessary to formally consult NIEA further at this stage. SES did however meet NIEA staff to seek feedback on its approach to HRA for draft Plan Strategies and to identify further information that NIEA may hold which is not in the public domain. As a result of this NIEA gave advice on the SES approach. NIEA also provided a spreadsheet on Condition of Features in Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) and Natura 2000 sites (N2Ks) 2017. Before we finalise the HRA NIEA will be asked for any more up to date information on International sites or feature species and habitats.





Although there is not a statutory requirement to consult NIEA on a draft HRA, any comments that NIEA submits during the public consultation on the draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents, including this draft HRA, will be taken into account and incorporated as appropriate in the final HRA. The Sustainability Appraisal responses from NIEA in its role as Consultation Body are recorded in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. NIEA did not make any specific comments in relation to HRA. It did comment on Rural Protection Areas however it has been decided not to bring these forward in the LDP. It also made reference to the location of Tourism Hubs. The council does not intend to designate these but instead take a policy approach to defining them. NIEA endorsed carrying forward NH1 to NH6 from PPS2.

Table 1: Long list of sites connected with Council area

Northern Ireland	
Banagher Glen SAC	Moninea Bog SAC
Black Bog Ramsar	Owenkillew River SAC
Black Bog SAC	Pettigo Plateau Ramsar
Carn-Glenshane Pass SAC	Pettigo Plateau SAC
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	Pettigo Plateau SPA
Cranny Bogs SAC	River Faughan and Tributaries SAC
Cuilcagh Mountain Ramsar	River Foyle and Tributaries SAC
Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	River Roe and Tributaries SAC
Deroran Bog SAC	Slieve Beagh Ramsar
Fairy Water Bogs Ramsar	Slieve Beagh SAC
Fairy Water Bogs SAC	Slieve Beagh-Mullaghafad- Lisnaskea SPA
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs Ramsar	Teal Lough proposed Ramsar
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC	Teal Lough SAC
Largalinn SAC	Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC
Lough Foyle Ramsar	Tully Bog SAC
Lough Foyle SPA	Upper Ballinderry River SAC
Lough Melvin SAC	Upper Lough Erne Ramsar
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar	Upper Lough Erne SAC
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA	Upper Lough Erne SPA
Magheraveely Marl Loughs Ramsar	West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC
Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	
Monawilkin SAC	

Ireland

Arroo Mountain SAC (Ire)	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (Ire)
Ballintra SAC (Ire)	Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (Ire)
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (Ire)	Lough Eske & Ardnamona Wood SAC (Ire)
Boleybrack Mountain SAC (Ire)	Lough Gill SAC (Ire)
Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (Ire)	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC (Ire)
Corratirrim SAC (Ire)	Lough Melvin SAC (Ire)
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC.	Lough Nageage SAC (Ire)
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (Ire)	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Ire)
Donegal Bay SPA (Ire)	Lough Oughter Complex SPA (Ire)
Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (Ire)	Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (Ire)
Dunragh Loughs/ Pettigo Plateau SAC (Ire)	River Finn SAC (Ire)
Durnesh Lough SAC (Ire)	Slieve Beagh SPA (Ire)
Durnesh Lough SPA (Ire)	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (Ire)
Glenade Lough SAC (Ire)	Tamur Bog SAC (Ire)



4. STAGE 1 SCREENING FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS – PLAN PROPOSALS AND SITES



Overview

This Chapter firstly provides an overview of the review of the plan proposal followed by a discussion of the findings for each policy group.

Step 5: Screening the draft / proposed plan for likely significant effects

All of the draft Plan Strategy proposals, from the vision, strategic objectives and draft strategic policies in Part 1 through to the draft development management policies in Part 2, were reviewed against the following screening categories and the findings are recorded in Appendix 5. In some cases more than one category was thought to apply.

1. General Policy Statements
2. Plans or projects referred to but not proposed
3. No likely significant effect
4. Proposals too general to assess
5. Potential minor effects
6. Potential significant effects

1. General Policy Statements

This identified that the potential for likely significant effects of some proposals on the selection features of International sites cannot be excluded. Many of the proposals are category 1 general policy statements for which impacts cannot be assessed. These included the vision and many of the objectives. In a few cases, for example the objectives to provide for new homes and to promote economic development, the potential for impacts on International sites cannot be excluded but the objective is too general to assess. Delivery of these objectives is therefore considered under the related policies

2. Plans or projects referred to but not proposed

The draft Plan Strategy does refer to other council plans and strategies in 2.16, stating that it has taken them into account, but most are not referenced in subsequent draft policies. TOU02 does however refer to the Tourism Development Strategy 2016-2019 and RE01 refers to the Wind Energy Strategy which is included as an appendix to the draft Plan Strategy. No stand alone supplementary planning guidance is proposed. The draft Plan Strategy does identify that, for example, detailed development guidance for individual ASAls and LLPAs will be included in the LPP. In preparing this guidance account should be taken of potential for likely significant effects on International site features and mitigation incorporated where appropriate.

3. *No likely significant effect*

The nature of many proposals was found to be such that they could have no significant effect. Examples include policies relating to protection of assets such as open space OSR01 and policies that constrain types of development e.g. TCR02 and TR06. Some policies relating to protecting the natural environment (NEO1) and sustainable drainage systems (FLD03) have an underlying protective principle. Many of the development management policies cannot have an effect, examples being policies relating to social considerations like affordable housing (HOU03) or policies relating to design (DE policies), as in themselves. There are some policies that in principle are largely protective however they allow for exceptions which could have a likely significant effect. LA01 – LA03 constrain development in AONBs, SCAs and AoHSV to protect the quality or character of the landscape however they also allow for minor works which may increase recreational pressure. Such policies were assigned category 4.

4. *Proposals too general to assess*

Category 4 included those proposals which are too general to assess therefore they were screened in for further consideration. As the proposals in category 4 are too general to assess it cannot be determined whether they might have no effect, minor or significant effects. Some of the policies are largely protective by constraining development however include exemptions that could lead to effects examples being L02 which allows for minor works which may increase recreational pressure and FLD01 which allows for some forms of development including minerals extraction.

Other proposals in category 4 do have potential for impacts on International sites and the next stage is to determine what these could be.

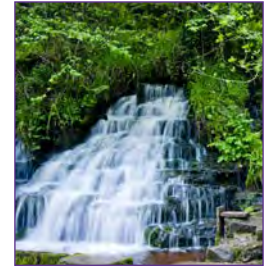
Vision and Strategic Objectives

The Vision is a general policy statement for the plan and too general to assess. The Strategic Objectives include many that are general policy statements such as 'provide for environments that are safe, healthy and connected'. Some are likely to lead to development for which impacts on International sites and selection features cannot be ruled out. Delivery of these objectives is considered under the related policies.

Draft Strategic Policies

SP01 - Furthering Sustainable Development

This is an environmentally protective measure and is caveated that development that causes harm to important features is not allowed for under this policy.





SP02 - Settlement

This focuses most housing, industry, business and retail in main and local towns. It recognises that environmental and infrastructural constraints are likely to limit capacity for such development in smaller settlements. Some settlements such as Gortin, Bellanaleck and Omagh are directly adjacent to International sites or supporting habitat for site selection features.

The final HRA will include a list of all the settlements that identifies International sites with which each is connected. This will assist assessment of cumulative pressures on International sites, zones to be brought forward at LPP and planning applications under the new LDP.

SP03 - Strategic Allocation and Management of Housing Supply

4,001 housing units are estimated to be required in and allocated to Housing in Settlements for the remainder of the plan period (2017-2030). This has been calculated based on 77% of the HGI figure for 2012-2030 (6,240) and then adjusted, discounting any completions within settlements between 2012 and 2017. Applying the same process for the countryside would result in 589 new units between 2017 and 2030. These figures represent 16% growth in settlements and 3.5% growth in the countryside over the plan period.

The majority of new strategic growth in the settlements will be delivered through existing commitments for housing sites under construction or with current planning permission. There will be a limited requirement for new zoned land in the main and local towns in phase 1. The phasing of sites aims to introduce some control over which sites are developed first. Housing Policy Areas may be identified for villages and small settlements at LPP.

The potential for impacts during construction cannot be excluded as there may be a pathway from development sites to an International site. There will be an emphasis on brownfield sites within the Urban Footprint of Enniskillen and Omagh in accordance with the The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) regional target of 60% of new dwellings on appropriate brownfield land within the Urban Footprint of settlements with a population of more than 5,000. Development on brownfield sites may lead to risk of release of contaminants which needs to be assessed and where necessary remediation carried out.

The provision of wastewater treatment within the Fermanagh and Omagh Council area is the responsibility of NI Water. Map 2 illustrates the status of wastewater

treatment works based on data provided by NI Water which covers the business period to 2021. This shows that there is capacity until 2021 at all the towns. All planning applications that indicate mains sewage treatment are referred to NI Water to confirm capacity. Section 3.5 acknowledges the need for 'sufficient infrastructure to support the development (e.g. water and sewerage)' in selecting sites for new housing.

SPO4 - Strategic Allocation of Land for Industry and Business

The anticipated need over the land period is for 90ha across the Council area which is 0.03% of the district's land area. It is intended to retain zoned land which is not subject to constraints such as flood risk and to allocate additional land in Omagh and Lisnaskea which may be outside the settlement limits and pathways to International sites should be considered. If infrastructure is inadequate there could be potential for impacts on water quality during construction and/or operation.

Draft Development Management Policies

Development and Design

The majority of these policies relate to the visual impact, design and integration of development and can have no likely significant effect. Some, such as DE02, explicitly identify the need to protect the natural environment. DE04 does enable development to sustain rural communities however it is too general to assess. It interrelates with other policies specific to each rural development type many of which specify protection of the natural environment.

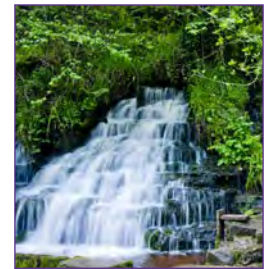
People And Places

Housing in Settlements

These policies all apply to housing within settlements. Potential impacts of the amount and spatial distribution of housing are considered in relation to SPO2 and SPO3. Some policies e.g. HOU03 and HOU05 apply to the design, layout or type of housing and in themselves will not impact on International sites.

Housing in the Countryside

This group of policies is for the management of sustainable development in the countryside. All enable residential development although it is within controlled circumstances to limit the extent of development in the countryside. Development in the countryside may be in close proximity to International sites or supporting habitat. It is unlikely to have access to mains sewage disposal and therefore generally requires on site treatment. There is reference in HOU09, HOU10 and HOU11 to





the presence of existing services which include sewage disposal however the capacity is not referred to. The treatment from existing services may not be of a standard that could be achieved now to avoid or minimise impacts on water quality. There is potential for impacts from runoff during construction; these can be avoided through site layout and good practice. Other policies e.g. NE01 will ensure that there is no habitat loss or direct disturbance. Residential development will rarely lead to indirect disturbance however where this could arise, e.g. as a result of private jetties, this can be assessed at planning application stage. The scale of development under these policies will not be sufficient to contribute to aerial impacts.

Community Facilities

This retains, where possible, existing and allows for new community facilities and will be focussed largely in settlements. It is too general to assess and the need for HRA will be considered on a case by case basis at planning application stage.

Open Space, Sport and Recreation

The Open Space Strategy includes an objective 'ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of conserving, protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment and helps to sustain and enhance biodiversity.' There may be potential under some of the policies to have an impact and this has been explicitly recognised in OSR03 and OSR04. OSR03 facilitates increased recreation at and beyond the actual development site. In some circumstances the development may be within an International site. OSR04 is intended to be a protective measure. It will be important however to consider cumulative impacts of lough shore development.

OSR05 is a largely protective measure that includes requirements for a 10m biodiversity strip and specifies no adverse impact on the natural environment. It does however allow for public access and recreation and so proposals need to be assessed on a case by case basis in terms of effects during construction and disturbance during operation. Impacts of disturbance in OSR05 and of floodlighting in OSR07 can be assessed at application stage and addressed through design and good practice in construction.

OSR06 in itself this policy will not allow any development that could impact on International sites. It protects future potential for restoration of the Ulster Canal but does not propose such development. Any subsequent development of the Ulster Canal will need to consider the potential for spread of further invasive species or waterborne diseases of protected species.

Rural Community Areas

There is one policy for Rural Community Areas which are to be as defined in 3.87 and will not be identified spatially. This means that specific locations where this policy may have an effect cannot be assessed at LDP and the need for HRA will be considered on a case by case basis at planning application stage. The issues identified for rural housing may apply to development under this policy.

Economy

Industry and Business

IB02 and IB03 protect zoned land and constrain incompatible development and as such will not lead to likely significant effects. The remaining policies all have potential effects but they are too general to assess.

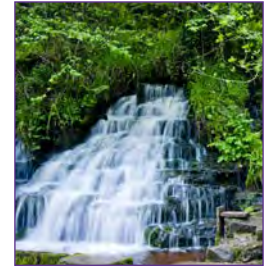
In towns IB01 indicates that industry and business will primarily be within development limits. A policy rather than spatial approach is taken to development in villages and small settlements.

IB04 enables rural development in situations or locations defined by policy. Largely for small scale, e.g. start-ups, however it allows for regionally significant major development which could include energy, transport or waste infrastructure or minerals extraction. IB05 enables limited re-use/adaptation for farm diversification. These may have effects on International sites or features however they are too general to assess.

IB06 enables agricultural development. This could include development that increases ammonia emissions that may have an adverse effect on International sites. The qualification acknowledges the need for additional consideration of impacts from development for intensive farming or animal husbandry. Aerial emissions, including ammonia, are discussed further in Chapter 7.

Town Centres and Retail

TCR01 and TCR02 define type of development rather than its location and cannot have an effect. TCR03 proposals are within the settlement boundaries the Main Towns and TCR04 are within the settlement boundaries of the villages and small settlements. TCR05 promotes development of filling stations within settlements other than in specified circumstances. At this stage the policy cannot be assessed further as locations are unknown. Wherever filling stations are located careful consideration of the potential for contaminated runoff is required.





Tourism

TOU01 is a protective policy to avoid adverse effects on tourism assets and does not in itself promote tourism. Tourism assets may include the natural environment and in some cases International sites. TOU02 to TOU4 enable tourism development in specified circumstances defined by policy rather than spatially. There is reference to tourism hubs, these are defined by policy rather than being identified in the LDP therefore assessment will need to be on a case by case basis at development management stage. There are some protective measures described, e.g. there is specific reference to *'For example, appropriate protection will be afforded to Cuilcagh Mountain and the unspoilt upland areas of the Sperrin AONB.'* There is no reference in any of the policies to sewage disposal however PU04 would apply to all developments under these policies. The scale of some development under these policies has the potential for significant effects on International sites both directly and indirectly through enabling and promoting recreation beyond the development site.

Minerals Development

MIN01 and MIN02 have potential for adverse effects. MIN01 enables minerals development with the caveat to protect the natural environment. It also provides for areas of constraint on minerals development (ACMDs) which constrain minerals extraction to protect our most valuable resources and special landscapes. ACMDs include all International sites together with national and local nature conservation, landscape and historic environment designations which provide more extensive protection. The policy largely prohibits mineral extraction within ACMDs however allows for limited exceptions which will need to be considered further.

MIN02 is also covered in MIN01 but more detail is provided on the restoration and aftercare of minerals extraction sites. Ultimately this should be protective however there is potential for adverse impacts during the restoration process.

MIN03 policy generally prevents development that would sterilise the opportunity for mineral extraction. It does not in itself lead to development. Mineral Safeguarding Areas are to be defined at LPP at which they can be assessed in relation to the Habitats Regulations.

MIN04 policy prohibits unconventional hydrocarbon extraction until there is evidence of no adverse environmental impacts. This is in line with the SPPS therefore the Regional Policy would have to change before this LDP policy could be changed and each would be subject to further assessment.

'However, in relation to unconventional hydrocarbon extraction there should be a presumption against their exploitation until there is sufficient and robust evidence on all environmental impacts.' (SPPS 6.157)

MINO4 does allow for exploration that requires planning permission to be considered under the terms of MINO1 which has protective measures. Any permission would require particular assessment of potential pathways through surface and ground water to International sites or supporting habitats.

Environment

Historic Environment

All the Historic Environment policies are protective, either for the historic environment generally or for specific historic assets. HE07 is a protective policy for Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within or adjoining settlements which may also serve to protect the natural environment e.g. river banks, shorelines and woodland. In some cases, e.g. HE09 development may be enabled but any impacts on International sites would have to be assessed at development management stage.

Natural Environment

None of the Natural Environment policies are like to have a significant effect. NE01 applies to all development under the LDP and reinforces the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. NE02 is protective of species and habitats irrespective of spatial designations. NE03 protective policy for local biodiversity is unlikely lead to impacts on International sites or selection features. NE02 and NE03 may, in some circumstances, provide added protection for International sites.

Landscape

L01 constrains development in Sperrins AONB to protect the AONB and its setting. L02 constrains development in SCAs to protect exceptional landscapes. L03 constrains development in AoHSV to protect the quality or character of their landscapes. All policies do however allow for compatible development including minor works which may increase recreational pressure.

Infrastructure

Flood Risk Management

FLD01 is largely protective through constraining development including storage of hazardous substances, however it does allow for some forms of development in floodplains including mineral extraction and recreational facilities. FLD02 requires drainage assessments (DAs) for development that has the potential to create surface





flooding and specifies the need where there may be impacts on the natural environment however allows for some exceptions. Potentially there could be pathways to International sites created by surface flooding. FLD05 allows for a maximum length of culverting of up to 10m. There is potential for culverting to result in habitat loss or to create a barrier to migration of salmon or otter therefore it may cause a significant effect.

FLD03 is a protective measure that reduces or avoids potential impacts by attenuating and ameliorating runoff from developed sites and FLD04 is a measure to allow for maintenance of designated watercourses. FLD06 is a presumption against development, including storage of hazardous substances, in potential flood inundation areas and will, in some cases, avoid impacts on International sites. None of these policies have a likely significant effect.

Renewable Energy

The Council aims to support a diverse range of renewable energy development whilst at the same time taking into consideration environmental, landscape, visual and amenity impacts. There are many potential impacts from renewable energy depending on the generation method, scale and location. Anaerobic digestors, which are also included under this policy, have potential operational impacts from handling of feedstock, aerial emissions and disposal of digestate. RE 01 includes protective criteria for biodiversity, nature conservation, local natural resources, such as air quality or water quality and quantity and active peatland. It is supported by the Fermanagh and Omagh Wind Energy Strategy (draft Plan Strategy Appendix 7).

The strategy primarily relates to landscape and visual amenity with some consideration of residential amenity although it acknowledges

The aim of the strategy is to also capitalise on the potential for wind energy within the Council area, while protecting the landscape, environmental considerations and residential amenity and to give a broad indication of where potential appropriate wind energy development could take place within the lifetime of the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Development Plan. (draft Plan Strategy Appendix 7, 1.4)

It recognises that SPAs may be a significant constraint to wind energy development because of their high value for conservation purposes with reference to Pettigo Plateau SPA, designated to protect breeding golden plover, and Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad- Lisnaskea SPA, designated to protect breeding hen harrier. There is no specific reference to Upper Lough Erne SPA, designated for wintering whooper swan, or to the SACs and Ramsar sites in Appendix 7 of this HRA report. Map 8

illustrates whooper swan sites and consultation zones for single turbine identified by DAERA. The study on which it was based, Landscape Wind Energy Capacity Study for Fermanagh and Omagh, January 2018, does have a section on nature conservation designations (3.4.4 and Figure 3.6a) highlighting that SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are present.

Transportation

The draft Plan Strategy seeks to support proposals for transportation which improve travel times, alleviate congestion and improve safety as well as providing more sustainable modes of transport including buses, walking and cycling. Other than TR02 and TR03 the policies cannot have a likely significant effect as they do not promote development but direct how development takes place in relation to transport infrastructure.

The purpose of TR01 is to ensure capacity for and safety of transport for new development. Although this does not in itself promote development it identifies the requirement for Transport Assessments. These can incorporate consideration of the impacts of aerial emissions from traffic where they may impact International sites or supporting habitat. TR04 directs if and how new development may directly access Protected Routes and TR05 constrains development that could prejudice a transport scheme.

TR02 is to control provision/loss of car parking in town centres and new car parks could be permitted subject to the policy. TR03 does promote new development as it allows for park and ride/share development which may be outside settlement limits and could intensify traffic and aerial emissions of pollutants. These however are too general to assess at this stage and will have to be assessed on a case by case basis. Finally TR06 prevents development that might inhibit future use of a disused transport route. There may be subsequent development e.g. for recreation however that would be considered under other policies.

Public Utilities

This policy group provides for telecommunications and energy infrastructure. It also includes one relating to non-mains sewerage. Policy PU01 and PU02 constrain where telecommunications and electricity infrastructure development is permitted and each includes a protective environmental criterion. PU03 is a design detail for housing developments and cannot have an effect.





PU04 does not promote development but acknowledges that some development will require non-mains sewerage. It places the onus on the applicant to '...demonstrate through the submission of sufficient information on the means of sewerage, that this will not create or add to a pollution problem.' This will be an important measure for ensuring that development in the countryside, or in settlements where there is inadequate WWTW capacity, does not contribute to a deterioration in water quality.

Waste Management

These policies provide for wastewater treatment works (WWTWs) and waste management facilities, forms of development which have potential for impacts due to contaminated runoff during operation. The provision of adequate means of sewage disposal may require new, upgraded, extended futureproofed WWTW to help maintain or improve water quality which in turn will benefit International sites. All the policies are too general to assess however all are caveated with protective environmental criteria.

WM01 enables development of a waste management facility but directs location and includes protective environmental criteria. WM02 enables development of new/existing WWTWs and includes the WM01 protective environmental criteria. WM03 controls development in the vicinity of waste management facilities and WWTWs. It does not promote additional development and includes protective environmental criterion. WM04 enables development of a waste management facility but directs location and includes WM01 protective environmental criteria.

Potential Impacts of Development

Potential development impacts that could arise as a result of any development arising from the draft Plan Strategy which may need to be assessed in relation to International sites and their features are listed in Table 2. The left-hand column describes generic impacts and the right-hand column discusses how this may arise from the draft Plan Strategy.

To assist further assessment the findings of Table 2 were grouped into seven main categories of impacts as follows, and as indicated in the table.

- Habitat Loss (HL)
- Direct Disturbance: (DD)
- Indirect Disturbance: (ID)
- Introduced Species (IS)
- Aerial Emissions (AE)
- Water Pollution (WQ)
- Hydrological Change (HC)

Table 2: Potential development impacts to be assessed in relation to International sites

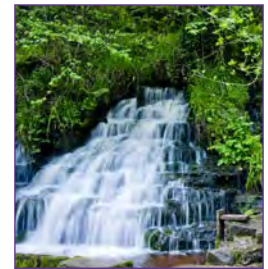
Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the draft Plan Strategy
Loss, fragmentation, damage of habitats and / or species	
Construction activities associated with the LDP could lead to the loss, fragmentation (or obstruction of movement) or damage of habitats and / or species through:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct land take and / or land clearance and the use of machinery/materials. (HL) 	Due to the extent of International sites in the council there is potential for development pressure within or adjacent to sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and indirect impacts resulting from the construction and operation of built development and required infrastructure. (HL) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts caused during repair and maintenance activities for built development and required infrastructure. (HL) 	This could arise during redevelopment of buildings or facilities within International sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct impacts associated with mineral development in the plan area. (HL) 	There are constraints on minerals development in International sites through ACMDs however there is also provision for exceptions therefore impacts cannot be totally excluded.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal, fragmentation or physical changes to important connectivity features could create barrier effects to species, alter habitat availability or ecological functioning or result in changes in breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour. (HL) 	Potential loss of habitat for selection features beyond International sites for example swan fields or salmon spawning and nursery habitat.
Disturbance: physical, noise, lighting	
Noise or activity during construction and operational activities could have adverse impacts on sensitive species (marine mammals and birds in particular). (DD)	Potential noise or vibration disturbance to site selection features during construction from e.g. piling.
Increased lighting from construction or additional built development could: create barrier effects to species; result in changes in species breeding, roosting, commuting and foraging behaviour; or increase predation. (DD)	Potential light disturbance from e.g. floodlighting e.g. to bats as a feature of Upper Lough Erne Ramsar site or otter as a feature of several sites.





Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the draft Plan Strategy
Biological Disturbance: invasive species, human disturbance	
Sensitive habitats and species may experience adverse impacts from the introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species through construction activities and associated machinery, movement of soils and waste or from garden escapes. (IS)	New development has the potential to introduce invasive or non-native species or cause their spread to other sites.
Increased human activity (including recreation; increase in pet ownership; increased incidence in fires) close to sensitive habitats and species may cause disturbance that could impact negatively on these features and lead to displacement of sensitive species from certain locations. (ID)	Potential for disturbance during operation for example as a result of facilitating or promoting recreational activity.
Contamination of land	
Waste arising from the operation of developments associated with the LDP could cause contamination of land which could have a direct detrimental impact on sensitive habitats or species or indirect impacts if subsequent emissions to water occur. (WQ)	Some development may generate waste as a by product of construction or operation.
Emissions by air	
The construction and operation of developments associated with the LDP (in particular industrial developments) have the potential to generate chemical and dust emissions and could make a contribution to acid rain or nutrient deposition resulting in significant adverse impacts to animals and sensitive habitats for example they could cause localised smothering of vegetation or potential health issues in animals e.g. birds. (AE)	Aerial emissions primarily arise from industry and transport but domestic fuel and agricultural intensification are also sources. The potential for aerial pollution cannot be excluded. Aerial emissions are subject to and will be addressed by other regulations however they are also a material consideration for development management.
Increased traffic generation could lead to increased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions which could have localized impacts on sensitive habitats or species. (AE)	Population and economic growth are likely to drive a net increase in traffic which has potential for impacts for International sites and features that are close to main roads.

Potential Impacts	Activities arising from the draft Plan Strategy
Emissions by water and changes to hydrology	
<p>There is potential for an increased transport of chemical contaminants reaching the aquatic environment during the construction and operation of development associated with the LDP. This could range from transportation of fuels to cleaning or wastewater treatment materials and associated drainage and discharges into watercourses. Changes to water quality can have harmful effects on fish, invertebrates, and vegetation, e.g. as a result of lowered oxygen levels. (WQ)</p>	<p>Construction activities have the potential to create pathways for pollution. The historical use of brownfield land and emphasis on redevelopment means that there is a risk of release of contaminants during construction which could cause pollution to habitats and species. There are standard approaches that can be required by planning conditions for assessing the risk of contamination and carrying out remediation. Discharges to the water environment during construction and/or operation will be subject to consent under other regulations.</p>
<p>Surface run off and sediment release from construction works and operational activities associated with the LDP can increase sediment deposition and turbidity within aquatic systems. This can adversely impact on associated wildlife by causing shading effects that can inhibit plant and algal growth and smother organisms thereby limiting productivity and survival. (WQ)</p>	<p>A major sediment release could have a conceivable impact on adjacent wetland habitats or other site selection features such as salmon or freshwater pearl mussel.</p>
<p>Water abstraction from streams or lakes required for construction and operation of developments associated with the LDP could have physical impacts on water levels, fish species at intakes, affect populations of fish or alter the configuration or availability of breeding gravels. (HC)</p>	<p>There is evidence that water supply will be sufficient for the life of the plan therefore there is not predicted to be a need to expand water supply sources to support proposed development. Any development that requires non-mains water could have a localised effect and will require an abstraction licence which will be subject to HRA.</p>
<p>Construction and operation of development associated with the LDP could alter the hydrology of sensitive habitats and species by either increasing or decreasing runoff or water percolation into aquifers. (HC)</p>	<p>Some International sites depend on groundwater therefore there is potential for impacts on their hydrology.</p>
<p>Increased demands on wastewater treatment works or for septic tanks could lead to increased nutrient enrichment of waterbodies which could change water quality and increase eutrophication. This in turn could have a harmful effect on the ecological functioning of these systems. (WQ)</p>	<p>There is insufficient infrastructure to treat wastewater in some settlements which will be a constraint on development. Alternatives to mains sewerage will have to be assessed by the appropriate competent authority.</p>





All of the proposals that were screened in, as recorded in Appendix 5, were reviewed in relation to these broad impacts. This confirmed that these seven categories of impacts above account for all of the effects that could arise from the draft Plan Strategy. These are further discussed in Chapter 7 and recommendations on avoiding or reducing these impacts included.

Pathways to International Sites

In identifying the long list of International sites to be considered, sites within or adjacent to the plan area, sites connected by ecological pathways, sites within 15km and sites connected by infrastructure were detailed (Table A6.1, Appendix 6). This section reviews the pathways between the plan area and those International sites in more detail, taking account of the plan proposals, potential impacts identified above and site information in Table A6.2, Appendix 6.

Sites within or adjacent

These are International sites which are within or directly adjacent to the plan area. Our Council area is rich in habitats and species and there are many International site within it and some which extend into neighbouring Council areas or adjoin International sites in Ireland. Some designations overlap each other but taking each separately, SPAs are designated on 16% of our council area, SACs on 5.3% and Ramsar sites on 4%. These are illustrated in Maps 3 to 5 in Appendix 7. Those sites wholly within the Council area range from a number of small sites which protect active raised bog, most of which are in Co. Tyrone, such as Tully Bog, through to a areas that extend over several kilometres such as West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC in Co. Fermanagh.

There are a few sites that occur as a complex of several discreet sites examples being Fairywater Bogs, Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs and Magheraveely Marl Loughs all of which are SAC and Ramsar sites. Sites shared with other Council areas are Upper Ballinderry River and Owenkillew River SACs. Slieve Beagh SAC and Ramsar also extends into Mid Ulster as well as adjoining Slieve Beagh in Ireland. Travelling along the border brings us to several other sites which share a boundary with International sites in Ireland as illustrated on Maps 3 to 5.

The most extensive designated area in our council is Upper Lough Erne SPA, SAC and Ramsar. There are slight variations between the boundaries but all include the open water of Upper Lough Erne, extending to the border with Ireland, its islands and adjacent semi-natural habitats such as woodland, species-rich grassland and natural transition vegetation such as scrub or heath. The main Lough stretches 25 miles from Lough Sarah on the border to Carrybridge and there are satellite loughs and sites.

Ecological pathways

Ecological pathways include connections by ecological corridors such as river systems; hydrological links between the Council area and peatland or wetland sites; known areas of land in the Council area which are regularly used by birds which also use a SPA or Ramsar Site; and supporting habitats for species including salmon. All sites within the council area have an ecological link with adjacent land.

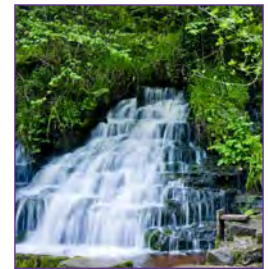
The primary ecological pathway is hydrological through watercourses, lakes and estuaries. Map 6 illustrates the major river basins within our Council area. The northern part of the plan area largely drains to the River Foyle forming a hydrological connection with the River Foyle and Tributaries SAC. There is also substantial supporting habitat for salmon in our Council area as illustrated in Map 7. The River Foyle flows into Lough Foyle SPA and Ramsar site however these were eliminated from further consideration due to their distance from our council. A small proportion of the plan area drains east to Lough Neagh via the Moyola, Ballinderry and Blackwater Rivers. These rivers do flow into Lough Neagh SPA and Ramsar site however these were eliminated from further consideration due to their distance from our council. A very small area to the south west drains to the Upper Shannon. Due to its size, and as it is unsuited to major development, a pathway for effects on sites in the Shannon basin has been discounted.

The majority of Co, Fermanagh drains through Lower Lough Erne through Ballyshannon to Donegal Bay at Bundoran. This creates a hydrological pathway to Donegal Bay SPA. Finally part of the Lough Melvin catchment is to the west flowing into the Lough at Garrison with other watercourses entering the lake. This directly affects the adjoining Lough Melvin SAC in Ireland and also creates a pathway to Donegal Bay.

Within 15km

This screening criteria was a very precautionary one which allowed consideration of all sites within 15km of the Council area. DEFRA/EPA Guidance on air emission risk assessment² was referred to in the absence of local guidance on screening distances. That guidance advises that projects should consider European sites within 15km for coal or oil fired power stations and 10km for other developments that cause potentially polluting aerial emissions. As the plan does not bring forward proposals for the former development a 10km screening distance was appropriate. The current DAERA policy is that all developments within 7.5km of an International site should be modelled for ammonia distribution. Screening in sites within 10km therefore allows direct impacts of ammonia from developments to be assessed as required by current policy.

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-emissions-risk-assessment-for-your-environmental-permit#screening-for-protected-conservation-areas>





Infrastructural connection

Infrastructural connectivity is related to the potential linkage of sites to the Council area by infrastructure services such as water abstraction or wastewater discharges. Infrastructure can also include facilities that enable public access.

Within the Fermanagh and Omagh district it is the responsibility of NI Water to ensure that a safe supply of drinking water for the population is maintained. This is supplied through six water treatment works namely Lough Braden, Glenhordial, Loughmacrory, Killyhevlin, Belleek and Derg. Three sources of water supply are within the River Foyle catchment served by Glenhordial, Loughmacrory and Derg water treatment works. The others, Lough Braden, Killyhevlin and Belleek are located such that they cannot have an effect on international sites. NI Water has confirmed that water supply will be sufficient for the life of the plan. This therefore allow all sites which are related to water supply to be excluded on the basis that there can be no conceivable impact on them as a result of the Plan Strategy.

Wastewater treatment works discharge to a number of designated areas. This is reflected in those sites for which there are hydrological connections. Map 2 illustrates the status of wastewater treatment works based on data provided by NI Water which covers the business period to 2021. This shows that there is capacity until 2021 for the main and local towns. There are however constraints in several villages and small settlements. For example NI Water has identified the following sites with no remaining headroom capacity: Loughmacrory, Garrison, Ederney, Belleek, Edenderry and Church-Hill. These facilities have not been identified for upgrade within the NI Water Capital Works programme 2015-2021 period. Clabby, whilst currently at capacity has been identified for an upgrade within NI Waters' current capital works programme. All planning applications that indicate mains sewage treatment are referred to NI Water to confirm capacity. 3.5 acknowledges the need for 'sufficient infrastructure to support the development (e.g. water and sewerage)' in selecting sites for new housing.

Outcome of Stage 1

On review of the long list of International sites, it was found that 12 of the 70 sites identified in the baseline list could be eliminated because they are beyond the distance where aerial emissions could have an effect and have no other connection with the plan area. These sites, listed in Table 3, are eliminated from the need for further assessment. As there is no pathway for effects on these sites there is no need to consider in combination effects on them from other projects or plans.

Table 3: International sites Eliminated from Further Assessment

Sites European Site Name	Connection with Council Area						Elimination Reason
	Within / Adjacent	Eco-logical	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km	Km	
NORTHERN IRELAND							
Banagher Glen SAC				●		10.5	Over 10km and no ecological or other pathways.
Carn-Glenshane Pass SAC						14.5	
Lough Foyle Ramsar		●				30	Too far for any effect on site selection features.
Lough Foyle SPA		●				30	
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar		●				21	
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA		●				24	
IRELAND							
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (Ire)				●		12	Over 10km and no ecological or other pathways.
Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (Ire)				●		12	
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (Ire)		●		●	●	10	Over 10km. Ecological connection via marine cannot have any effect on site selection features.
Durnesh Lough SAC (Ire)				●		11	
Durnesh Lough SPA (Ire)				●		11	
Glenade Lough SAC (Ire)				●		11	Over 10km and no ecological or other pathways.



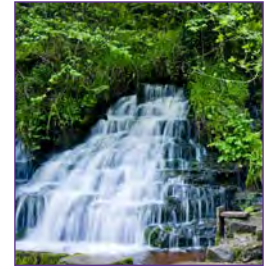


The screening of all sites found that significant effects could not be entirely ruled out for the remaining 58 sites. The draft Plan Strategy has potential to impact on some or all of the selection features of 36 International sites in Northern Ireland and 22 International sites in Ireland for which there is a pathway to the plan area, as detailed in Table 4. This table includes which of the seven categories of impacts may apply to the site and its features. This list of impacts is precautionary and some may not occur as a result of the plan. Also, they might only have potential impacts on one or a few selection features. Further information on these sites is included in Appendix 6 and more will be provided in the final HRA to assist with consideration of impacts on International sites at LPP.

Table 4: International sites and Features to be Further Assessed and Potential Impacts

Site Name	Pathways	Features	Habitat Loss	Disturbance: Direct	Disturbance: Indirect	Invasive Species	Aerial Emissions	Water Quality	Hydrological Change
			Potential Impacts						
Black Bog Ramsar	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Lowland Raised Bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Black Bog SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bogs	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Freshwater pearl mussel, river habitat	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cranny Bogs SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cuilcagh Mountain Ramsar	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological Disturbance	Blanket bog, lake, rare species including golden plover and merlin.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological Disturbance	Active Blanket Bog; lakes and ponds; wet, dry and alpine heath; scree and rocky slopes	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Deroran Bog SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

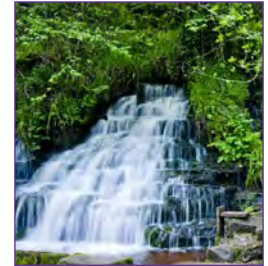
			Habitat Loss	Disturbance: Direct	Disturbance: Indirect	Invasive Species	Aerial Emissions	Water Quality	Hydrological Change
Site Name	Pathways	Features	Potential Impacts						
Fairy Water Bogs Ramsar	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Lowland Raised Bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fairy Water Bogs SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs Ramsar	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Turloughs	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Turloughs	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Largalanny SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Oakwoods	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lough Melvin SAC	Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Lake, woodland, salmon	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Magheraveely Marl Loughs Ramsar	Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Marl lakes and freshwater species	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Marl lakes, fens, white-clawed crayfish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Monawilkin SAC	Ecological, Aerial	Grassland and oak woodland	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Moninea Bog SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Owenkillew River SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Freshwater pearl mussel, river habitat, woodland, otter, salmon	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pettigo Plateau Ramsar	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Lowland Raised Bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pettigo Plateau SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Blanket bog, lakes and ponds, dry heaths	•	•	•	•	•	•	•





Site Name	Pathways	Features	Habitat Loss	Disturbance: Direct	Disturbance: Indirect	Invasive Species	Aerial Emissions	Water Quality	Hydrological Change
			Potential Impacts						
Pettigo Plateau SPA	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Golden plover - breeding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
River Faughan and Tributaries SAC	Aerial	Salmon, otter and oak woods					•		
River Foyle and Tributaries SAC	Direct, Hydrological, Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Salmon, otter, river habitat and oak woods	•	•	•	•	•	•	
River Roe and Tributaries SAC	Aerial	Aerial					•		
Slieve Beagh Ramsar	Direct, Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Blanket bog, fen and lakes	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slieve Beagh SAC	Direct, Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Blanket bog, heath and lakes	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	Direct, Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Hen Harrier - breeding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Teal Lough proposed Ramsar	Aerial	Blanket bog					•		
Teal Lough SAC	Aerial	Blanket bog					•		
Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tully Bog SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological	Active raised bog	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Upper Ballinderry River SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Freshwater pearl mussel, river habitat, otter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

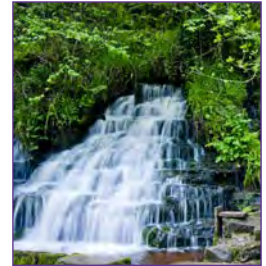
			Habitat Loss	Disturbance: Direct	Disturbance: Indirect	Invasive Species	Aerial Emissions	Water Quality	Hydrological Change
Site Name	Pathways	Features	Potential Impacts						
Upper Lough Erne Ramsar	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Lake, woodland, species-rich grassland, wetlands, rare species including wildfowl, whiskered bat	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Upper Lough Erne SAC	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Lake, woodland, species-rich grassland, wetlands	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Upper Lough Erne SPA	Direct, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Whooper Swan (Winter)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	Direct, Aerial, Ecological, Disturbance	Limestone pavement, grassland, woodland, lakes, blanket bog, wetlands, heaths, screes and springs	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Arroo Mountain SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Heath, blanket bog, springs, scree and rocky slopes					•		
Ballintra SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Limestone pavement, heath					•		
Boleybrack Mountain SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Lakes, meadows, blanket bog					•		
Corratirrim SAC (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial	Limestone Pavement	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC	Ecological, Aerial, Disturbance	Active Blanket Bog; lakes and ponds; wet, dry and alpine heath; grassland scree and rocky slopes; springs	•	•	•	•	•	•	•





Site Name	Pathways	Features	Habitat Loss	Disturbance: Direct	Disturbance: Indirect	Invasive Species	Aerial Emissions	Water Quality	Hydrological Change
			Potential Impacts						
Donegal Bay SPA (Ire)	Hydrological, Aerial	Light-bellied Brent Goose and Common Scoter					•	•	
Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Turloughs					•		
Dunragh Loughs/ Pettigo Plateau SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Blanket bog; wet heaths					•		
Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological	Lakes, fens, white-clawed crayfish	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (Ire)	Aerial	Herring Gull					•		
Lough Eske & Ardnamona Wood SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Lakes, springs, woodland, freshwater pearl mussel, salmon					•		
Lough Gill SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Lakes, springs, woodland, freshwater pearl mussel, salmon, lamprey, otter					•		
Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Blanket bog, Common Tern	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lough Melvin SAC (Ire)	Lough Melvin SAC (Ire)	Lake, salmon and otter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lough Nageage SAC (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological	White-clawed Crayfish				•	•		
Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Lakes, woodland and otter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Site Name	Pathways	Features	Habitat Loss	Disturbance: Direct	Disturbance: Indirect	Invasive Species	Aerial Emissions	Water Quality	Hydrological Change
			Potential Impacts						
Lough Oughter Complex SPA (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Great Crested Grebe, Whooper Swan, Wigeon	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (Ire)	Aerial	Greenland White-fronted Goose					•		
River Finn SAC (Ire)	Aerial	Blanket bog, lakes, heaths, merlin, peregrine, salmon, otter					•		
Slieve Beagh SPA (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Hen Harrier	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (Ire)	Aerial	Peregrine, Chough					•		
Tamur Bog SAC (Ire)	Ecological, Aerial, Hydrological, Disturbance	Blanket bog, wet heaths, golden plover, merlin, greenland white-fronted goose, red grouse, otter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



5. PROTECTIVE MEASURES IN THE DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY



Introduction

Mitigation is normally considered at Stage 2 appropriate assessment however, as those proposals that may have an effect are too general to assess, it is not possible to progress to Stage 2. Environmental considerations and constraints have already shaped the draft Plan Strategy and are referred to below. A theme running through the majority of strategic and development management policies is the need to protect, conserve and enhance our historic and natural environment which emphasizes that development should not be at the expense of the natural environment. General or overarching protective measures are described here and policy specific protective measures are included in Appendix 5.

Part One: Introduction Vision, Strategic Objectives and Spatial Growth Strategy

The draft Plan Strategy makes clear that all policies must be taken into account and development approved under the plan must comply with all applicable policies:

The whole plan must be taken into account when assessing development proposals. This includes the vision, spatial strategy, policies, proposals and all associated supplementary guidance. Certain policies or plan proposals cannot be 'cherry-picked' and used in isolation; all relevant parts of the plan must be considered. (1.5)

This means that policy that explicitly protects International sites applies to all development under the LDP.

Part One section 2.0 highlights the recognition of the importance of the natural environment in our Community Plan and Corporate Plan. It also acknowledges regional strategies such as The Sustainable Development Strategy 2010, The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, 'Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland' 2015-2040 and The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) - Planning for Sustainable Development (September 2015). Regional strategies and policies apply to and are reflected in the draft Plan Strategy.

The introduction to our vision and strategic objectives emphasises the protection of the natural environment at 5.8, 5.9. The strategic objectives seek to protect the natural environment both on important sites and in the wider Council area.

13. Conserve, sustain and enhance the area's environmental qualities, local distinctiveness including special landscapes, and sites of environmental importance in terms of biodiversity, wildlife and habitats, local landscape character, townscape, traditional settlement patterns, and historic environment.

15. Sustainably manage and safeguard where appropriate our natural resources including minerals and water, protecting the environment and providing sustainable services including effective and sustainable waste management to meet population needs.

The Spatial Growth Strategy is underpinned by:

support and sustain vibrant, rural communities by accommodating appropriate development which is sensitive to the environment and safeguards our natural and built heritage; (6.20)

Sewage capacity has been a consideration for the Spatial Growth Strategy.

In defining where each settlement sits in the hierarchy, account has been taken of a wide range of factors, including the RDS spatial framework, the population of individual settlements and an assessment of the role or function of settlements, including...existing physical infrastructure (e.g. sewerage provision) including spare capacity and public transport provision. (6.4)

Also within the Spatial Growth Strategy it is noted for villages that:

Where provision exists emphasis will be on retention. Potential for expansion likely to be limited due to environmental and infrastructural limitations. (draft Plan Strategy Table 3)

And a following paragraph:

The scale, type, uses and form of development in settlements will reflect their role as employment, retail and service centres, their level of accessibility, and environmental and infrastructure constraints. (6.25)





Part Two Development Management Policies

For some policy groups the Context and Justification also refers to the need to protect the natural environment. Examples are

Housing:

Sites selected for new housing development will also reflect a range of other issues and policies, for example, the need to ... enhance our historic and natural environment, selecting the most accessible sites and ensuring that there is sufficient infrastructure to support the development (e.g. water and sewerage).

Open Space Strategy:

The objectives are to...ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of conserving, protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment and helps to sustain and enhance biodiversity.

Industry and Business:

Such proposals [for industry and business proposals in the countryside] will be expected to protect or enhance rural character and the environment consistent with other policies in the Plan Strategy (4.5).

Minerals:

Therefore, the Council's approach is to promote the sustainable development of mineral resources in a way that protects the environment and communities, and at the same time supports sustainable economic growth. This means ...identifying and protecting sensitive environmental assets and landscapes from minerals development and ensuring sites are restored to a high standard and enhance the value of the wider environment. (4.74)

Public Utilities:

New energy infrastructure must be carefully planned and assessed to avoid adverse environmental effects, particularly on or near protected sites and areas of landscape sensitivity including the Sperrin AONB. Overhead power cables will be facilitated but should avoid running through or adjacent to Sensitive Locations or Features.

Policies that directly protect International sites

Any new development would be subject to legislative requirements and environmental assessment including the need to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations as well as the SPPS. All development is subject to The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations in Northern Ireland (as amended) 1995. Turning to our draft Plan Strategy, policy NE01 – Nature Conservation directly protects International sites and applies to all development:

- (a) *The Council will not support any development that will adversely affect the designation objectives and integrity of an SAC, cSAC, SPA, pSPA site or a listed or proposed Ramsar site unless it is demonstrated that:*
- (i) *any adverse effect can be avoided through mitigation; and,*
 - (ii) *no alternative solutions exist; and,*
 - (iii) *it meets a social, environmental or economic benefit of national or regional importance and compensatory measures are provided.*

NE01 incorporates former policies NH01 to NH05 of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 2 Nature Conservation and The International Designations policies of the SPPS (6.175 – 6.178), detail on these is provided in Appendix 3. The Policy Clarification in 5.38 to 5.40 provides more detail on how NE01 will apply.

Additional statements and caveats that protect designates sites

For a number of policies there is reference to the need to protect sensitive locations and features. The Glossary defines these as including International and International sites (Ramsar sites, SCAs, and SPAs). Elsewhere there is reference to sensitive environmental assets and sensitive receptors which generally have the same meaning although receptors include people and residential or other buildings.

- designations carried forward from FAP and OAP such as the settlement limits;
- designations such as Local Landscape Policy Areas which are carried forward but are to be reviewed at LPP;
- designations that are not in place but are to be introduced at LPP such as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs);
- designations or assets made or listed by others e.g. Sperrin AONB;
- designations or assets made or listed by Council outside the LDP process such as Local Nature Reserves.





LDP Spatial Designations

Those spatial designations that are made through the LDP were reviewed. Some, such as primary retail core or area of townscape character, will not cause an impact on International sites. Those LDP designations which may have an adverse or protective effect are described further. Within settlements land zoned for housing, industry and open space/recreation has been brought forward from the Fermanagh and Omagh Area Plans. LLPAs, which are within or adjacent to settlements, have been carried forward from the Fermanagh Area Plan. These are to be reviewed at LPP and in doing so pathways to and potential effects should be assessed. Detailed development guidance for individual LLPAs will be included in the Local Policies Plan. This could take account of any requirements to protect connected International sites.

Locations for community facilities or waste management facilities may be identified at LPP and sites for the latter will need to be carefully chosen to avoid adverse effects on International sites. Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) are to be identified at LPP. International sites are all within Areas of Minerals Constraint however minerals extraction outside sites may have impacts. This should be a consideration in identifying MSAs. Housing Policy Areas are proposed to be brought forward at LPP for villages and small settlements. Wastewater treatment capacity will be a critical consideration.

The draft Plan Strategy states that Sites of Local Nature Conservation will be designated at LPP. These will not have an adverse effect and in some cases these could benefit International sites, if for example they provide a buffer or protect supporting habitat.

Monitoring and Review

Part Two Section 7 identifies how the plan will be monitored annually. It is intended to monitor the number, extent and condition of areas of natural environment assets in indicator 25. The purpose is *'to assess the extent to which policies protect, conserve, enhance and restore the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the District's natural environment'*. It is unlikely that the number of International sites will change over the life of the plan however condition is monitored by DAERA, typically on a six year cycle, therefore trends in the condition assessment of site selection features can be followed to help identify potential issues for International sites that may be impacted by development under planning control. Other relevant indicators include 34, New or upgraded Waste Water Treatment Works, which will provide information on the future capacity for development in those settlements where there is no or limited capacity at present. Indicator 13, Number of access points created along the shores of loughs, will indicate whether OSR04 is delivering the intended prevention of the proliferation of access points to the loughs.

6. PREPARATION FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Introduction

In light of the fact that the draft policies that may have an effect were all found to be too general to assess, it was not considered that the HRA could be meaningfully progressed to appropriate assessment. However, it is considered beneficial to further consider potential impacts and to compile information to help developers bringing forward and planners determining projects under the Plan Strategy. This will assist in the identification of potential pathways to, impacts on and mitigation to protect International sites and their selection features, to avoid adverse effects on site integrity.

This chapter introduces the information that is available for International sites and sources of evidence. The pages and references are found online at the websites of the relevant agency and summary information is included in Appendix 6 of this report.

Context for Conservation Objectives

EU Member States have responsibility under the Habitats and Birds Directives to ensure that all habitats and species of Community Interest are maintained or restored to Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). Natura 2000 sites have a role to play in achieving this overall objective as the most important core sites for these species and habitats. Each International site must therefore be managed in a way that ensures it contributes as effectively as possible to helping the species and habitats for which it has been designated reach a favourable conservation status.

To ensure that each Natura 2000 site contributes fully to reaching this overall target of FCS, it is important to set clear conservation objectives for each individual site. These define the desired state for each of the species and habitat types for which the site was designated.

In accordance with Article 6.1 of the Habitats Directive, Member States are required to implement on each site the necessary conservation measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the protected habitat types and species of Community Interest present. They must also prevent any damaging activities that could significantly disturb those species and habitats (Article 6.2) and to protect the site from new plans and projects that are potentially damaging or likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (Article 6.3, 6.4).





Conservation Objectives have a role in:

- Conservation Planning and Management – to guide management of sites and to maintain or restore the habitats and species in favourable condition.
- Assessing Plans and Projects, as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive - HRAs are required to assess proposed plans and projects in light of the site's conservation objectives.
- Monitoring and Reporting – to provide the basis for assessing the condition of a feature, the factors that affect it and the actions required.

The conservation objectives for each site are included in Appendix 6. The component objectives for selection features have not been replicated here however they were referred to in carrying out Stage 1 screening.

Definition of Favourable Condition and Favourable Conservation Status

Favourable Condition is defined as “the target condition for an interest feature in terms of the abundance, distribution and/or quality of that feature within the site”. Favourable Conservation Status is defined in Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive:

The conservation status of a natural habitat is the sum of the influences acting on it and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long term survival of its typical species. The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as favourable when:

- Its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing; and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable, as defined in Article 1(i).

For species, FCS is defined in Article 1(i) as when:

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

The most recent condition assessment for International sites in Northern Ireland was referred to in preparing this report. The condition assessment data has not been included in this report however the most up to date condition assessment will be reviewed before the HRA is finalised.

Sources of information Northern Ireland

The background information for appropriate assessment draws on or refers to source documents as detailed below. Digital maps for all sites can be viewed on the DAERA Website through the Natural Environment Map Viewer³ or downloaded from its digital datasets web page.⁴

Special Areas of Conservation Northern Ireland

An overview of each SAC can be found on the JNCC website at its section on UK Protected Sites.⁵ Under 'General Site Character' there is a link to the Natura 2000 standard data form for that SAC. Further detail is provided on this website about the Annex I habitats and Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of the site. It also explains why the site is important and providing a link to information about that habitat in the UK context. Further information for each SAC can be found online through the DAERA website's Protected Areas portal.⁶ On the site page the link to guidance and literature allows the Reasons for designation, Conservation Objectives and site map to be accessed.

Special Protection Areas Northern Ireland

A link to the Natura 2000 standard data form for each SPA can be found on the JNCC website at its section on UK protected sites. Further information for each site can be found through the DAERA website's Protected Areas portal. On the DAERA site web page the link to guidance and literature allows the SPA citation document and Conservation Objectives to be accessed.

Ramsar sites Northern Ireland

A link to the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) for each Ramsar site can be found on the JNCC UK Protected Sites web page. Further information for each site can be found through the DAERA Protected Areas web page. On the site page the link to guidance and literature allows the Ramsar site citation document and map to be accessed.



³ DAERA (2018) 'Natural Environment Map Viewer' Available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer> (accessed 24.10.2018).

⁴ DAERA (2018) 'Download Digital Datasets' Available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets> (accessed 24.10.2018).

⁵ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458>

⁶ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas>



Condition Assessment Northern Ireland

NIEA has compiled and made available a spreadsheet, 'Condition of Features in ASSIs and N2Ks 2017'. This details the most recent condition assessment for features, usually with an explanation of the reason why a feature is in unfavourable condition. For some sites and features, condition assessments are available for more than one reporting period. This spreadsheet was referred to in Stage 1 screening.

Sources of information Ireland

The background information for appropriate assessment draws on or refers to source documents as detailed below. Digital maps for all sites can be downloaded from the NPWS website at their Designated Site Data web portal.⁷

Special Areas of Conservation Ireland

An overview of each SAC can be found on the NPWS website at the page on Special Areas of Conservation⁸. On the site page, there are links to Conservation Management Plans with links to detailed Conservation Objectives, the legal basis for designation for all sites, boundary data, and data sheets with qualifying interests listed. Detail is provided on the Annex I habitats and Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of the sites. Under the SAC datasheets, there is a link to the Natura 2000 standard data form used for SACs. Under the Conservation Objectives, there are links for each SAC with a link to that SAC's Natura 2000 data form,⁹ explaining why the site is important and providing a link to information about that habitat in the RoI context.

Special Protection Areas Ireland

An overview of Ireland's SPA network can be found on the NPWS website at the page on Special Protection Areas¹⁰. On this page, there are links to SPA boundary data and a statutory list of SPAs where further information on the SPA citation document, Conservation Interests and operations or activities requiring consent can be found. Links to individual web pages for each SPA, which include their Natura 2000 standard data form, are found on the NPWS website page on Conservation Objectives.¹¹

⁷ NPWS (2018) 'Designated site data' <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/designated-site-data> (accessed 24.10.2018)

⁸ NPWS (2018) 'Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)' <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac> (accessed 24.10.2018)

⁹ NPWS (2018) 'Conservation Objectives - Site-Specific Detailed Conservation Objectives List' <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives> (accessed 24.10.2018)

¹⁰ NPWS (2018) 'Special Protection Areas (SPA)' <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa> (accessed 24.10.2018)

¹¹ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>

Ramsar sites Ireland

An overview of the Ramsar Convention is presented on the NPWS site¹² and a link to the central website for Ramsar sites provided. The Ramsar website provides links to site summaries for the network of Ramsar sites under Country Profiles and the Ramsar Sites Information Service database. Links to both can be accessed from the Ramsar website, at its 'Sites around the World' page.¹³ Information on each Ramsar site can be viewed including its spatial location, Information on Ramsar Wetlands sheet (RIS) and associated documents such as Management Plans.

Condition Assessment Ireland

Condition Assessment information for designated sites is provided from the NPWS website at its 'Conservation Objectives' page¹⁴. A list of SACs and SPAs is provided with links to site conservation objectives, Natura 2000 data forms and site synopsis information. For some of these sites, Conservation Objectives Supporting Documents are also provided and in Part 4, site conservation condition information is detailed. For more information, contact NPWS.



¹² NPWS (2018) 'Designated site data- International' <https://www.npws.ie/legislation/International> (accessed 24.10.2018)

¹³ The Ramsar Convention Secretariat (2018) 'Ramsar Sites around the World' <https://www.ramsar.org/sites-countries/ramsar-sites-around-the-world> (accessed 24.10.2018)

¹⁴ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>

7. OUTCOME AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Overview

Stage 1 HRA has been carried out to assess impacts of the draft Plan Strategy proposals on International sites that are within or in close proximity to the Council area, or are connected to it by ecological or infrastructural links. The assessment considered the draft Plan Strategy. Further assessment will be carried out on the Local Policies Plan (LPP) as it is prepared. This will allow assessment of site specific development and land use proposals, local policies and their potential impacts and appropriate mitigation to avoid adverse effects on International sites.

Every planning application will need to be assessed in relation to the Habitats Regulations to ensure compliance with its requirements. It is acknowledged below that some locations and some policies relating to those forms of developments with the greatest potential impacts would benefit from highlighting protective measures in the draft Plan Strategy or through assessing designations brought forward at LPP. However, some policies will only ever be able to be assessed at the planning application stage; examples being HOU04 Traveller Accommodation, CF01 Community Facilities and FLD05 Artificial Modification of Watercourses.

Of all the plan proposals 51 policies are considered to have potential effects but all were too general to assess. Case law requires that mitigation is not considered at screening and that it should be considered through appropriate assessment. None of the policies have been screened out on the basis of mitigation. The protective measures that have been incorporated in the draft Plan Strategy were reviewed nonetheless. This demonstrates those policies that explicitly protect sites and identifies some areas where the final Plan Strategy could incorporate more detail. The protective measures and recommendations will help ensure that prospective applicants are aware of potential constraints and planners can consider impacts of designations at LPP and of individual planning applications.

A total of 57 International sites could be affected by impacts of proposals brought forward under the draft Plan Strategy. These could arise from habitat loss, direct and indirect disturbance, introduced species, aerial emissions, water pollution or hydrological change. Discussion follows about each of these impacts with recommendations for mitigation. Some recommendations have already been incorporated or will apply to later stages of plan preparation.

The draft Plan Strategy places emphasis on International sites within the Council area, however there may be potential for effects on sites beyond the Council area. There are many references to protecting the natural environment and sensitive sites

and features throughout the draft Plan Strategy. One consequence may be that not highlighting the natural environment in a policy that could have significant impacts on International sites or features may give a false impression that the policy does not have potential impact. For this reason it is recommended that specific reference is made to protection of the natural environment in some additional policies.

Habitat Loss

This represents direct habitat loss in an International site or loss of supporting habitat such as salmon spawning beds or a foraging area. Habitat can also become fragmented, for example if development creates a barrier to passage of salmon or otter. Where development is required to enable access to Upper Lough Erne there may not be a viable option to constructing it within the designated site. Proposals may also come forward for redevelopment and/or extension of existing developments within International sites. Any such application within an International site will have to be carefully sited and designed to minimise impacts and avoid an adverse effect on site integrity. It is important to ensure that in-stream or adjacent works do not lead to damage to or deterioration of habitat, such that it can no longer support freshwater selection features. Minerals extraction within or upstream of International sites could lead to direct damage of salmon spawning areas or freshwater pearl mussel beds. Care needs to be taken to avoid encroachment into International sites or damage to supporting habitat for site selection features such that it could cause an adverse effect on site integrity.

Direct Disturbance

Direct disturbance includes noise, vibration or light disturbance arising from a development site during construction; during operational use of a site; or from the presence of people on land zoned or developed for recreational use. Direct disturbance is unlikely to arise during construction however, where it may impact on species such as otters or salmon, works should be planned to avoid causing disturbance at critical times.

Indirect Disturbance

Indirect disturbance occurs beyond a development site but may be caused by activity facilitated or promoted as a result of the development. This could be increased levels of dog walking near a residential area or increased levels of recreation including walking, boating or watersports. It could also come about by impinging on supporting habitat used by a site selection feature such as hen harrier foraging areas.





Introduced Species

New development has the potential to introduce invasive or non-native species or cause their spread to other sites. The introduction of invasive species, non-native, competitive or predatory species can adversely affect habitats and species. Watercourses are prone to the spread of invasive species such as giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam which are easily transferred by water if released as a result of development. Invasive species may also be transported to new sites by machinery. Lough Erne saw the introduction of Zebra mussels in the mid-1990s which have had a major impact on its ecology. Crayfish plague is present in the Erne catchment and can lead to mortality of white clawed crayfish, a selection feature of a number of International sites. Development that extends navigable waters or which introduces new boating may also increase the potential for spread of invasive species or waterborne diseases of protected species to waters where they are not currently present.

Aerial Emissions

Deposition of aerial pollutants can damage habitats and species through toxic effects and nutrient enrichment. Aerial emissions primarily arise from industry and transport, but domestic fuel and agricultural intensification are also sources. Nitrogen deposition is identified as a threat for many International sites.

Nitrogen from transport is largely deposited close to source, so road development close to International sites needs to be assessed. There are places in the Council area where main roads are located close to supporting habitat. TR01 identifies the need for a transport assessment where a development proposal is likely to have a significant impact on highway conditions. The policy and clarification for TR01 also requires a Transport Assessment for all significant developments. A Transport Assessment is a comprehensive review of all the potential transport impacts of a proposed development or redevelopment, with an agreed plan to mitigate any adverse consequences.

Livestock production is a significant source of nitrogen deposition in the form of ammonia. One site in our Council area, Moninea Bog SAC, has been studied to examine the impacts of ammonia and recovery of the site once the source stopped operating. The current advice from DAERA is that all livestock developments within 7.5km of an International site should be modelled for ammonia distribution. As understanding of susceptibility of sites and their features to the effects of nitrogen deposition grows, the guidance on modelling and mitigating for ammonia emissions may change. For this reason all International sites within 10km of the Council area have been screened in for consideration at LPP.

Water Pollution

Water pollution causes deterioration of (or failure to improve) water quality, due to direct runoff of pollutants including fuel, chemicals and sediments from development during construction or operation. Indirect pollution may also occur through inadequacy of wastewater treatment or treatment infrastructure. Section 3.5 acknowledges the need for 'sufficient infrastructure to support the development (e.g. water and sewerage)' in selecting sites for new housing.

Settlements which are in close proximity to supporting habitat, such as Omagh and Gortin, have the potential for causing pollution. This may occur from sediment or other contaminants being released during construction or from runoff or the discharge from wastewater treatment during operation. Development on brownfield sites in Omagh may lead to risk of release of contaminants which needs to be assessed and, where necessary, remediation carried out. For individual developments, water quality impacts can be addressed through HRA and by the conditioning of pollution prevention measures through the requirement to submit, for example, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and/or a Construction Method Statement (CMS).

Minerals extraction is a potential source of sediment which can have an adverse effect on sensitive aquatic species such as freshwater pearl mussels. RE01 includes 'all proposals for wind energy development ...will be required to ...demonstrate that: ...the development will not create a significant risk of landslide or bog burst...' This will help to ensure that wind energy does not lead to release of sediment that could damage International sites or their selection features.

Hydrological Change

There is evidence that water supply will be sufficient for the life of the plan therefore there is not predicted to be a need to expand water supply sources to support proposed development. Any development that requires non-mains water could have a localised effect on hydrology or hydrogeology and will require an abstraction licence which will be subject to HRA. Some International sites depend on groundwater therefore there is potential for impacts on their hydrology.





In combination and Cumulative Effects

The draft Plan Strategy could enable a proliferation of development that could have a cumulative impact on a site over time. This could come about from developments that individually have an insignificant effect but could have a significant effect or adverse effect on site integrity in combination. Examples are livestock installations in proximity to an International site such as the raised bog SACs or multiple developments in the same river catchment such as that of Owenkillow SAC. Recreation has the potential to have an adverse effect if it is intensified to a degree that it causes erosion or persistent disturbance, for example at Cuilcagh Mountain SAC or Upper Lough Erne. Recommendations are included to monitor development around sensitive sites and to seek DAERA guidance on site condition, threats and risk of proliferation.

Recommendations

Recommendations follow to address the impacts and potential effects discussed above. Each includes a note of what stage it applies to and its rationale. Some of the recommendations have already been incorporated in the draft Plan Strategy and some are to be implemented at later stages. Given that all individual projects will be subject to HRA, these recommendations are not essential to ensuring that the Plan Strategy is compliant with the Habitats Regulations. They would, however, enhance the protection for International sites under the LDP and further reduce the risks of adverse effects on site integrity, including from cumulative effects.

REC01: Land release should be phased to ensure alignment of housing delivery with planned infrastructure investment and development lead-times. (Plan Strategy/LPP)

The Spatial Growth Strategy and settlements have already been informed by infrastructure and the constraints of insufficient wastewater treatment capacity are fully acknowledged. This will limit development potential in a number of settlements, unless satisfactory alternative treatment facilities are provided.

REC02: Monitor lough shore development to assess potential cumulative impacts on International sites. (Already incorporated)

Upper Lough Erne is popular for boating and other recreation but site selection features could be vulnerable to a proliferation of access points and intensification of recreation. Monitoring indicator 13 will record lough shore access points and this information can inform consideration of cumulative impacts.

REC03: The need to consider potential effects on International sites beyond plan area should be highlighted. (Plan Strategy)

The current emphasis is on sites within the Council area, however the Habitats Regulations also applies to sites adjacent to or beyond the district including transboundary sites of which there are over twenty. This could be included in the Policy Clarification for NE01.

REC04: Include explicit reference to the need to assess impacts on International sites and supporting habitat in the Policy Clarification for RE01 and in Appendix 7 of the Plan Strategy. (Plan Strategy)

The strategy primarily relates to landscape and visual amenity with some consideration of residential amenity. The Wind Energy Strategy could extend the definition of sensitive receptors to include environmental receptors. In the context of International sites sensitive receptors would be International sites to which there is a pathway or supporting habitat of a site selection feature. DAERA – NIEA has identified areas where flight paths should be considered and swan fields (Map 8).

REC05: Monitor development in the Owenkilwe SAC, Upper Ballinderry SAC and Claddagh (Swanlinbar) SAC catchment within the Council area to assess potential cumulative impacts on the SACs. (Development Management)

Freshwater pearl mussels rely on open riverbed substrate and good water quality. They are highly sensitive to sediment loads and deposition. Monitoring of development can help inform cumulative effects for HRA.

REC06: HOU09 – HOU18 Consider adding specific comment on sewage treatment capacity and provision. (Plan Strategy)

Consider specifying, where appropriate, that non-mains sewage treatment may need to be upgraded. Some of these policies make reference to existing services, however septic tanks may not be up to date or sufficient for the end use. Requiring upgrading could help to reduce existing impacts on water quality. In drafting a specific comment, account could be taken of how the policy relates to existing discharge consents and the role of DAERA as a statutory consultee.

REC07: OSR07 This policy focuses on human amenity. It is recommended that it is explicit that impacts on wildlife are also a consideration. (Plan Strategy)

This policy focuses on human amenity, however disturbance from lighting has a potential effect on species such as whiskered bat, a site selection feature of Upper Lough Erne Ramsar.





REC08: IB01 For villages and small settlements a further consideration could be environmentally sensitive features. (Plan Strategy)

Although there are some policy caveats for this policy there are none for the natural environment.

REC09: TOU02 - TOU04 Encourage pre-applications discussions (PADs) for certain types of tourism development. (Plan Strategy)

The location of large scale development under TOU02 - TOU04 could have a significant impact on or beyond the development site. A PAD could facilitate consideration at an early stage of potential effects of the development, including indirect disturbance effects, on International sites.

REC10: Ensure that NE01 provides clarity on how the Habitats Regulations will be implemented through the LDP. (Plan Strategy)

NE01 incorporates the International Designations policies of the SPPS (6.175 – 6.178) and former policies NH01 to NH05 of PPS 2 Nature Conservation. The more detailed SPPS and PPS 2 policies for International sites are provided in Appendix 3 for comparison. PPS 2 preceded SPPS and provided detail in the policy on International sites that mirrors the requirements of the Habitats Regulations closely. Feedback during consultation on the draft Plan Strategy will inform whether NE01 adequately reflects the SPPS and Habitats Regulations and whether any clarification is required.

REC11: FLD01 Consider including an explicit statement that there should be no significant adverse impact on the natural environment. (Plan Strategy)

In some locations floodplains are closely associated with rivers that are designated or which are supporting habitat for site selection features. There are several potential impacts depending on the nature of the development therefore consider specifying protection of the natural environment.

REC12: FLD02 Consider removing the exemption for when a drainage assessment is required. (Plan Strategy)

The Policy Clarification includes 'A Drainage Assessment will be required ...where surface water run-off from the development may adversely impact upon other development or features of the Natural and Historic Environment (unless it falls within one of the categories (a) to(d) of Draft Policy FLD01)'. A drainage assessment helps to identify hydrological pathways to International sites and can inform any HRA required for a project, therefore it is recommended that the exemption for development under FLD01 is removed.

REC13: FLD05 Consider a presumption against culverting on watercourses in a SPA, SAC, Ramsar sites and supporting habitat. (Plan Strategy)

There is potential for culverting to result in habitat loss or to create a barrier to migration of salmon or otter therefore it may cause a significant effect. Where there is no alternative to culverting, a requirement could be added for the applicant to demonstrate that it will not disrupt the passage of site selection features or adversely affect them during construction.

REC14: TR01 Highlight that, in some locations, transport assessments or air quality modelling may also be required to assess impacts of aerial deposition on nearby International sites. (Plan Strategy)

Although this policy does not in itself promote development, traffic assessments could incorporate consideration of the impacts of aerial emissions from traffic where they may impact International sites or supporting habitat. The current text gives the impression that the focus of a transport assessment is on travel flow and safety. It is worth identifying that air quality impacts on International sites as environmental receptors should also be a consideration.

REC15: PU04 Consider providing advice on how to demonstrate that the development will not create or add to a pollution problem. (Plan Strategy)

This states that, for development relying on non-mains sewerage, the applicant has to 'demonstrate through the submission of sufficient information on the means of sewerage, that this will not create or add to a pollution problem.' Guidance could be provided to advise developers and applicants on what represents sufficient information. In preparing the guidance, account could be taken of how the policy relates to the requirements of Water Order Discharge Consents and consultee advice of DAERA - NIEA.

REC16: Identify and consider plans that in combination may lead to a cumulative adverse effect on site integrity. (Final HRA for Plan Strategy)

As the Plan Strategy is scheduled to be adopted in the 1st quarter of 2021/2022, two years will have elapsed from this draft HRA. Relevant plans will therefore need to be reviewed before the HRA is finalised, to assess in combination effects.





REC17: Information should be included in the final HRA to detail those settlements and plan designations that have potential effects on International sites or supporting habitats and the pathways and impacts that could arise. (Final HRA for Plan Strategy)

All planning applications are subject to the Habitats Regulations, however this information will provide a resource to assist planners in easily identifying applications for which screening for HRA is required, e.g. in cases where development is proposed in a settlement or a plan designation such as a Special Countryside Area.

REC18: Seek further information from DAERA before finalising the HRA to identify any new evidence about International sites, habitats and species. (Final HRA for Plan Strategy)

This may include site management plans, updated condition assessments, and habitat or species specific information. It could also inform the Council as to those International sites where there is a risk of proliferation of development having an adverse effect on site integrity.

REC19: Seek further information before LPP to identify areas adjacent to or beyond International sites that are of high sensitivity for site selection features so that this can be addressed in spatial designations. (LPP)

These may include supporting habitat, for example for salmon or hen harrier, or hydrological links for water dependant habitats which could inform spatial designations.

REC20: Include consideration of International sites in the selection criteria for LPP designations. (LPP)

Potential pathways to International sites or supporting habitat should be included in criteria for reviewing existing and identifying new LPP designations, where these could allow development that could cause an impact on International sites. This will enable potential impacts to be considered to avoid or reduce effects on International sites and their selection features. Where there are potential effects it may be possible to identify mitigation through Key Site Requirements (KSRs).

REC21: Consider the risk of contamination from brownfield sites in Omagh in allocating sites for housing at LPP and in their key site requirements. (LPP)

Omagh is within the River Foyle catchment and, although not in the River Foyle and Tributaries SAC, it is located at the confluence of major tributaries. These provide supporting habitat for salmon, a site selection feature and salmon migrate through Omagh to and from spawning areas.

Conclusions of the HRA

The draft Plan Strategy policies that may have an adverse effect on site integrity are too general to assess. Potential impacts cannot be discounted on the sites listed in Table 4. During the HRA process potential risks were identified in so far as they may be reasonably foreseeable and in light of such information as can reasonably be obtained.

Further consideration of the draft Plan Strategy and International sites has identified that, although effects are uncertain at this strategic stage, a number of mitigation measures are desirable. These will help to ensure that the draft Plan Strategy will not have any adverse effect on the integrity of the International sites connected to the plan area, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Associated mitigation measures will be incorporated where appropriate into the Plan Strategy, with the aim of avoiding potential impacts. Mitigation that is more appropriate for inclusion at later stages of plan preparation is also recommended.

The HRA will be reviewed, updated and finalised following public consultation and independent examination of the draft Plan Strategy and published alongside the adopted Plan Strategy.



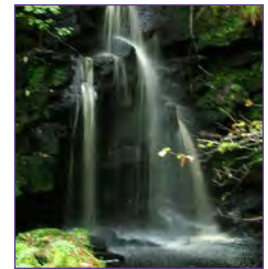
ABBREVIATIONS



AE	Aerial Emissions
AoHSV	Area of High Scenic Value
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CMS	Construction Method Statement
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
DAERA	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DD	Direct Disturbance
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EC	European Commission
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
HC	Hydrological Change
HL	Habitat Loss
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
ID	Indirect Disturbance
IS	Introduced Species
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
KSR	Key Site Requirement
LDP	Local Development Plan
LLPA	Local Landscape Policy Area
LPP	Local Policies Plan
NA	Not Applicable
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
POP	Preferred Options Paper
PPS P	Planning Policy Statement
pSPA	Proposed Special Protection Area
RDS	Regional Development Strategy
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SES	Shared Environmental Service
SLNCI	Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPPS	Strategic Planning Policy Statement
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WQ	Water Quality
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

GLOSSARY

Adverse effect on site integrity	An effect on the qualifying features of an International site which would undermine the achievement of the conservation objectives for that site and which would have a negative effect on the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitats, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which the site is or will be designated.
Competent Authority	For the purposes of the Habitats Regulations the expression 'competent authority' includes government departments, district councils and statutory undertakers, and any trustees, commissioners, board or other persons who, as a public body and not for their own profit, act under any statutory provision for the improvement of any place or the production or supply of any commodity or service.
Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC)	These are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted.
Cumulative Impact	A number of developments in a locality or a continuous activity over time that together may have an increased impact on the environment.
De minimis	Having no appreciable effect
International sites	Collective term referred to in guidance that includes SACs, SPAs, cSACs, pSPAs, SCIs and Ramsar sites (although the latter is a wider International designation).
Favourable Conservation Status (FSC)	In summary conservation status is favourable when conditions are right to sustain habitats and the population and range of species. This term is fully defined in the Habitats Directive.
Habitats Regulations	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)
In combination effect	Refers to effects that may be likely significant effects when considered in combination with effects from other plans or projects.





Likely significant effect	An effect that cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information. Likely in this context means there is a risk or possibility that an effect will be significant. An effect is significant if it would undermine a site's conservation objectives.
Natura 2000 (N2K)	The European network of special areas of conservation and special protection areas under the Wild Birds Directive, provided for by Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive
Ramsar site	Sites listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance adopted at Ramsar, Iran in 1971. As a matter of policy these sites are treated in the same way as International sites.
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission and formally designated by the government of each country in whose territory the site lies.
The Directives	Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. These Directives are referred to as the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive respectively and together are called 'The Directives' for the purposes of this report.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1: REFERENCES AND EVIDENCE SOURCES



In the absence of specific Northern Ireland guidance on carrying out Habitats Regulations Assessment for plans and programmes reference has been made to other sources of guidance and relevant documents including those listed below:

Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2001), European Commission Environment DG

DAERA, NIEA (2015 – 2017) Conservation Objectives
(Online) Available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/protected-areas>

DAERA, NIEA (2017) Data Layers for designated and proposed European and Ramsar sites Available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets>

Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans Guidance for Plan-Making Bodies in Scotland Version 3.0, (2015) Scottish Natural Heritage (Initially Prepared by David Tyldesley and Associates)

JNCC (Dates vary) Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS).
(Online) Available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1393>

JNCC (Dates vary) Standard data form generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission.
(Online) Available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-161>

JNCC Standard data forms (2015) generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on 22/12/2015. jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-0

NIEA Conservation Objectives
www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity-land-and-landscapes/protected-areas

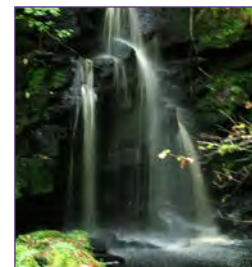
Spatial NI (2017) Data Layers for Local Government boundaries
(Online) Available at <https://www.spatialni.gov.uk/>

Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, December 2017 edition UK: DTA Publications Ltd

APPENDIX 2: THE CONSERVATION (NATURAL HABITATS, ETC.) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1995 (AS AMENDED), REGULATION 43

Assessment of implications for International site

- 43.(1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—
- (a) is likely to have a significant effect on an International site in Northern Ireland (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
 - (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.
- (2) A person applying for any such consent, permission or other authorisation shall provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment.
- (3) The competent authority shall for the purposes of the assessment consult the Department and have regard to any representations made by it within such reasonable time as the authority may specify.
- (4) The competent authority shall, if it considers it appropriate, take such steps as it considers necessary to obtain the opinion of the general public.
- (5) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 44, the authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the International site.
- (6) In considering whether a plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site, the authority shall have regard to the manner in which it is proposed to be carried out or to any conditions or restrictions subject to which it proposed that the consent, permission or other authorisation should be given.
- (7) This regulation does not apply in relation to a site which is an International site by reason only of regulation 9(1)(c) (site protected in accordance with Article 5(4)).



APPENDIX 3: PLANNING POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATIONS



For comparison the more detailed policies for International sites are provided here.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) DOE(NI) September 2013

Natural Heritage

Regional Strategic Policy

- 173.** The following strategic policy must be taken into account in the preparation of Local Development Plans (LDPs) and in the determination of planning applications.
- 174.** Planning authorities should apply the precautionary principle when considering the impacts of a proposed development on national or International significant landscape or natural heritage resources.

International Designations

- 175.** Development proposals are restricted where they are likely to impact upon the integrity of European or Ramsar sites as these are afforded the highest form of statutory protection. Such designations should be identified in the LDP.
- 176.** Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on:
- an International site (Special Protection Area, proposed Special Protection Area, Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Community Importance); or
 - a listed or proposed Ramsar site
- 177.** Where a development proposal is likely to have a significant effect (either alone or in combination) or reasonable scientific doubt remains, the planning authority is required by law to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site, can the planning authority agree to the development and impose appropriate mitigation measures in the form of planning conditions.

- 178.** A development proposal which could adversely affect the integrity of a European or Ramsar site may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances as laid down in the relevant statutory provisions.

Planning Policy Statement 2 Natural Heritage July 2013

PPS 2 Preceded SPPS and provided greater detail in the policy on International sites which more closely mirrors the requirements of the Habitats Regulations

Policy NH 1 - European and Ramsar Sites - International

Planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on:

- an International site (Special Protection Area, proposed Special Protection Area, Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Community Importance); or
- a listed or proposed Ramsar Site.

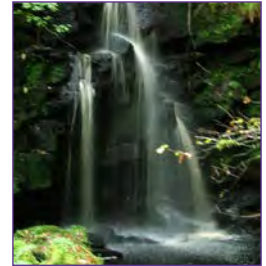
Where a development proposal is likely to have a significant effect (either alone or in combination) or reasonable scientific doubt remains, the Department shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. Appropriate mitigation measures in the form of planning conditions may be imposed. In light of the conclusions of the assessment, the Department shall agree to the development only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

In exceptional circumstances, a development proposal which could adversely affect the integrity of a European or Ramsar Site may only be permitted where:

- there are no alternative solutions; and
- the proposed development is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest; and
- compensatory measures are agreed and fully secured.

As part of the consideration of exceptional circumstances, where a European or Ramsar site hosts a priority habitat or priority species listed in Annex I or II of the Habitats Directive, a development proposal will only be permitted when:

- it is necessary for reasons of human health or public safety or there is a beneficial consequence of primary importance to the environment; or
- agreed in advance with the European Commission.





- 5.1** Development proposals are restricted where they are likely to impact upon the integrity of European or Ramsar sites as these are afforded the highest form of statutory protection.
- 5.2** A list of existing International sites and further information can be found at [www.daera-ni.gov.uk/protected-areas].

APPENDIX 4: THE APPROACH TO HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT FOR PLANS

Stage 1: Screening for likely significant effects

Step 1: Deciding whether a plan should be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment

This involves considering the nature of the plan and its individual proposals to determine whether there is a requirement to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The following questions help determine whether the document being reviewed is a plan in the context of the Directives.

- Is the whole of the plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of an International site for nature conservation purposes?
- Is the plan a strategic development plan, local development plan, supplementary guidance?
- Is the plan a general statement of policy showing only the general political will or intention of the plan making body, and no effect on any particular International site can reasonably be predicted?
- Does the plan contain a programme, or policies, or proposals which could affect one or more particular International sites?

If in the review there is found to be a requirement for HRA those proposals with potential likely significant effects are identified along with the types of impact that they may have. If on the other hand it is found that the plan is not subject to HRA then it is not necessary to progress beyond this step.

Step 2: Identifying the International sites that should be considered in the Appraisal

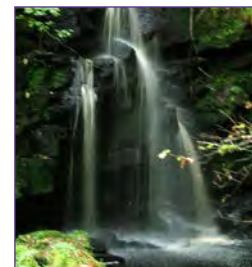
International sites that are within the plan area, within a zone of influence beyond the plan area or connected to the plan area through ecology or infrastructure are identified creating a long list of sites.

Step 3: Gathering information about the International sites

Information for each site on the long list identified at Step 2 is compiled to include the designation status, qualifying interests, conservation objectives and site condition. Available information on factors currently affecting sites which may be affected and vulnerabilities to potential effects of the plan may be included.

Step 4: Discretionary discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal

The Statutory Nature Conservation Body, represented by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) of the Department of Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) may be consulted informally to ensure that the information at Step 3 is up to date and reflects known issues for the International sites. This provides the opportunity to invite comment on the scope of the HRA and potential in combination considerations.





Step 5: Screening the draft / proposed plan for likely significant effects

This step is divided into a higher level review of proposals against sites followed by a detailed assessment of proposals and their potential impacts against site qualifying features. Presentation of this step may vary according to the complexity and spatial scale of the plan under consideration.

- 5a.** Those proposals identified at Step 1 as having potential likely significant effects are assessed in relation to the long list of sites from Step 2. This is presented as a matrix of potential impacts against sites in which impacts are categorised as having no likely significant effect, a likely significant effect or an uncertain effect. Some of the potential effects identified at Step 1 may be discounted at this stage if there is no pathway by which they could impact on an International site or its selection features or because the location or scale is such that any effect would be de minimis. The outcome of this part is a short list of proposals and a short list of sites for which more detailed assessment is required.
- 5b.** A detailed assessment considers the potential modes of impacts against all site selection features for short listed sites. This identifies whether there are likely significant effects. In light of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgment, Case C323/17 (*People over Wind & Sweetman*) this step does not take account of mitigation incorporated in the plan although it can take account of essential features and characteristics without which the plan could not be implemented.

If there are likely significant effects, either alone or in combination, then the sites and features which may be affected and potential impacts should be summarised in preparation for Stage 2.

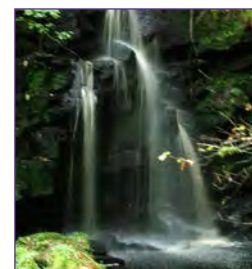
Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test

Step 6: The appropriate assessment

The summary from Step 5 is the starting point for the appropriate assessment. Step 6 assesses whether any likely significant effect could lead to an adverse effect on site integrity for each site. This may be supported with an Integrity of Site Checklist as follows.

INTEGRITY OF SITE CHECKLIST

INTEGRITY OF SITE CHECKLIST	
<p>Does the plan have the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site? • interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site? • disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site? • interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site? 	Yes / No
<p>Other indicators: Does the plan have the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem? • change the dynamics of the relationships (between, for example, soil and water or plants and animals) that define the structure and/or function of the site? • interfere with predicted or expected natural changes to the site (such as water dynamics or chemical composition)? • reduce the area of key habitats? • reduce the population of key species? • change the balance between key species? • reduce diversity of the site? 	Yes / No
<p>Does the plan have the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cause delays in progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site? • interrupt progress towards achieving the conservation objectives of the site? • disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site result in disturbance that could affect population size or density or the balance between key species? • result in fragmentation? • result in loss or reduction of key features (e.g. tree cover, tidal exposure, annual flooding, etc.)? 	Yes / No





Where it is found that there could be an adverse effect then measures are identified to remove any potential for adverse effects. This may include case-specific policy restrictions or caveats; adding mitigation in a further plan that will deliver the current plan; removing proposals that could have an adverse effect on site integrity; specific mitigation plans or a large scale mitigation strategy which includes measures to mitigate adverse effects of the current plan.

Step 7: Amending the plan until there would be no adverse effects on site integrity

Any mitigation identified in Step 6 is incorporated in the plan.

Step 8: Preparing a draft of the HRA Record

This is a draft report which records the HRA and supporting evidence.

Step 9: Consultation

If the HRA is concluded at Stage 1 the HRA Report with a Statement of Finding of No Likely Significant Effects is published. Consultation is not required on this Stage 1 Test of Likely Significance in these circumstances however it is recommended that the record is published as a supporting document for the plan. If the draft plan is subject to consultation a draft Stage 1 HRA Report may be included in the consultation with a note that it will be updated to take account of any changes in the proposals or International sites before the plan is finalised.

If the HRA progresses to Step 8 then NIEA must be consulted on a draft Stage 2 HRA Report (also known as an Appropriate Assessment). Other stakeholders such as managers of International sites should be consulted where appropriate. Public consultation is not required on the draft Stage 2 HRA Report however it may be included as a supporting document for any public consultation on the draft plan with a note that it will be updated to take account of any changes in the proposals or International sites before the plan is finalised.

Step 10: Proposed modifications

Representations by NIEA and other consultees are recorded with a note on if and how they have been addressed. Further mitigation identified in Step 9 is incorporated in the plan.

Step 11: Modifying and completing the appraisal record

Steps 6 - 8 are updated to reflect any additional mitigation and adverse effects reviewed. If it is found that there are no adverse effects on site integrity then the HRA may be concluded and a Stage 2 HRA Appropriate Assessment Report published to include a Record of No Adverse Effect on the Integrity of Any International site under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).

Stage 3: Alternative Solutions

If Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment finds that there would be an adverse effect on site integrity then alternative solutions which are financially, legally and technically feasible need to be considered further.

Alternative solutions are already considered in preparation of many plans, for example through the Preferred Options Paper for Local Development Plans and in carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessment which requires consideration of reasonable alternatives. Compliance with regional policies and strategies also means that environmental effects will have been taken into account. It is therefore rare for HRAs for LDPs to progress beyond Stage 2.

Stage 4: Imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures

In the event that there is an imperative reason of public interest which overrides the risk and harm to sites, and priority features where appropriate, then compensatory measures to protect the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network must be identified, delivery detailed and the government notified. As already noted it is rare for HRAs for LDPs to progress beyond Stage 2.

Criteria for assessing whether a plan is subject to the Habitats Regulations

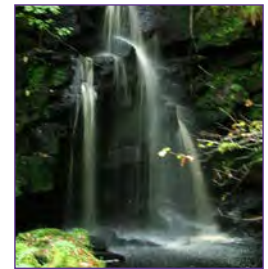
At Step 1 above the following criteria are used to assess whether an overall plan and its individual proposals require HRA.

1. General Policy Statements

These include:

- General strategic and political aspirations (often includes plan objectives)
- Ambitions which state a direction without details
- General criteria based policies, for example relating to design, social considerations, public safety, which do not relate to measures that may protect or affect International sites.

If the whole plan falls into this category and does not include detail about how it will be delivered then it is reasonable to record that it would not be likely to have a significant effect and not to assess it any further under the Habitats Regulations.





2. Plans or projects referred to but not proposed

- Existing projects or plans that will support delivery of the current plan (may include infrastructure plans which have a bearing on the current plan but are not delivered by it).
- Projects or plans in preparation or proposed to be prepared to support the current plan but which are not included within it (these should be considered under the Habitats Regulations by the relevant competent authority).
- Existing projects, plans or programmes which are referenced in the current plan but which do not necessarily support its delivery.
- Plans or projects that would be likely to proceed under another plan irrespective of the current plan.

If the current plan will influence other projects or plans, for example by adding detail, then further consideration is required. Development that is an inevitable consequence of the current plan also requires further consideration although this may not be necessary if it has been or will be subject to HRA.

3. No likely significant effect

- a. The proposal or policy is intended to protect the environment and in doing so will not be likely to have a significant negative effect.
- b. Proposals or policies that will not lead to development or other change or include a presumption against effects on International sites.
- c. Proposals which may bring about change but could have no conceivable effect for example as there is no pathway to an International site or effects are likely to be positive and could not undermine conservation objectives. Baseline information about International sites should be taken into account to ensure all pathways and links with qualifying features have been considered.

4. Proposals too general to assess

- The effect cannot be predicted because the policy is too general and, for example, how and where it will be implemented is unknown.
- Broad proposals where the implementation will be detailed and can be assessed at a later stage.

These do not apply if the scale of the proposal or constraints mean it will be difficult to accommodate development without impacting an International site.

5. Potential minor effects

- Proposals which may bring about change but that change would be insignificant on its own for example due to distance, duration or scale. These will be reviewed for potential in combination effects.

6. Potential significant effects

- Potential negative effects that cannot be confirmed to be insignificant on the basis of objective information without mitigation for which further assessment is required.



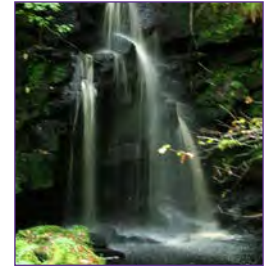
APPENDIX 5: DETAILED REVIEW OF DRAFT PLAN STRATEGY PROPOSALS



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
VISION AND OBJECTIVES				
Vision	1 Out	Overall aspiration for the Council area	NA	
Strategic Objectives - Social				
1. Develop the roles of Enniskillen and Omagh as economic, transportation and cultural hubs providing the main focus for new housing, employment, shops, leisure activities, public administrative and community services including health and education.	4 In	Promotes development in these locations but too general to assess. The relationship between settlement limits and European sites is considered under SPO2.	NA	
2. Protect and sustain the role of local towns and villages so that they act as local centres for shops and community services meeting the daily needs of their rural hinterlands.	1 Out	General policy statement to focus development in these locations.	NA	
3. Provide for vibrant rural communities whilst protecting the countryside in which they live by accommodating sustainable development.	1 Out	General policy statement on rural development	NA	
4. Provide for 5,190 new homes by 2030 across a range of housing types and tenures capable of meeting the needs of all sections of the community at locations accessible to existing and new community (including education) services, employment, leisure and recreational facilities.	4 In	The focus is on development of homes within identified settlements. If infrastructure is inadequate there could be potential for impacts on water quality. Delivery of this objective is considered under SPO3.	NA	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
VISION AND OBJECTIVES				
5. Facilitate the development of new social, community and recreational services at locations accessible to existing communities and new housing developments, through a variety of modes of transportation e.g. public, active and community.	1 Out	The emphasis is on such services in relation to existing communities and new housing. In some cases this may lead to disturbance impacts on designated sites.	NA	
6. Provide for environments that are safe, healthy and connected and which enhance opportunities for shared space for all.	1 Out	General policy statement	NA	
Strategic Objectives - Social				
7. Promote sustainable economic development and growth by facilitating the creation of 4,875 new jobs by 2030 and providing a sufficient supply of economic development land through a range and choice of sites, taking into account accessibility by public transport and active travel modes.	4 In	The focus is on development within identified settlements. If infrastructure is inadequate there could be potential for impacts on water quality. Delivery of this objective is considered under SPO4.	NA	
8. Promote inward investment, diversify the local economy, assist with economic regeneration and physical renewal, and help generate skilled, well paid employment opportunities and improve employability in the most deprived areas.	1 Out	General statement of intent for area.	NA	



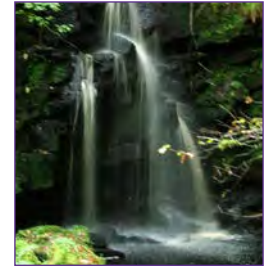
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
VISION AND OBJECTIVES				
9. Recognise and accommodate the micro business base including rural entrepreneurship, self-employment and home working	4 In	Allows for development but too general to assess. Delivery of this objective is considered under the draft industry and business policies.	NA	
10. Support the provision of an accessible, integrated, safe and sustainable transport network and locate development to improve accessibility by public transport, cycling and walking, help reduce car dependency and the impact of traffic on local communities and the environment.	4 In	Despite the intention to reduce car dependency population and economic growth are likely to drive a net increase in traffic which has potential for impacts for European sites and features that are close to main roads. Delivery of this objective is considered under the draft transport policies.	NA	
11. Improve digital connectivity which both meets the needs of business and private households whilst reducing the need to travel.	4 In	Delivery of this objective is considered under the draft public utilities policies.	NA	
12. Develop the Council area as a destination for quality leisure visits and sustainable tourism by enabling the provision of new, as well as enhancement of existing tourism infrastructure in appropriate locations.	4 In	This objective has potential to lead to damage or disturbance impacts on designated sites. Delivery of this objective is considered under the draft tourism policies.	NA	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
VISION AND OBJECTIVES				
Strategic Objectives - Environmental				
13. Conserve, sustain and enhance the area's environmental qualities, local distinctiveness including special landscapes, and sites of environmental importance in terms of biodiversity, wildlife and habitats, local landscape character, townscape, traditional settlement patterns, and historic environment.	1 Out	This seeks to protect environmental quality including sites of environmental importance.	NA	
14. Follow the principles of sustainability and high quality design standards in all developments to assist with meeting Climate Change targets and place-making.	1 Out	This is a general policy statement that is also unlikely to have impacts on designated sites or their selection features.	NA	
15. Sustainably manage and safeguard where appropriate our natural resources including minerals and water, protecting the environment and providing sustainable services including effective and sustainable waste management to meet population needs.	1 Out	This seeks to protect environmental quality including through infrastructure to meet population needs.	NA	



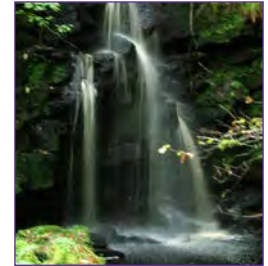
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
VISION AND OBJECTIVES				
17. Prevent inappropriate new development in areas known to be at risk of flooding or that may increase the flood risk elsewhere and put in place measures to assist in flood risk management.	1 Out	This is a general policy statement, Delivery of this objective is considered under the draft flood risk management policies.	NA	
18. Protect and enhance the local green infrastructure network such as open space and green wildlife corridors whilst contributing to the enhancement of community health and well-being.	4 In	This could be a protective measure through providing buffers to designated sites however there remains potential for conflicts for example from disturbance. There is no specific policy on green infrastructure however SP01, DE02 OSR05 and TR06 promote it or enable its retention.	NA	
DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICIES				
SP01 - Furthering Sustainable Development	3 Out	environmentally protective measure and is caveated that development that causes harm to important features is not allowed for under this policy.	'The Council's approach is that sustainable development should be permitted, having regard to the development plan and all other material considerations, unless the proposed development will cause demonstrable harm to interests of acknowledged importance.'	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICIES				
SPO2 - Settlement	4 In	This focuses most housing/industry and business/retail in main and local towns. Recognises that environmental and infrastructural constraints are likely to limit capacity for such development in smaller settlements. Some settlements are directly adjacent to designated sites or supporting habitat for site selection features.		Settlements
SPO3 – Strategic Allocation and Management of Housing Supply	4 In	There will be a limited requirement for new zoned land in the main and local towns in phase 1. Housing policy areas may be identified for villages and small settlements at LPP. The potential for impacts during construction cannot be excluded as there may be a pathway from development sites to a designated site. Although unlikely during the plan period the potential for phase 2 or reserve sites has not been ruled out.	3.5 acknowledges the need for 'sufficient infrastructure to support the development (e.g. water and sewerage)' in selecting sites for new housing.	Housing Zones Phase 1 and Phase 2; Housing Policy Areas



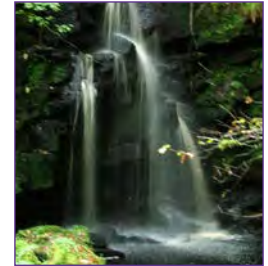
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICIES				
SP04 - Strategic Allocation of Land for Industry and Business	4 In	It is intended to retain zoned land which is not subject to constraints such as flood risk and to allocate additional land in Omagh and Lisnaskea. If infrastructure is inadequate there could be potential for impacts on water quality.		Industry and Business Zones
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Development and Design				
DE01 - General Amenity Requirements	3 Out	The purpose of this is to avoid adverse effects on amenity and residential amenity. In doing so it may reduce disturbance on designated sites or their selection features.		
DE02 - Design Quality	3 Out	This policy sets high standards for design.	Development must protect and enhance features and assets of the natural and historic environment and landscape; and be energy and resource efficient and minimise their impact on the environment	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Development and Design				
DE03 – Sustaining Rural Communities	4 In	This enables development to sustain rural communities however it interrelates with many other policies specific to each development type many of which specify protection of the natural environment.	Development must sustain rural communities while protecting and improving the environment	
DE04 - Integration and Design of Development in the Countryside	3 Out	This relates to visual integration of development and will not lead to adverse impacts on designated sites.		
DE05 - Rural Character	3 Out	This relates to visual character of development and will not lead to adverse impacts on designated sites.		
DE06 - The Setting of Settlements	3 Out	This relates to visual impact of development in relation to settlements and will not lead to adverse impacts on designated sites.		
DE07 - Advertisements	3 Out	This relates to visual impact of advertisements and will not lead to adverse impacts on designated sites.		



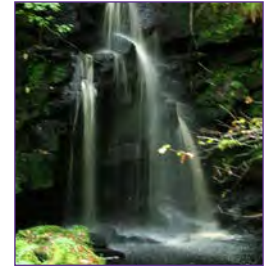
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Development and Design				
DE08 – Advertisements and the Historic Environment	3 Out	This relates to visual impact of advertisements and will not lead to adverse impacts on designated sites.		Heritage Assets Conservation Areas
People and Places - Housing in Settlements				
HOU01 – Housing in Settlements	4 In	This is within the constraints of and referred to in SP03 so does not need to be assessed as well.		Housing Zones Housing Policy Areas
HOU02 - Protection of Land Zoned for Housing	4 In	This largely protects land already zoned for housing and does not promote further development. However where exceptions apply these may need to be subject to HRA.		Housing Zones Housing Policy Areas
HOU03 - Affordable Housing in Settlements	3 Out	This guides the type rather than the amount of housing.		
HOU04 - Traveller Accommodation	4 In	The priority is for traveller accommodation to be within settlements however development in the countryside cannot be excluded.		

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
People and Places - Housing in Settlements				
HOU05 - Shaping Our Houses and Homes	3 Out	This guides the design and layout rather than the amount of housing.	Consideration may be given to removing householders permitted development rights when approving residential development where any future development of garden land would result in gardens being of insufficient size, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas and those of valued character...	
HOU06 – Public Open Space in New Residential Developments	3 4. In	This relates to housing within settlement limits so will be considered under SPO2 and SPO3.		
HOU07 – Conversion and Change of Use of Existing Building to Self-Contained Flats	3 Out	This relates to the use of existing buildings and does not increase built development.		



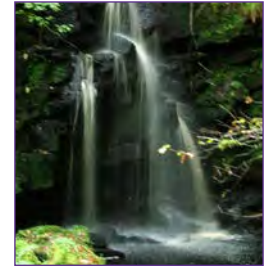
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Development and Design				
HOU08 – Annex Living	4 Out	This addresses extensions for annexes in settlements.		
People and Places - Housing in the Countryside				
HOU09 – Rural Replacement Dwellings	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	Refers to existing services which include sewage disposal (3.40).	
HOU10 – Replacement of Other Rural Buildings	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	Refers to existing services which include sewage disposal (3.44).	
HOU11 – Redevelopment of a former site for dwelling	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	Refers to existing services which include sewage disposal (3.48).	
HOU12 - Dwelling on a Farm Business	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	No	
HOU13 - Dwelling in association with the keeping and breeding of horses for commercial purposes	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	No	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
People and Places - Housing in the Countryside				
HOU14 - Rounding Off and Infilling	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	No	
HOU15 - Dwelling to serve an existing Non-agricultural business	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	No	
HOU16 - Personal and Domestic Circumstances	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.	No	
HOU17 - Affordable Housing in the Countryside	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate although it may benefit from mains sewage in an adjacent development.	land adjacent to the existing settlement limit, subject to amenity and environmental considerations	Rural Community Area
HOU18 - Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes	4 In	May lead to development for which waste water treatment is not adequate.		
People and Places - Community Facilities				
CF01 - Community Facilities	4 In	This retains where possible existing and allows for new community facilities and will be focussed largely in settlements.		Sites for Community Facilities



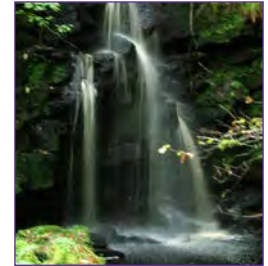
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
People and Places - Open Space, Sport and Recreation				
OSR01 - Protection of Open Space	3 Out	Open space is protected in principle other than in stated circumstances. This applies largely to open space in settlements. Any development enabled as a result of this policy will be assessed under other policies.		
OSR02 - Intensive Sports Facilities	4 In	Presumption that such facilities will be within or closely related to settlements other than in exceptional circumstances. Potential for runoff in construction or disturbance from floodlighting assessed on case by case basis and at application stage.		

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
People and Places - Open Space, Sport and Recreation				
OSR03 - Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside	4 In	This facilitates increased recreation at and beyond the actual development site. In some circumstances the development may be within a designated site.		
OSR04 - Protection of Lough Shores	4 In	This has the intent to be a protective measure and includes a criteria that there must be no significant adverse impact on the natural environment. It will be important however to consider cumulative impacts of lough shore development.	'there is no significant adverse impact on the natural environment, including biodiversity and landscape character;'	Lough Shores



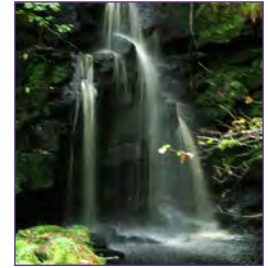
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
People and Places - Open Space, Sport and Recreation				
OSR05 - Development Adjacent to a Main River	4 In	This is a largely protective measure that includes requirements for a 10m biodiversity strip and specifies no adverse impact on the natural environment. It does however allow for public access and recreation and so proposals need to be assessed on a case by case basis in terms of construction and disturbance during operation.	'a biodiversity strip of at least 10 metres from the edge of the river is provided and accompanied with an appropriate landscape management proposal;' 'there is no significant adverse impact on the natural environment or historic environment;'	Main River
OSR06 - Safeguarding of the Ulster Canal	3 Out	In itself this policy will not allow any development that could impact on designated sites. It protects future potential for restoration of the Ulster Canal but does not propose such development.		Ulster Canal
OSR07 - The Floodlighting of Sports and Outdoor Recreational Facilities	4 In	This policy focuses on human amenity.		

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
People and Places - Rural Community Areas				
RCA01 - Rural Community Areas	4 In	This allows for small scale rural development in limited circumstances. It cannot be predicted if or where proposals for such development could arise.	No	Rural Community Area
Economy - Industry and Business				
IB01 - Industry and Business Development in Settlements	4 In	In towns this will be with development limits and considered under SP04. A policy rather than spatial approach is taken to development in villages and small settlements.		Industry and Business Zones
IB02 - Loss of Industry and Business Uses	3. Out	IB02 protects land zoned or used for industry and business from other uses and does not in itself promote additional development.		Industry and Business Zones
IB03 - Development incompatible with Industrial and Business Uses	3. Out	Policy IB03 in itself constrains incompatible development and does not promote additional development.		



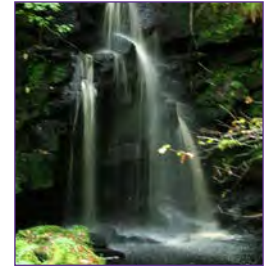
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Economy - Industry and Business				
IB04 - Industry and Business Development in the Countryside	4 In	IB04 enables rural development in situations or locations defined by policy. Largely for small scale, e.g. start-up however allows for regionally significant major development which could include energy, transport or waste infrastructure or minerals extraction.		
IB05 – Farm Diversification	4 In	IB05 enables limited re-use/adaptation for farm diversification.	It does not have an adverse impact on the natural or built heritage	
IB06 – Agricultural and Forestry Development	4 In	IB06 enables agricultural development. This could include development that increases ammonia emissions that may have an adverse effect on European sites.	Development proposals for intensive farming or animal husbandry must demonstrate that it does not result in any significant adverse environmental effects.	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Economy - Town Centres and Retail Strategy				
TCR01 – Town Centres	3 Out	TCR01 defines type of development rather than its location.	Such sites shall be accessible by a choice of good public transport modes and have capacity for necessary infrastructure such as waste water treatment works.	Town Centres Primary Retail Core
TCR02 – Primary Retail Frontage	3 Out	TCR02 defines type of development rather than its location.		Primary Retail Frontage
TCR03 – Local Neighbourhood Centres	4 In	TCR01 proposals are within the settlement boundaries of the Main Towns and therefore considered under SP02.		Local Neighbourhood Centres
TCR04 - Villages and Small Settlements	4. In	TCR04 are within the settlement boundaries of the villages and small settlements and therefore considered under SP02.		Villages and Small Settlements



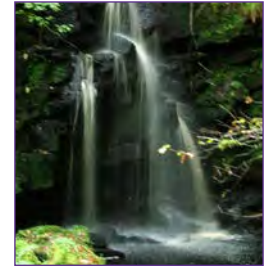
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Economy - Town Centres and Retail Strategy				
TCR05 – Petrol Filling Stations	4. In	TCR05 promotes development within settlements other than in specified circumstances. Wherever filling stations are development careful consideration of the potential for contaminated runoff is required.		
Economy - Tourism				
TOU01 - Protection of Tourism Assets and Tourism Development	3. Out	TOU01 is a protective policy to avoid adverse effects on tourism assets and does not in itself promote tourism. Tourism assets may include the natural environment and in some cases European sites.	None	Tourism Assets
TOU02 - Tourism Development	2. 4. In	TOU02 enables tourism development in specified circumstances defined by policy rather than spatially.	None	Settlements Tourism Hubs
TOU03 - New Build Hotel, Guest House and Tourist Hostel outside Settlement Boundaries	4. In	TOU03 enables tourism accommodation outside settlement limits in specified circumstances defined by policy rather than spatially.	None	Tourism Hub

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Economy - Tourism				
TOU04 - Holiday Parks, Touring Caravan and Camping Sites	4. In	TOU04 enables holiday park or touring caravan and camping site outside settlement limits in specified circumstances defined by policy rather than spatially.	None	Tourism Hub
Economy - Minerals Development				
MIN01 - Minerals Development	4. In	MIN01 enables minerals development with the caveat to protect the natural environment. Also provides for areas of constraint on minerals development (ACMDs) which constrain minerals extraction to protect our most valuable resources and special landscapes. Policy prohibits commercial peat extraction which may have indirect benefits to European sites.	'The Council will support proposals for minerals development where it is demonstrated that they do not have an unacceptable adverse impact upon:-i) the natural environment; iv) the water environment;' 'Where applicable, measures designed to prevent pollution of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, watercourses and ground water should be included in applications for mineral extraction and processing plant, including	



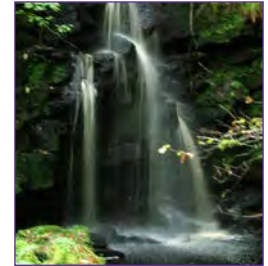
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Economy - Minerals Development				
MIN03 - Mineral Safeguarding Areas	3. Out	MIN03 policy generally prevents development that would sterilise the opportunity for mineral extraction. It does not in itself lead to development. Mineral Safeguarding Areas are to be defined at LPP.		Mineral Safe guarding Areas
MIN04 - Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction	3. Out	MIN04 policy prohibits unconventional hydrocarbon extraction until there is evidence of no adverse environmental impacts. It does allow for exploration that requires planning permission to be considered under the terms of MIN01.	'The Council will not permit exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbon extraction until it is proved that there would be no adverse effects on the environment or public health.'	
Environment - Historic Environment				
HE01 - Historic Environment Overarching	3. Out	Protective policy for historic environment generally.		Heritage Asset

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Environment - Historic Environment				
HE02 – Archaeology	3. Out	Protective policy for archaeology.		Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest Archaeological Remains of Local Importance
HE03 – Listed Buildings and their Settings	3. Out	Protective policy for listed buildings.		Listed Buildings
HE04 – Conservation Areas	3. Out	Protective policy for Conservation Areas.		Conservation Areas
HE05 – Areas of Townscape Character (ATCs) and Areas of Village Character (AVCs)	3. Out	Protective policy for Areas of Townscape/Village character.		Areas of Townscape Character (ATCs) and Areas of Village Character (AVCs)
HE06 – Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes	3. Out	Protective policy for historic parks, gardens and demesnes.		Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes



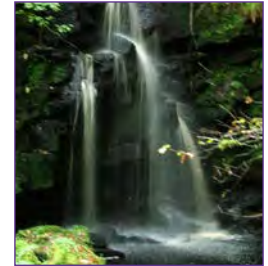
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Environment - Historic Environment				
HE07 – Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)	3. Out	Protective policy for LLPAs within or adjoining settlements and which may also protect the natural environment e.g. river banks, shorelines and woodland.	The Council will only permit development proposals within or adjoining an LLPA where it is demonstrated that they do not adversely impact on their intrinsic landscape character, visual amenity, and environmental and historic value.	Local Landscape Policy Areas
HE08 – Enabling Development	3. Out	Constrains enabling development of heritage assets to exceptional circumstances.		Heritage Asset
HE09 – Change of Use, Conversion or Re-use of an Unlisted Locally Important Building or Vernacular building	3. Out	This enables use of unlisted buildings to secure upkeep and retention. Does not promote new development however may extension or adaptation.	As such, this policy allows for further opportunities for their re-use, when balanced against other policies of the plan.	Heritage Asset

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Environment - Natural Environment				
NE01 - Nature Conservation	3. Out	NE01 applies to all development under the LDP and reinforces the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.	'The Council will not support any development that will adversely affect the designation objectives and integrity of an SAC, cSAC, SPA, pSPA site or a listed or proposed Ramsar site unless...' Also 5.38 - 5.40	SAC, cSAC, SPA, pSPA, Ramsar, ASSI, Wildlife Refuge, LNR, SLNCI
NE02 – Protected Species and their Habitats	3. Out	NE02 is protective of species and habitats irrespective of spatial designations.		
NE03 – Biodiversity	3. Out	NE03 protective policy for local biodiversity which is unlikely lead to impacts on European sites or selection features.		



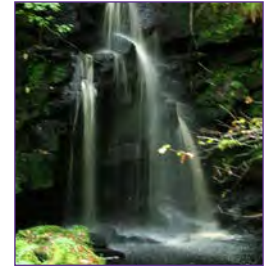
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Environment - Landscape				
L01 – Development within the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	4. In	Constrains development in Sperrins AONB to protect the AONB and its setting. Does however allow for compatible development including minor works which may increase recreational pressure.	‘Favourable consideration will be given to the provision of pathways and informal recreational facilities of an appropriate scale and in a suitable location, subject to policy provisions contained elsewhere in the Plan.’ ‘Proposals must be able to demonstrate that they have sought to protect, enhance and conserve the distinctive special character of the area and quality of landscape, heritage and wildlife within it.’	Sperrin AONB

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Environment - Landscape				
L02 – Special Countryside Areas	4. In	Constrains development in SCAs to protect exceptional landscapes. Does however allow for exceptions including minor works which may increase recreational pressure.	Partial: '... providing it ...does not threaten the visual amenity, nature conservation interest ...'; '...areas which should be preserved in order to retain both their special environmental benefits and their aesthetic qualities'	SCA
L03 – Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV)	4. In	Constrains development in AoHSV to protect the quality or character of their landscapes. Does however allow for compatible development including minor works which may increase recreational pressure.	Favourable consideration will be given to the provision of pathways and informal recreational facilities of an appropriate scale and in a suitable location, subject to policy provisions contained elsewhere in the Plan.	AoHSV



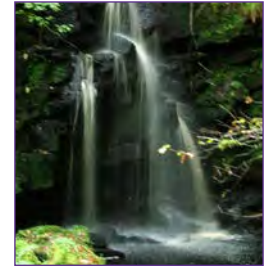
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Flood Risk Management				
FLD01 - Development in Floodplains	4. In	Largely protective through constraining development including storage of hazardous substances, however does allow for some forms of development in floodplains including mineral extraction and recreational facilities.	No	Flood plains
FLD02 - Development affected by Surface Water Flooding outside Floodplains	4. In	This requires drainage assessments (DAs) for development that has the potential to create surface flooding and specifies the need where there may be impacts on the natural environment however allows for some exceptions. Potentially could be pathways to designated sites through surface flooding. The DA can inform risks and impacts.	Partial: 'A Drainage Assessment will be required for the following types of development as these have the potential to create surface flooding elsewhere: ...where surface water run-off from the development may adversely impact upon other development or features of the Natural and Historic Environment (unless it falls within one of the categories (a) to(d) of Draft Policy FLD01)'	Surface Water Flooding

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Flood Risk Management				
FLD03 - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	3. Out	This is a protective measure that reduces or avoids potential impacts by attenuating and ameliorating runoff from developed sites.	No however recognises 'Where a proposal is acceptable, the Council will need to be satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place with regard to the long term management and maintenance of the infrastructure on which mitigation depends.'	
FLD04 - Protection of Flood Defences and Drainage Infrastructure	3. Out	This is a measure to allow for maintenance of designated watercourses.	No	Flood defence, control structure, designated water course
FLD05 - Artificial Modification of Watercourses	4. In	This allows for a maximum length of culverting of up to 10m. There is potential for culverting to result in habitat loss or to create a barrier to migration of salmon or otter.	No, however acknowledges that artificial modification can damage ecological integrity and biodiversity of watercourses.	



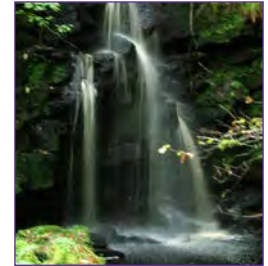
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Flood Risk Management				
FLD06 - Development in Proximity to Reservoirs	3. Out	Directs where development may not be allowed. A presumption against development, including storage of hazardous substances, in potential flood inundation areas will, in some cases, avoid impacts on designated sites.	No	Controlled reservoirs
Infrastructure - Renewable Energy				
RE01 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	4. In	There are many potential impacts from renewable energy depending on the generation method, scale and location. It is not clear whether this applies to anaerobic digesters. Anaerobic digesters have potential operational impacts from aerial emissions or disposal of waste.	'where it can be demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable adverse impact upon: ... biodiversity, nature conservation or built heritage interests; local natural resources, such as air quality or water quality and quantity; ... active peatland' 'all proposals for wind energy development ... will be required to ...demonstrate that: ...the development will not create a significant risk of landslide or bog burst...'	Wind Energy Capacity Areas

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Transportation				
TR01 – Land Use, Transport and Accessibility	3. In	The purpose is to ensure capacity for and safety of transport for new development. Although this does not in itself promote development it can incorporate consideration of the impacts of aerial emissions from traffic where they may impact designated sites or supporting habitat.	No	
TR02 – Car Parks and Service Provision	3. Out	Purpose is to control provision/loss of car parking in town centres.	In providing these facilities, consideration should be given to the impact such developments can have visually and environmentally ...'	
TR03 – Provision of Park and Ride and Park and Share car parks	4. In	This allows for park and ride/share development which may be outside settlement limits.	No	
TR04 – Protected Routes	3. Out	Directs if and how new development may directly access Protected Routes.	No	Protected Routes



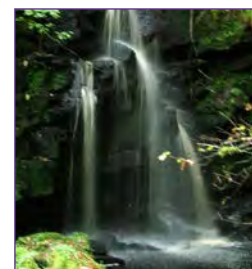
1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Transportation				
TR05 – Safeguarding New Transport Schemes	3. Out	Constrains development that could prejudice a transport scheme.	No	New Transport Schemes
TR06 – Disused Transport Routes	3. Out	This prevents development that might inhibit future use of a disused transport route. There may be subsequent development e.g. for recreation however that would be considered under other policies.	No	Disused Transport Routes
Infrastructure - Public Utilities				
PU01 - Telecommunications	4. In	Policy PU01 in itself constrains where such development is permitted and includes protective environmental criterion. Any development within the constraints of this policy would be subject to HRA.	a) The siting and external appearance of all installations, including any access provision, location or landscaping requirements, shall not have an adverse impact on visual amenity or environmentally sensitive features and locations while having regard to the technical and operational constraints placed on operators;	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Public Utilities				
PU02 - Overhead Electricity Lines	4. In	Policy PU02 in itself constrains where such development is permitted and includes protective environmental criterion. Any development within the constraints of this policy would be subject to HRA.	Overhead power cables will be facilitated but should avoid running through or adjacent to Sensitive Locations or Features. ...they avoid Sensitive Locations and Feature	
PU03 - Accommodating Future Broadband and other Public Services	3. Out	PU03 is a design detail for housing developments.	No	
PU04 - Development Relying on Non-Mains Sewerage	4. In	PU04 does not promote development but acknowledges that some development will require non-mains sewerage.	'...demonstrate through the submission of sufficient information on the means of sewerage, that this will not create or add to a pollution problem.' '...the Council's preferred option for non-mains sewage is a Package Sewage Treatment Plant as this is considered to be a more effective system in treating sewage and thus reducing the risk of pollution.'	



1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects



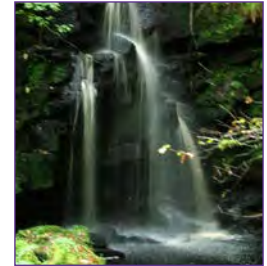
Plan Proposal	Screening	Screening Comment	Protective Measures	Spatial Area
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES				
Infrastructure - Waste Management				
WM01 – Waste Management Facilities	4. In	WM01 enables development of a waste management facility but directs location and includes protective environmental criteria.	it will not pose a risk to the environment from pollution including to air, water or soil resource	Site that could accommodate a Waste Management Facility
WM02 – Waste Water Treatment Works	4. In	WM02 enables development of new/existing WWTWs and includes protective environmental criteria.	WM01 environmental criteria apply	Existing WWTW
WM03 – Development in the vicinity of waste management facilities	3. Out	WM03 controls development in the vicinity of waste management facilities and WWTWs and includes a protective environmental criterion.	it will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts in terms of people, transportation systems or the environment.	Existing WWTW or Waste Management Facility
WM04 – Facilities for Recycling of Construction, Demolition and Extraction Waste	4. In	WM04 enables development of a waste management facility but directs location and includes protective environmental criteria.	WM01 environmental criteria apply	

1 General Policy Statement | 2 Plans or projects referred to but not proposed | 3 No likely significant effect
 4 Proposals too general to assess | 5 Potential minor effects | 6 Potential significant effects

APPENDIX 6: BASELINE INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL SITES CONNECTED WITH THE COUNCIL AREA

Table A6.1: Potential Connections between Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area and International sites

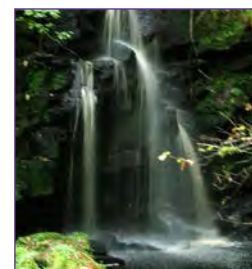
Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km			
Banagher Glen SAC	•			•			10.5	The SAC lies between 10km and 15km from the plan area. No hydrological connection.
Black Bog Ramsar	•	•	•				In	Just inside council area and adjacent to Mid Ulster. Same as SAC boundary. Within 2km of Creggan (1.2km) but no hydrological link.
Black Bog SAC	•	•	•				In	Just inside council area and adjacent to Mid Ulster. Same as Ramsar boundary. Within 2km of Creggan (1.2km) but no hydrological link.
Carn-Glenshane Pass SAC				•			14.5	Nearest point 14.5km and no hydrological connection.
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	•	•	•				In	The stretch of the Cladagh (Swanlinbar River) between the border with Ireland and Upper Lough Erne. Rises on the south east of Cuilcagh Mountain and flows through Swanlinbar in Co. Cavan. Kinawley is close (0.2km) and hydrologically connected.
Cranny Bogs SAC	•	•	•				In	Wholly within council area and approximately midway between Fintona, Dromore and Omagh. Within 5km of Fintona but no hydrological link.
Cuilcagh Mountain Ramsar	•	•	•				In	Upper slopes and top of Cuilcagh Mountain in south west of council area. Adjoins Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC (RoI). 2km from Florencecourt/Drumlaghy. Same boundary as Cuilcagh Mountain SAC. There is public access to the site.
Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	•	•	•				In	Upper slopes and top of Cuilcagh Mountain in south west of council area. Adjoins Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC (RoI). 2km from Florencecourt/Drumlaghy. Same boundary as Cuilcagh Mountain Ramsar. There is public access to the site.
Deroran Bog SAC	•	•	•				In	Approximately 3km East of Omagh and within 2km of Drumduff and Drumnakilly. Hydrologically connected with these settlements but no drainage from settlements towards this site.





Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	European Site Name	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km		
Fairy Water Bogs Ramsar	•	•		•	•	In	Group of four bogs north of Drumquin one of which is in Derry and Strabane. Within 2km of Drumquin. Hydrologically connected with this settlement but no drainage from settlement towards this site.	
Fairy Water Bogs SAC	•	•		•	•	In	Group of four bogs north of Drumquin one of which is in Derry and Strabane. Within 2km of Drumquin. Hydrologically connected with this settlement but no drainage from settlement towards this site.	
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs Ramsar	•	•				In	North west of Enniskillen and partly within 5km of the town. Within 2km of Monea. No surface water connection with Monea but may be pathway via groundwater.	
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC	•	•				In	North west of Enniskillen and partly within 5km of the town. Within 2km of Monea. No surface water connection with Monea but may be pathway via groundwater.	
Largalenny SAC	•	•				In	The eastern boundary of the site is just within 2km to the north west of Derrygonnelly. It stretches over 4km to the west and also joins Monawilkin SAC to the south.	
Lough Foyle Ramsar		•				30	Hydrologically connected to the Strule River.	
Lough Foyle SPA		•				30	Hydrologically connected to the Strule River.	
Lough Melvin SAC	•	•				In	Approximately a sixth of Lough Melvin stretching from Garrison through the lake to the border with Leitrim. Adjoins Lough Melvin SAC (Rol) which extends to Donegal Bay at Tullaghan. Salmon are a site selection feature therefore watercourses flowing into the lake may provide supporting habitat.	
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar		•				21	Hydrologically connected via the Moyola, Ballinderry and Blackwater Rivers.	
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA		•				24	Hydrologically connected via the Moyola, Ballinderry and Blackwater Rivers.	

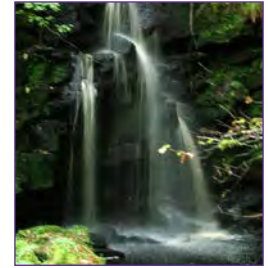
Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km			
Magheraveely Marl Loughs Ramsar	•	•					In	A series of loughs close to the River Finn stretching almost 10km from north of Rosslea to the east of Magheraveely. Parts of the site are within 2km of Rosslea (0.4km) and Magheraveely (1.1km). No surface water connection with settlements but may be pathway via groundwater. Shares boundary with SAC.
Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	•	•					In	A series of loughs close to the River Finn stretching almost 10km from just north of Rosslea to the east of Magheraveely. Parts of the site are within 2km of Rosslea (0.4km) and Magheraveely. No surface water connection with settlements but may be pathway via groundwater. Shares boundary with Ramsar.
Monawilkin SAC	•	•					In	West of Derrygonnelly and within 1.7km. It is hydrologically connected with but upstream of Derrygonnelly.
Moninea Bog SAC	•	•					In	0.7km south west of Teemore. No hydrological connection with any settlement.
Owenkillew River SAC	•	•	•	•	•		In	The Owenkillew River SAC extends from Mid Ulster, through our council for approximately 40km to run along the border with and into Derry and Strabane where it joins the Mourne River and River Foyle and Tributaries SAC just upstream of Newtown Stewart. Gortin and Glenhull are on the river. Rousky, Greencastle and Creggan are all within the catchment of the Owenreagh a major tributaries which flows into the SAC. It therefore receives wastewater discharges. Salmon are a site selection feature therefore the tributaries may provide supporting habitat.
Pettigo Plateau Ramsar	•	•					In	Pettigo Plateau lies to the north of Lower Lough Erne and adjoins the Donegal border and Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC and Tamur Bog SAC in Ireland. There are no settlements within 2km or hydrologically connected. The SAC, SPA and Ramsar boundaries are the same.





Sites		Connection with Council Area					
European Site Name	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km	Km	Comment
Pettigo Plateau SAC	•	•				In	Pettigo Plateau lies to the north of Lower Lough Erne and adjoins the Donegal boder and Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC and Tamur Bog SAC in Ireland. There are no settlements within 2km or hydrologically connected. The SAC, SPA and Ramsar boundaries are the same.
Pettigo Plateau SPA	•	•				In	Pettigo Plateau lies to the north of Lower Lough Erne and adjoins the Donegal boder and Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC and Tamur Bog SAC in Ireland. There are no settlements within 2km or hydrologically connected. The SAC, SPA and Ramsar boundaries are the same.
River Faughan and Tributaries SAC				•	•	18.5	A short stretch of the SAC is within 10km and more of the headwaters are within 15km. No hydrological connection.
River Foyle and Tributaries SAC		•	•			In	The River Foyle and Tributaries SAC is approximately 18km downstream of Omagh via the River Strule. Supporting habitat for one of its site selection features, salmon, occurs throughout much of the Co Tyrone part of our council. Map 7, Appendix 7, illustrates the extent of spawning habitat in the wider Foyle catchment within our area. Omagh, Fintona, Dromore and Carrickmore are the towns within this catchment, there are also 8 villages and a further 22 smaller settlements. Three sources of water supply are within the River Foyle catchment served by Glenhordial, Loughmacrory and Derg water treatment works.
River Roe and Tributaries SAC				•	•	9.5	A short stretch of the SAC is within 10km and more of the headwaters are within 15km. No hydrological connection.
Slieve Beagh Ramsar	•	•		•		In	Approximately 20% is in our council area with the main part of the site in Mid Ulster. The same boundary as Slieve Beagh SAC and at the core of the northern part of Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Linsnskea SPA. The site adjoins Slieve Beagh SPA in Co Monaghan.

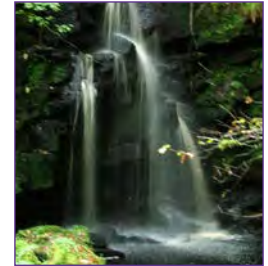
Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km			
Slieve Beagh SAC	•	•		•			In	Approximately 20% is in our council area with the main part of the site in Mid Ulster. The same boundary as Slieve Beagh Ramsar and at the core of the northern part of Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA.
Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	•	•		•			In	The larger part of this SPA is in our council area stretching from north west of Lisnaskea to Slieve Beagh on the border.
Teal Lough proposed Ramsar				•	•		4.5	Just under 5km away and partly within the Owenkillew catchment although upstream of the council area.
Teal Lough SAC				•	•		4.5	Just under 5km away and partly within the Owenkillew catchment although upstream of the council area.
Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC	•	•					In	Wholly within council area and approximately 1.5 km SW of Fintona
Tully Bog SAC	•	•					In	Wholly within council area Tully Bog is 0.4km north west of Omagh and also within 1km of Gillygooley and 2km of Mountjoy. It is hydrologically connected to Gillygooley and Omagh through the Fairywater however no drainage from settlements flows towards this site..
Upper Ballinderry River SAC	•	•		•	•		In	The Upper part of this SAC follows the boundary between this council and Mid Ulster for approximately 4km. There are no settlements within 2km or hydrologically connected in our council area. Much of the SAC is within 10km and all is within 15km of the plan area.





Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
European Site Name	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km			
Upper Lough Erne Ramsar	•	•	•			In	The boundary includes the open water, wetland and of Upper Lough Erne, extending to the border with Ireland, its islands and adjacent semi-natural habitats such as woodland, species-rich grassland and natural transition vegetation such as scrub or heath. The main Lough stretches 25 miles from Lough Sarah on the border to Carrybridge and there are satellite loughs and sites including Mill Lough near Bellanleck and part of the River Finn floodplain. It adjoins Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (RoI). The site is within 0.1km of Lisnaskea and there are 17 settlements within the catchment in our council area (Lisnaskea, 11 villages and 5 small settlements)	
Upper Lough Erne SAC	•	•	•			In	The boundary includes the open water of Upper Lough Erne, extending to the border with Ireland, its islands and adjacent semi-natural habitats such as woodland, species-rich grassland and natural transition vegetation such as scrub or heath. The main Lough stretches 25 miles from Lough Sarah on the border to Carrybridge and there are satellite loughs including Mill Lough near Bellanleck. It adjoins Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (RoI). The site is within 0.1km of Lisnaskea and there are 17 settlements within the catchment in our council area (Lisnaskea, 11 villages and 5 small settlements)	
Upper Lough Erne SPA	•	•	•			In	The boundary includes the open water of Upper Lough Erne, extending to the border with Ireland, its islands and adjacent semi-natural habitats such as woodland, species-rich grassland and natural transition vegetation such as scrub or heath. The main Lough stretches 25 miles from Lough Sarah on the border to Carrybridge and there are satellite loughs and sites including part of the River Finn floodplain. It adjoins Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (RoI). The site is within 0.1km of Lisnaskea and there are 17 settlements within the catchment in our council area (Lisnaskea, 11 villages and 5 small settlements)	

Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km			
West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	•	•					In	Extensive upland area midway between Enniskillen and Garrison and adjoining Monawilkin SAC to the north.
Arroo Mountain SAC (Ire)		•		•	•		5	Nearest point 5km and within the Lough Melvin catchment however upstream of the council area.
Ballintra SAC (Ire)				•	•		7	7km from the council area. There is no hydrological connection.
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (Ire)				•			12	12km from the council area. There is no hydrological connection.
Boleybrack Mountain SAC (Ire)		•		•	•		5	Nearest point is 5km from the council area and it extends to about 15km away. Within the catchment of Lough Macnean Upper however upstream of the council area.
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC (Ire)				•			12	Nearest point is 12km. There is a 10km ecological link from Lough Melvin through Donegal Bay.
Corratirrim SAC (Ire)	•	•		•	•		0	Immediately adjacent to council area and within the Lough Macnean catchment.
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC.	•	•	•	•	•		0	Adjacent to Cuilcagh Mountain SAC and Ramsar site and extends over 15km south west from the council area. May also be accessed from Fermanagh.
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (Ire)		•		•	•		10	Within 15km and a tiny portion within 10km. Technically there is an ecological link from the River Erne through Donegal Bay but the distance is 18km through the marine environment so there can be no conceivable effect through this pathway.
Donegal Bay SPA (Ire)				•	•		4	The SPA extends along the River Erne to Ballyshannon therefore is hydrologically connected to the plan area (7km upstream) through the impounded Rver Erne. The SPA is within 4km of the plan area in a direct line.





European Site Name	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km			
Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (Ire)				•	•	3	Nearest point is 3km. There is no hydrological connection.	
Dunragh Loughs/ Pettigo Plateau SAC (Ire)				•	•	5.5	Nearest point is 5.5km. There is no hydrological connection.	
Durnesh Lough SAC (Ire)				•		11	11 km from the plan area. Technically there is a hydrological connection of 22km through The Erne River and Donegal Bay but there cannot be any impact through this pathway.	
Durnesh Lough SPA (Ire)				•		11	11 km from the plan area. Technically there is a hydrological connection of 22km through The Erne River and Donegal Bay but there cannot be any impact through this pathway.	
Glenade Lough SAC (Ire)				•		11	Over 10km from plan area and no hydrological connection.	
Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (Ire)	•	•		•	•	0	Immediately adjacent to parts of Magheraveely Marl Lakes SAC and Ramsar.	
Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (Ire)				•	•	7	7km to plan area and no hydrological connection.	
Lough Eske & Ardnamona Wood SAC (Ire)				•	•	12	Nearest point is 12km to plan area and there is no ecological link.	
Lough Gill SAC (Ire)				•	•	8	Nearest point is 8km from the council area. No hydrological connection.	
Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC (Ire)	•	•		•	•	0	Immediately adjacent to Pettigo Plateau SAC, SPA and Ramsar.	

Sites	Connection with Council Area						Km	Comment
	European Site Name	Within or Adjacent	Ecological	By Infra-structure	Within 15km	Within 10km		
Lough Melvin SAC (Ire)	•	•		•	•	0	Immediately adjacent as the Border runs through Lough Melvin and contiguous with Lough Melvin SAC (UK).	
Lough Nageage SAC (Ire)		•		•	•		Less than 1km to the plan area and within the Erne catchment however it is upstream.	
Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Ire)	•	•		•	•	0	Immediately adjacent as the Border forms its northern boundary. Includes numerous lakes within 10km of the plan area and also extends beyond 15km away. Hydrologically connected.	
Lough Oughter Complex SPA (Ire)	•	•		•	•	7	The nearest point is 7km from the council area and it extends to over 15km away, hydrologically connected to Upper Lough Erne.	
Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (Ire)				•	•	4.5	Nearest point is 4.5km. There is no hydrological connection.	
River Finn SAC (Ire)	•	•		•		10.5	Stretches of the River Finn are just within 15km and one of its tributaries is just over 10km away.	
Slieve Beagh SPA (Ire)	•	•		•	•	0	Immediately adjacent to Slieve Beagh SAC and Ramsar and to Slieve Beagh-Mullaghafad- Lisanaskea SPA and hydrologically connected to the Upper Lough Erne catchment although upstream of it.	
Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (Ire)				•	•	5.5	A number of discreet areas between 5km to 25km from the council area.	
Tamur Bog SAC (Ire)	•	•		•	•	0	Immediately adjacent to Pettigo Plateau SAC, SPA and Ramsar.	

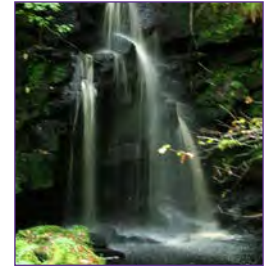


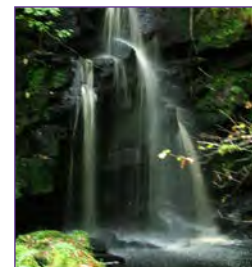


Table A6.2: Details of International Sites Connected with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area

Note includes those sites that were eliminated from the need for further assessment, indicated by shaded rows.

Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Banagher Glen SAC	88	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines, Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles ⁸⁸	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles and Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines to favourable condition.	Grazing/Poaching/Tree barking and Browsing; Invasion by exotics; Slumping/Landslides/Erosion; Dead Wood Removal; Woodland Clearance/Felling; Fly-tipping; Nitrogen Deposition; Changes to surrounding land use; Climate Change
Black Bog Ramsar	183	Criterion 1 - A large and relatively intact example of a lowland raised bog and one of the best examples of this habitat in the UK.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA
Black Bog SAC	183	Active raised bogs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage on or off the site, nitrogen deposition from e.g. intensive agriculture, scrub encroachment, grazing, fly-tipping, shooting, climate change. Any changes in local land-use e.g. drainage, road improvements, afforestation, agricultural intensification and development, may be detrimental to the SAC.
Carn-Glenshane Pass SAC	1939	Blanket Bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Blanket Bog to favourable condition.	Peat Cutting; Burning; Drainage; Grazing; Nitrogen Deposition; Fly-tipping; Changes to surrounding land use; Climate Change

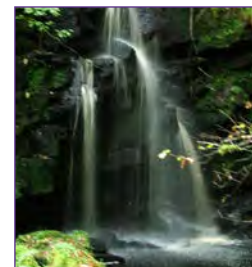
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	28	Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; Habitat, Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	The Conservation Objective for this site is: to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> and water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation to favourable condition.	Fish farms, water quality/eutrophication, channel & bank modification, substrate siltation, grazing fly-tipping, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change
Cranny Bogs SAC	79	Active raised bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, scrub encroachment, grazing, fly-tipping, climate change
Cuilcagh Mountain Ramsar	2744	The site is a large and relatively intact example of a blanket bog comprising a nutrient-poor lake and exhibiting a wide range of characteristic vegetation and structural features, with well-developed pool, acid flushes, and bog bursts. The bog vegetation is locally characterized by <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses but over most of the site dwarf-shrubs and graminoid species dominate. It supports <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> and <i>Falco columbarius</i> .	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	2744	Active Blanket Bog; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Caleopsietalia ladani</i>); Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation;	The Conservation Objective for this site is: to maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Active Blanket Bog; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Caleopsietalia ladani</i>); Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, nitrogen deposition, tree planting/afforestation, changes to surrounding land use, scrub encroachment, grazing, fly-tipping, climate change, supplementary feeding, application of fertiliser/slurry/manure/ sewage sludge, vehicle use and recreational activities
Deroran Bog SAC	75	Active raised bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, scrub encroachment, Tree Planting/ Afforestation, grazing, fly-tipping, climate change
Fairy Water Bogs Ramsar	224	Lowland Raised Bog	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC.	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC.
Fairy Water Bogs SAC	224	Active raised bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, nitrogen deposition, tree planting/afforestation, changes to surrounding land use, scrub encroachment, grazing, fly-tipping, climate change
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs Ramsar	43	Criterion 1 - The site is important as the most northerly examples of turloughs in Ireland, with distinctive, naturally impoverished, vegetation communities.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC.	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC.

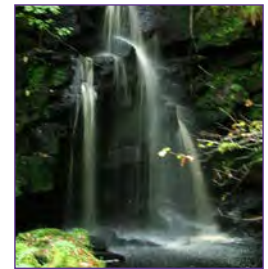
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs SAC	43	Turloughs	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Turloughs to favourable condition.	Quarrying , Fertiliser and Slurry dressing , Supplementary Feeding , Grazing , Turlough Hydrology , Site Hydrology , Water Quality , Fly-Tipping , Nitrogen Deposition , Changes to surrounding land use , Climate Change ,
Largalinn SAC	245	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles to favourable condition.	Woodland clearance/timber removal, invasion by exotics, grazing/browsing, burning, drainage and eutrophication of waterbodies, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change
Lough Foyle Ramsar	2204	The site is composed of a large shallow lough including estuaries, extensive intertidal areas of mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and associated brackish ditches. It supports a diverse assemblage of waterfowl (Limosa lapponica, 1.6% of the population, and Branta bernicla hrota, 11% of the population) and internationally important (more than 29,000 birds) waterfowl.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SPA.	Threats assumed to be the same as for SPA
Lough Foyle SPA	2204	Bar-tailed Godwit (W) Bewick's Swan (W) Golden Plover (W) Whooper Swan (W), Light-bellied Brent Goose (W) Waterbird assemblage (W)	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Adjoining habitat; Aquaculture; Bait digging, shellfish gathering.; Beach sand and gravel extraction.; Coastal protection schemes; Drainage; Dredging; Habitat extent – inter-tidal; Habitat extent – open water; Habitat quality – inter-tidal; Habitat quality – open water; High tide roosts; Introduced species; Power cables; Research activities.; System dynamics; Wildfowling





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Lough Melvin SAC	516	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflora and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinia caeruleae); Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles; Salmon Salmo salar	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflora and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinia caeruleae); Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles; Salmon Salmo salar; to favourable condition.;	Open water impacts, nutrient enrichment, recreational pressure, alien species; woodland impacts: grazing/poaching/tree barking and browsing, woodland clearance, dead wood removal, invasion by exotics fly-tipping, grassland dereliction, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change,
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar	50166	Wetlands; rare plant and animal species; waterfowl populations as for SPA, pollan.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SPA.	Threats assumed to be the same as for SPA
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA	41188	Breeding Common Tern and Great Crested Grebe; Wintering Bewick's Swan, Golden Plover, Whooper Swan, Great Crested Grebe, Goldeneye, Pochard, Scaup, Tufted Duck; Passage Crested Grebe	To maintain each feature in favourable condition.	Boating activity – recreational; Coastal (shoreline) protection schemes; Cull of fledglings/ young; Enhanced bird competition; Fishing – commercial or recreational; Habitat quality - open water; Introduced species; Predation.; Recreational activities.; Sand dredging - commercial; System dynamics; Water abstraction; Water level control; Wildfowling; Eutrophication from agricultural run-off and sewage is seen as a threat.
Magheraveely Marl Loughs Ramsar	59	Criterion 1 - Represent a rare wetland type in Northern Ireland; Criterion 2 - Support vulnerable vegetation communities and species.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA

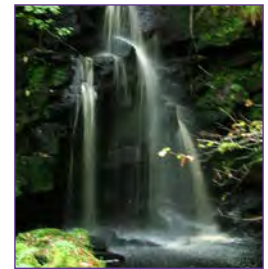
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC	59	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara formations; White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ; Alkaline fens; Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i>	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara formations; White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ; Alkaline fens; Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> ; to favourable condition.;	Application of fertiliser, drainage, sedimentation, invasion by exotics, grazing intensity, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change,
Monawilkin SAC	175	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) and the Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) and the Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles to favourable condition.	Application of fertiliser, additions of manure/slurry, grazing, supplementary feeding, woodland clearance, dead wood removal, invasion by exotics, drainage, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change.
Moninea Bog SAC	45	Active raised bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, nitrogen deposition, tree planting/afforestation, changes to surrounding land use, scrub encroachment, grazing, fly-tipping, climate change
Owenkillew River SAC	213	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Old Sessile Oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Bog Woodland; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Fresh Water Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Old Sessile Oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Bog Woodland; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; to favourable condition.;	River habitats and species; Water quality/eutrophication, Channel & bank modification, Substrate siltation, Sand extraction, Fish farms, Water extraction, Fly-tipping, Alien species; Woodland habitats and species; Grazing/poaching/tree barking and browsing, Nitrogen deposition, Changes to surrounding land use, Climate change.





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Pettigo Plateau Ramsar	1264	Criterion 1 - The site is a large and relatively intact example of a lowland raised bog and one of the best examples of this habitat in the UK.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA
Pettigo Plateau SAC	1264	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; European dry heaths; Blanket bogs (* if active bog);	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; European dry heaths; Blanket bogs (* if active bog) to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, supplementary stock feeding, land reclamation, afforestation, damaging recreational activities, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change,
Pettigo Plateau SPA	1270	Golden plover - breeding	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species. To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species. To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained; To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species and to ensure that the following are maintained in the long term. Population of the species as a viable component of the site. Distribution of the species within site. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species. Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	Alteration of habitat area or quality through inappropriate use or absence of site management, predation of breeding waders, recreational disturbance

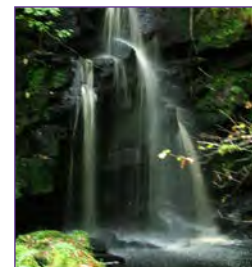
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
River Faughan and Tributaries SAC	293	Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> .	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> to favourable condition."	RIVER; Water Quality/Eutrophication; Channel & Bank Modification; Substrate Siltation; Water Extraction; Fly-tipping; Alien species; WOODLAND: Grazing/Poaching/Tree barking and Browsing; Invasion by exotics; Dead Wood Removal; Woodland Clearance/Felling; Fly-tipping; Nitrogen Deposition; Changes to surrounding land use; Climate Change
River Foyle and Tributaries SAC	770	Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> to favourable condition.	Water Quality/Eutrophication; Channel & Bank Modification; Substrate Siltation; Sand Extraction; Fish Farms; Water Extraction; Fly-tipping; Alien species; Nitrogen Deposition; Changes to surrounding land use; Climate Change
River Roe and Tributaries SAC	408	Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> to favourable condition."	RIVER; Water Quality/Eutrophication; Channel & Bank Modification; Substrate Siltation; Sand Extraction; Fish Farms; Water Extraction; Fly-tipping; Alien species; WOODLAND: Grazing/Poaching/Tree barking and Browsing; Invasion by exotics; Slumping/Landslides/Erosion; Dead Wood Removal; Woodland Clearance/Felling; Fly-tipping; Nitrogen Deposition; Changes to surrounding land use; Climate Change;





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Slieve Beagh Ramsar	1885	Criterion 1 - A large and relatively intact example of a blanket bog and one of the best examples of this habitat in the UK. It also contains nationally important examples of transitional and alkaline fen and oligotrophic/ mesotrophic lakes.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA
Slieve Beagh SAC	1885	Active Blanket Bog; Natural dystrophic lakes and pools; European Dry Heaths	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Active Blanket Bog; Natural dystrophic lakes and pools; European Dry Heaths; to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, grazing, supplementary stock feeding, afforestation, nitrogen deposition, damaging recreational activities, fly-tipping, dumping/spreading of alum sludge, changes to surrounding land use, climate change.
Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA	8936	Hen Harrier - breeding	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species. To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species. To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained; To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species and to ensure that the following are maintained in the long term. Population of the species as a viable component of the site. Distribution of the species within site. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species. Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	Forestry management activities, grouse management, windfarms
Teal Lough proposed Ramsar	198	Blanket bog	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC.	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC.

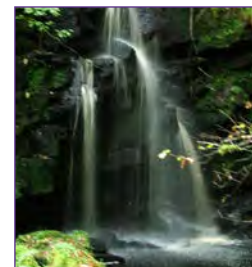
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Teal Lough SAC	198	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Active Blanket Bog to favourable condition	Mineral extraction; Burning; Reclamation of heathland; Grazing; Supplementary stock feeding; Application of fertiliser/slurry/manure; Afforestation; Nitrogen Deposition; Recreational activities; Fly-tipping; Changes to surrounding land use; Climate Change
Tonnagh Beg Bog SAC	56	Active raised bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, grazing, scrub encroachment, fly-tipping, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change.
Tully Bog SAC	36	Active raised bog	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the active raised bog to favourable condition.	Peat cutting, burning, drainage, grazing, scrub encroachment, fly-tipping, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change.
Upper Ballinderry River SAC		Fresh Water Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Fresh Water Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; to favourable condition;;	Fish farms, water extraction, water quality/eutrophication, channel & bank modification, substrate siltation, trampling, fly-tipping, alien species, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, climate change.





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Upper Lough Erne Ramsar	5818	The site, set in a basin bordering the Republic of Ireland, is a particularly good example of a nutrient-rich lake and associated swamp, fen and wet grassland. A very large and complex freshwater system, it includes a series of islands, bays and many lakes bordered by damp pastures. Vegetation consists of reedbeds, alder and willow carr, and oak woodland. Internationally important numbers of wintering Whooper Swan, <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , use the site regularly. Human activities include tourism, recreation, research activities, fishing, hunting, and livestock grazing.	Conservation Objectives assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA	Threats assumed to be the same as for SAC/SPA
Upper Lough Erne SAC	5738	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion alvae</i>); Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion alvae</i>); Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> ; to favourable condition;	Lake impacts: siltation, nutrient enrichment, changes in water level, recreational pressure, alien species; woodland impacts; grazing/poaching/tree barking and browsing, woodland clearance, dead wood removal, invasion by exotics, dumping, nitrogen deposition, changes to surrounding land use, Climate Change

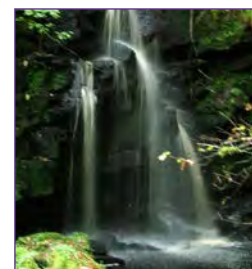
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Upper Lough Erne SPA	5787	Whooper Swan (Winter)	To maintain or enhance the population of the qualifying species. To maintain or enhance the range of habitats utilised by the qualifying species. To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained; To ensure there is no significant disturbance of the species and to ensure that the following are maintained in the long term. Population of the species as a viable component of the site. Distribution of the species within site. Distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species. Structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species	Significant changes in land management and disturbance in adjoining areas, shoreline protection schemes, drainage, introduced species, power cables, recreational activities, water level, wildfowling.
West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	2270	Limestone Pavements; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia); Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Alkaline Fens; Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition – type vegetation; Blanket bog (active only); Northern Atlantic wet heath with Erica tetralix; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneuron)	To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the; Limestone Pavements; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae); Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia); Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Alkaline Fens; Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition – type vegetation; Blanket bog (active only); Northern Atlantic wet heath with Erica tetralix; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneuron); to favourable condition;	Grassland impacts: application of fertiliser, addition of manure/slurry, grazing, supplementary feeding, grazing/poaching/tree barking and browsing, woodland clearance, dead wood removal, invasion by exotics, siltation, nutrient enrichment, alien species; peatland impacts: drainage (moor-gripping) and fertilisation, peat extraction, afforestation, inappropriate grazing, supplementary stock feeding, inappropriate burning, damaging recreational activities, extraction, nitrogen deposition, climate change.





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Arroo Mountain SAC (Ire)	3966	[4010] Wet Heath ; [7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)* ; [7220] Petrifying Springs* ; [8120] Calcareous Scree ; [8210] Calcareous Rocky Slopes	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: Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bogs (* if active bog) ; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)* ; Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii); Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Sheep grazing poses the greatest threat to the site, and over-grazing has degraded the blanket bog on the west and east sides. Turbary is also encroaching on the north and south-east sides. However, unlike most other uplands in this region, afforestation has not taken place.
Ballintra SAC (Ire)	47	10084 European dry heaths; 10168 Limestone pavements.	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: European dry heaths; Limestone pavements. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.	Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation; agricultural improvements; agricultural abandonment; undergrazing; quarrying on ester ridges and limestone pavement; bracken & scrub encroachment. Introduction of alien invasive species. Illegal Dumping.

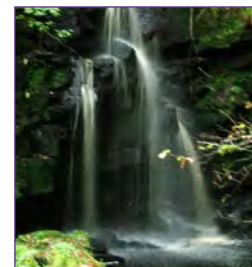
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (Ire)		[3260] Floating River Vegetation; [4030] Dry Heath; [4060] Alpine and Subalpine Heaths; [5130] Juniper Scrub; [7220] Petrifying Springs*; [8120] Calcareous Scree; [8210] Calcareous Rocky Slopes; [1013] Geyer's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>); [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	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: ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation ; European dry heaths ; Alpine and Boreal heaths ; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands ; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)* ; Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) ; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.	The uplands are used primarily for grazing. On some parts of the plateau, peat deposits are eroding. Upland habitats are generally threatened by afforestation. The cliffs and steep scree slopes are not significantly threatened.
Boleybrack Mountain SAC (Ire)	4242	[3160] Dystrophic Lakes ; [4010] Wet Heath ; [4030] Dry Heath ; [6410] Molinia Meadows ; [7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*	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: ; Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds ; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths ; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) ; Blanket bogs (* if active bog);	The site is lightly grazed by sheep and locally affected by burning and turbarry. Much of the site is bounded by mature coniferous forestry plantations; recent planting on areas of blanket bog has caused significant local damage.





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Bunduff Lough and Machair/ Trawalua/ Mullaghmore SAC (Ire)		7230 Alkaline fens 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) 21A0 Machairs (*in Ireland) 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (*important orchid sites) 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide 2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) 1170 Reefs 5130 <i>Juniperus communis</i> (formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands) 1395 <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort)	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Machairs; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>); Alkaline fens To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort)	Decrease in water quality/Increased pollution Development of marinas and ports Disturbance to marine mammals Dumping at sea Direct loss of habitat to development Recreational/amenity use Agricultural improvements/Reclamation Drainage/Changes in local hydrology including water abstraction Erosion (natural and anthropogenic) Agricultural abandonment Overgrazing/undergrazing Bracken and scrub encroachment Tourism related development Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture
Corratirrim SAC (Ire)	117	[8240] Limestone Pavement	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: 8240 Limestone pavements	Throughout the site grazing by sheep and cattle is carried out which generally prevents the spread of scrub.

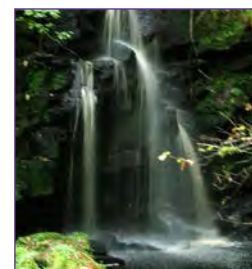
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC	9736	1393 Slender Green Feather-moss Drepanocladus vernicosus; 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia; uniflorae); 3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; 4030 European dry heaths; 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths; 6230 Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and; submountain areas, in Continental Europe)*; 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog); 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs; 7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)*; 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and; Galeopsietalia ladani); 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/ the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.	Afforestation and forestry management activities, grazing, roads/paths, invasive species, fire.
Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (Ire)		10006 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; 10040 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); 10046 Humid dune slacks; Phoca vitulina (Common Seal).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Humid dune slacks. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Phoca vitulina (Common Seal).	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology; water quality/pollution (including groundwater); agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; turf/peat extraction in fens; impacts to local geology/geomorphology (e.g. quarrying/rock blasting) for turloughs & groundwater fed fens. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Burning Quarrying/removal of sand Aquaculture





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Donegal Bay SPA (Ire)		Gavia immer (Great Northern Diver) Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Melanitta nigra</i> (Common Scoter) Wetland & Waterbirds	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Great Northern Diver, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Common Scoter, Wetland & Waterbirds.	Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (Ire)	34	3180 Turloughs	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; turlough	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau SAC (Ire)	2022	10144 Blanket bog; 10082 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Blanket bog; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .	Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping

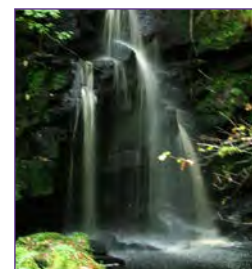
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Durnesh Lough SAC (Ire)		10007 Coastal lagoons; 10131 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected, at favourable conservation status: Coastal lagoons; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>). To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism-related development; peat extraction; forestry; burning; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Aquaculture
Durnesh Lough SPA (Ire)		A038 <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan) A395 <i>Anser Albifrons Flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose) A004 <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Little Grebe) A 059 <i>Aythya Ferina</i> (Pochard) A062 <i>Aythya Marila</i> (Scaup) A067 <i>Bucephala Clangula</i> (Golden Eye).	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA; <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i> (Whooper Swan), <i>Anser Albifrons Flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)	Reclamation, including infilling. Introduction or re-introduction of plants or animals not found in the area. Construction or alteration of tracks, paths, roads, bridges, culverts or access routes. Burning, topping, clearing scrub or rough vegetation or reseeding. Drainage works including digging, deepening, widening or blocking a drain, watercourse or waterbody. Planting of trees or multi-annual bioenergy crops. Any activity intended to disturb birds, including mechanical, air gas, wind powered or audible means.





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Glenade Lough SAC (Ire)		[3150] Natural Eutrophic Lakes; [1092] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>); [1833] Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)	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: Natural Eutrophic Lakes; White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>); Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)	The main land use around the site is low to moderate intensity agriculture, mostly grazing. Some boating and fishing occur on the lake. These practises may cause minor disturbances or damage to the site.
Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (Ire)	57	[3140] Hard Water Lakes ; [7210] <i>Cladium</i> Fens* ; [7230] Alkaline Fens; [1092] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	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: Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Alkaline fens; White-clawed Crayfish , <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Not stated. May include aerial deposition of ammonia, impacts on wetlands including water quality and invasive species.
Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (Ire)		Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> (Herring Gull)	To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Lesser Black- backed Gull, Herring Gull.	Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational /amenity use Inappropriate land management

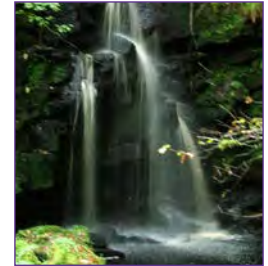
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Lough Eske & Ardnamona Wood SAC (Ire)	860	10063 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); 10150 Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); 10194 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles; <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel); Salmon salar (Atlantic Salmon); <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>); Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> ; <i>Salmo salar</i> ; <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Direct loss of habitat to development; amenity/recreation use; invasive species; lack of/inappropriate woodland development; overgrazing (deer). Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality Potential threats to Freshwater Pearl Mussel
Lough Gill SAC (Ire)	3319	[3150] Natural Eutrophic Lakes ; [91A0] Old Oak Woodlands ; [91E0] Alluvial Forests*; [1092] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>); [1095] Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>); [1096] Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>); [1099] River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>); [1106] Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>); [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	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: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation; Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)*; White-clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , Sea Lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> and Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>) are invasive aliens. Other threats may occur but are not described.





Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC (Ire)	799	10144 Blanket bog. <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Common Tern)	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; active blanket bog, Common Tern	Agricultural improvements/reclamation; drainage/changes in local hydrology including water abstraction; erosion (natural and anthropogenic); water quality/pollution; agricultural abandonment; overgrazing/undergrazing; direct loss of habitat to development; bracken & scrub encroachment; amenity/recreation use; tourism- related development. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping
Lough Melvin SAC (Ire)	2269	3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflora</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> 1106 <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon) 1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> (European Otter)	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status	Water quality/ pollution, changes in flow rates, arterial drainage/ water abstraction/ lowering of the regional water table, loss of fringe vegetation, changes in seasonal water levels/ fluctuations, direct loss of habitat to development, loading from effluents
Lough Nageage SAC (Ire)	157	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	[1092] White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	The biggest threat to the populations of White-clawed Crayfish is deterioration of water quality, particularly acidification and nutrient enrichment associated with the recent afforestation in the catchment. Run-off from agricultural practices is not thought to be a major threat due to the limited amount of improved pasture in the vicinity of the site.

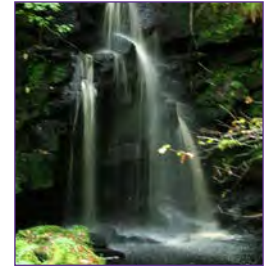
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Ire)	4756	[3150] Natural Eutrophic Lakes ; [91D0] Bog Woodland; [1355] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation; Bog woodland	The main threats to the quality of the site are water polluting activities (such as run-off from fertiliser and slurry application, and sewage discharge) which have raised the nutrient status of some lakes to hypertrophic. Housing and boating developments are on the increase, both adjacent to and within the site. There is also significant fishing and shooting pressure on and around the lakes. Increased afforestation has resulted in some loss of wetland habitat and also loss of feeding ground for wintering birds such as Greenland White-fronted Goose.
Lough Oughter Complex SPA (Ire)		A005, Great Crested Grebe, Podiceps cristatus ; A038, Whooper Swan, Cygnus cygnus ; A050, Wigeon, Anas penelope	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: Great Crested Grebe , Podiceps cristatus ; Whooper Swan , Cygnus cygnus ; Wigeon , Anas penelope To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at Lough Oughter Complex SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.	Not stated. May include disturbance and impacts on wetlands including water quality and invasive species.





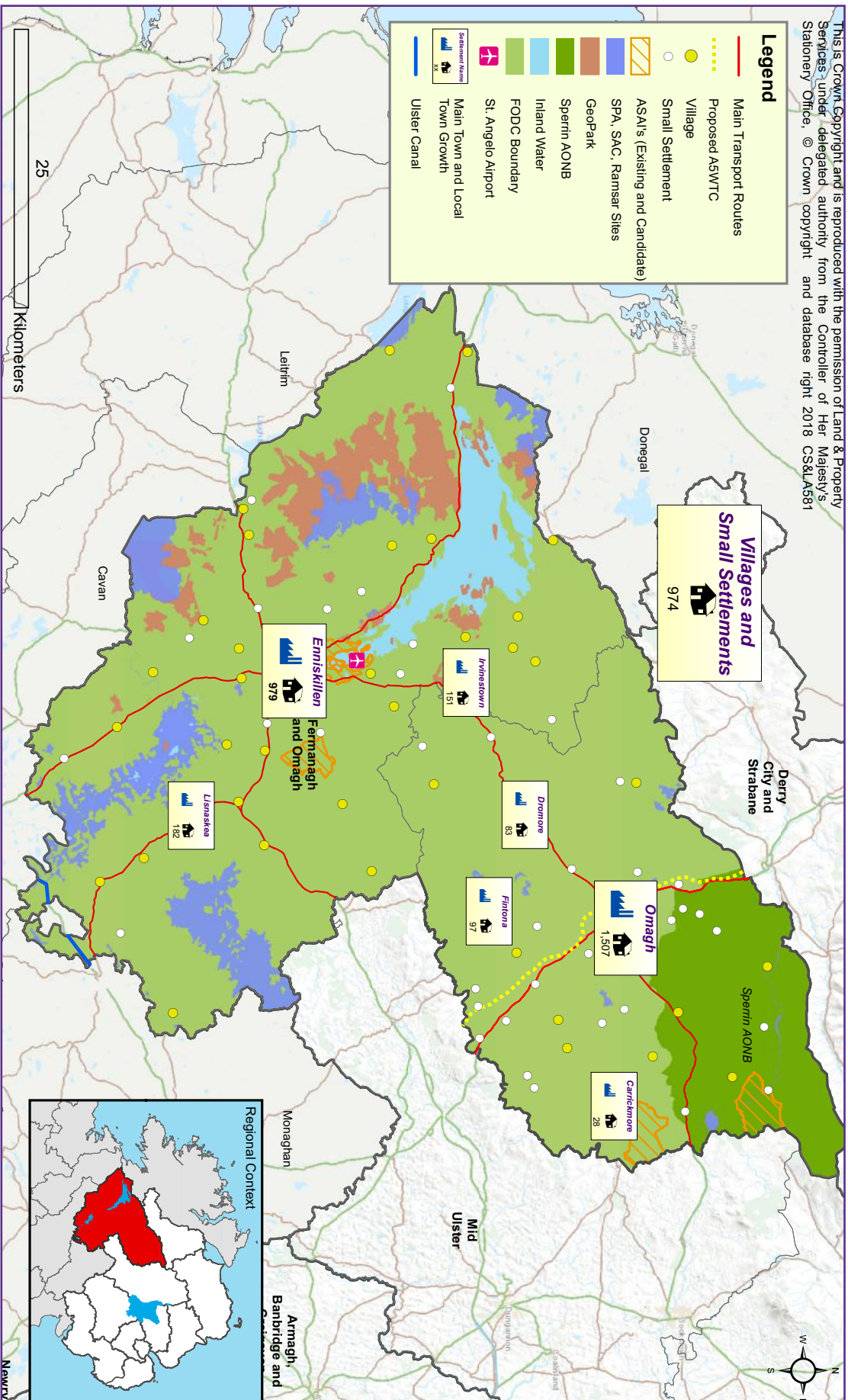
Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (Ire)		<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose)	Anser albifrons flavirostris (Greenland White-fronted Goose)	Direct & indirect impacts to the habitats of the bird species of conservation interests (loss of habitat); direct loss of habitat to development; water quality/pollution; disturbance including recreation/amenity use. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Disturbance from Recreational/amenity use Inappropriate land management
River Finn SAC (Ire)	5499	7130 Blanket bog (*active only), 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 10144 Blanket bog: Transition mires <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover) <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine) <i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin), <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon), <i>Lutra lutra</i> (European Otter).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; active blanket bog, lowland oligotrophic lakes, wet heath and transition mires, Golden Plover, Peregrine and Merlin, To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Atlantic Salmon and Otter.	Water quality/ pollution (including groundwater), direct loss of habitat to development, invasive species, lack of woodland management. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Increased pollution/reduction in water quality Persecution (Poisoning)
Slieve Beagh SPA (Ire)		A082, Hen Harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: Hen Harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	The main threat to the long-term survival of Hen Harriers within the site is further afforestation, which would reduce and fragment the area of foraging habitat, resulting in possible reductions in breeding density and productivity.

Site Name	Area	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives	Threats to Site Integrity
Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (Ire)		A103, <i>Peregrine Falco peregrinus</i> , A346, <i>Chough, Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: <i>Peregrine, Falco peregrinu</i> , <i>Chough, Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Not stated however likely to be primarily disturbance.
Tamur Bog SAC (Ire)	1184	10144 Blanket bog 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (Golden Plover) <i>Circus Cyaneus</i> (Hen Harrier) <i>Falco columbarius</i> (Merlin) <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland White-fronted Goose) <i>Lagopus lagopus</i> (Red Grouse) <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter).	To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Blanket bog, wet heaths, Golden Plover, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Greenland White-fronted Geese. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Otter,	Changes in local hydrology including drainage; peat extraction; overgrazing; forestry; burning; direct loss of habitat to development; arterial drainage/water abstraction/lowering of the regional water table; agricultural reclamation. Introduction of alien invasive species Illegal Dumping Persecution (Poisoning)

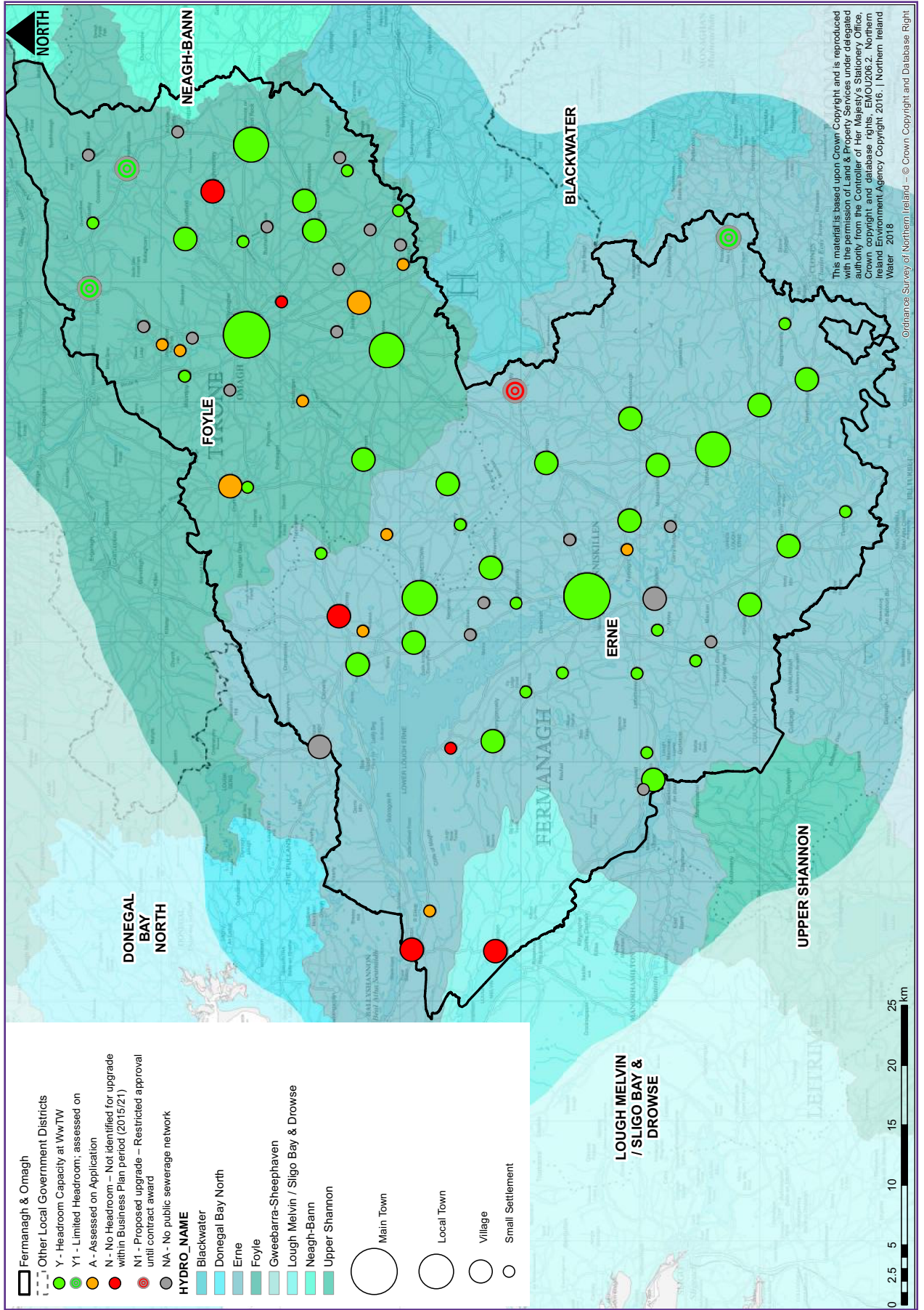


APPENDIX 7: MAPS

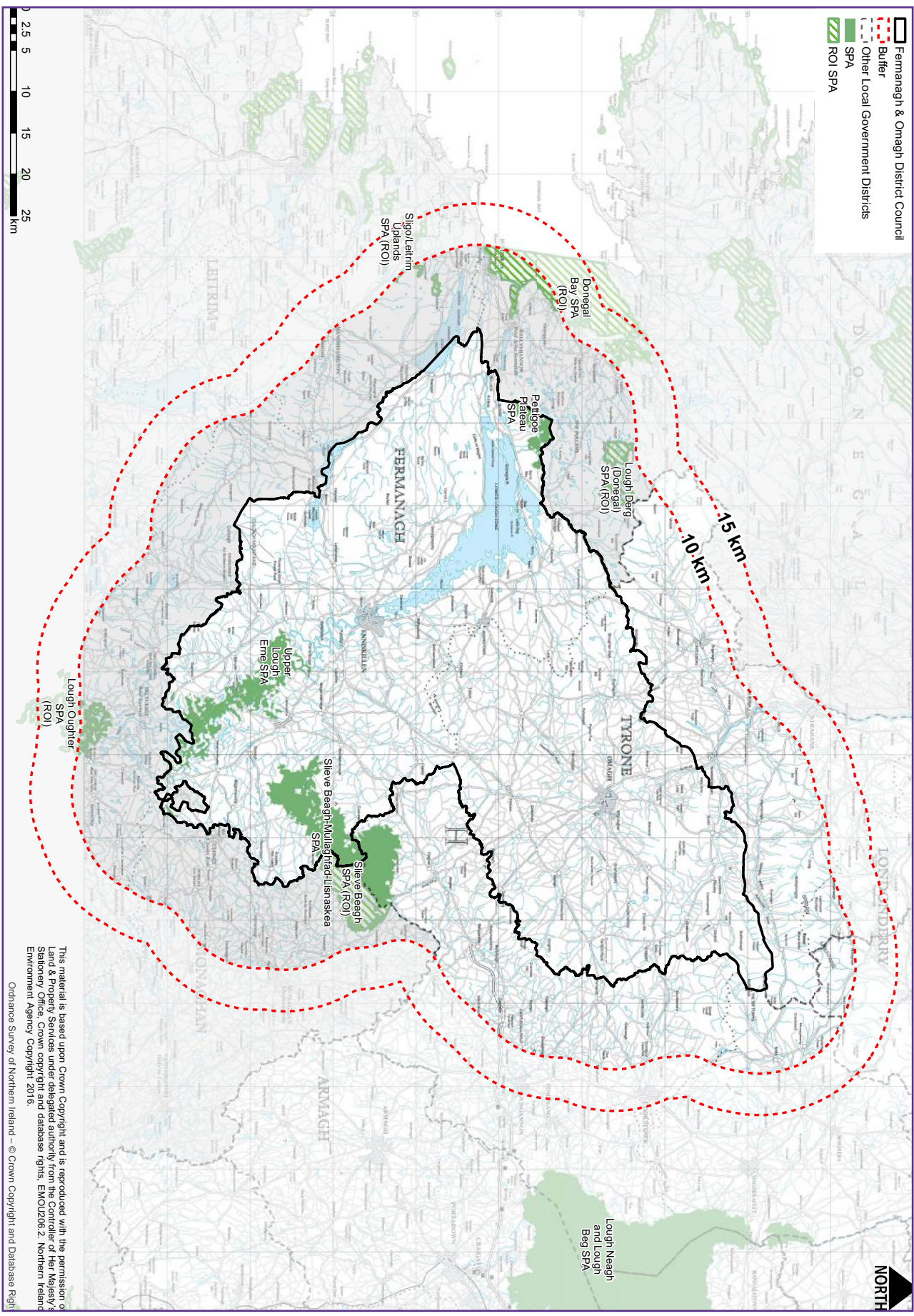
Map 1: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area and District Settlements



Map 2: Wastewater Treatment Capacity for Settlements

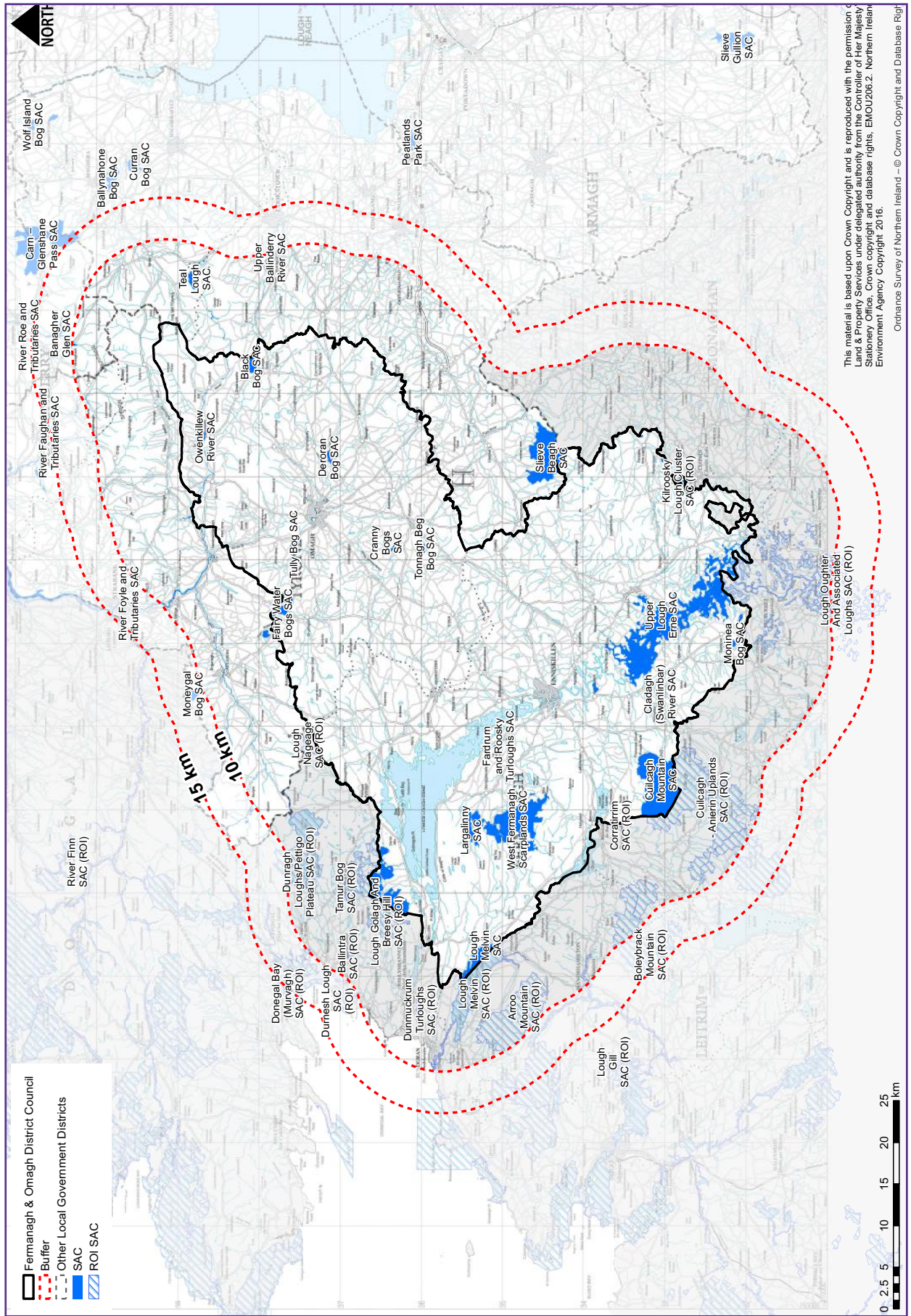


Map 3: SPAs in relation to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

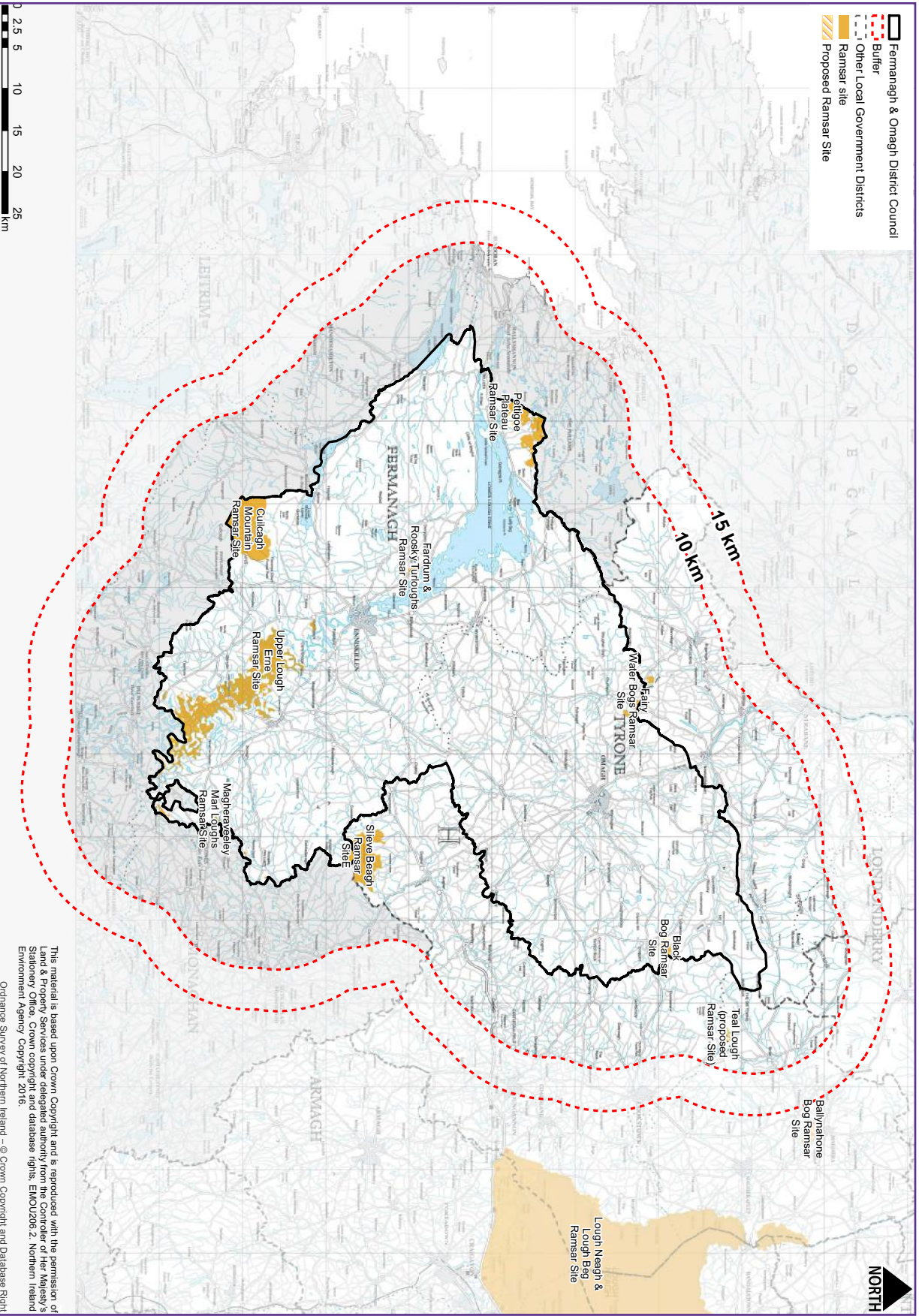


This material is based upon Crown Copyright and is reproduced with the permission of Land & Property Services under delegated authority from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown copyright and database rights. EMOL206 2. Northern Ireland Environment Agency Copyright 2016.
 Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right

Map 4: SACs in relation to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

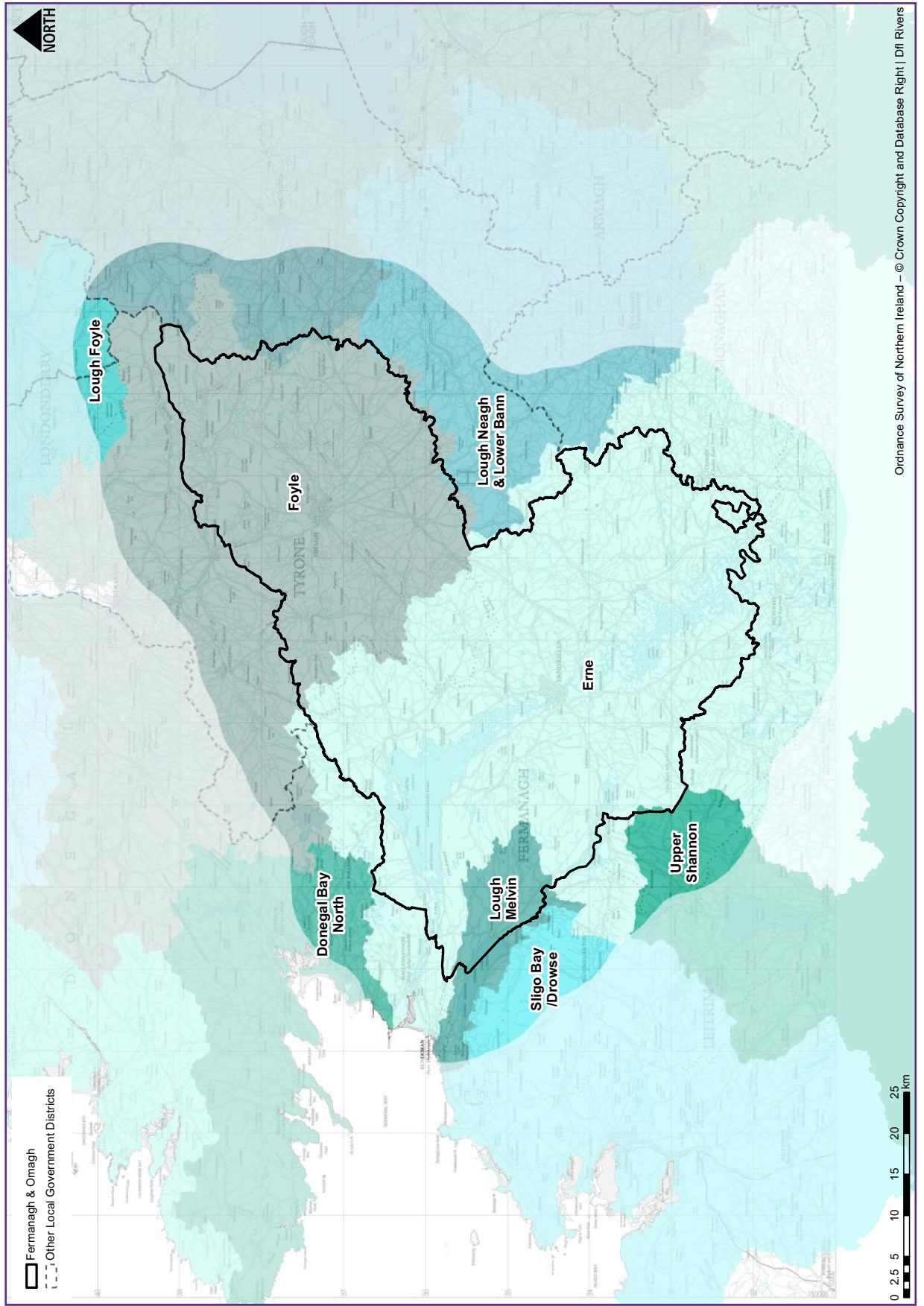


Map 5: Ramsar Sites in relation to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

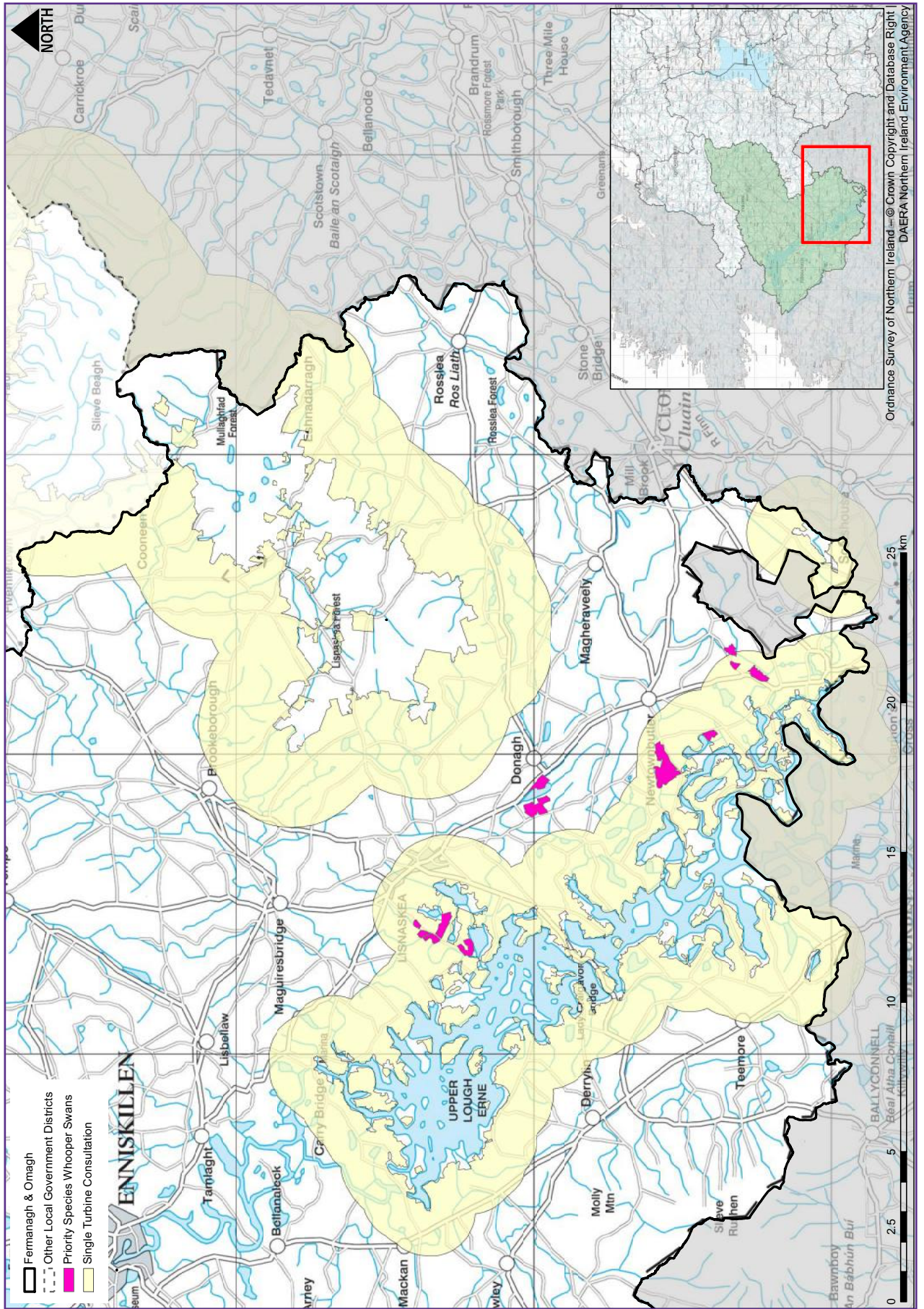


This material is based upon Crown Copyright and is reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland and the permission of the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland. The map is a reproduction of the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland. Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland. © Crown Copyright and Database Right. Stationery Office, Crown copyright and database rights, EMOU206.2, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Copyright 2016.

Map 6: Major Catchments within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area



Map 8: DAERA Whooper Swan Sites and Consultation Zones for Single Turbine



Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland — © Crown Copyright and Database Right
DAERA Northern Ireland Environment Agency

