



COL.TF-Nov10

25th November, 2010.

Administration,
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use,
Environmental Protection Agency,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.



RE: Waterville Agglomeration
Waste Water Discharge Licence Application, Register Number D0287
Request for Further Information (Ref. Section 18(3)(b) of the Waste
Water Discharge Licence (Authorisation) Regulations 2007

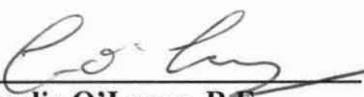
Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached additional information requested in letters dated 9th February 2010, under Section 18(3)(b) of the Waste Water Discharge Licence (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 in relation to Waterville Agglomeration.

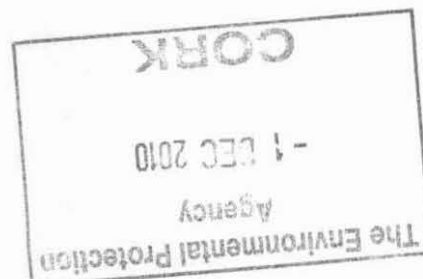
It is the opinion of the Council that this information does not impinge on the existing non-technical summary or on any drawings submitted and therefore it is not necessary to revise same.

The information included is in the form of one original and one copy, plus one copy in electronic searchable PDF format on a CD-ROM.

Yours sincerely,


Charlie O'Leary, B.E.,
Executive Engineer,
Water Services (Operational)

Encl.



Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report

For the proposed Waste Water Discharge Licenses in respect of the Waterville, Ballinskelligs and Dungeagan agglomerations, which discharge into Ballinskelligs Bay, Co Kerry

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 6
OF THE
EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC



November 2010

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1. Introduction

Introduction

Kerry County Council has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for waste water discharge licenses in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007.

The EPA have requested, Kerry County Council to assess the likelihood of significant effects of the waste water discharges from a number of agglomerations on the relevant European or Natura 2000 sites, by referring to Circular **L8/08** 'Water Services Investment and Rural Water Programmes - Protection of 'Natural Heritage and National Monuments' issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. In particular, the EPA have advised that the flow diagram in Appendix 1 should be completed and the results of each section recorded. The EPA have also indicated that if significant effects are likely then an appropriate assessment must be carried out and a report submitted to the Agency. This report is a Habitats Directive Assessment / Appropriate Assessment Screening report and as such a detailed assessment of potential impacts on species of Community interest which are not listed in the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites is beyond the scope of this report.

For the purposes of this report, the project under consideration refers to the proposed waste water discharge licenses for the following agglomerations, which discharge into Ballinskelligs Bay: Waterville and Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan. This report constitutes Stage 1 Screening which considers the likelihood of significant effects on Natura 2000 Sites of permitting the project.

These agglomerations are being considered together as they are located in close proximity to the same Natura 2000 Sites, namely Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC - Site Code 000335, Iveragh Peninsula SPA – Site Code 004154 and Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC – Site Code 000365. Such an approach is considered to be appropriate as it facilitates assessment of potential 'accumulative' and 'in combination' effects on the Natura 2000 Sites.

Habitats Directive Requirements

Natura 2000, as an EU wide network of nature protection areas, is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. The aim of this network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. While the network includes nature reserves, most of the land is privately owned, with the emphasis on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically. Natura 2000 sites, also known as European Sites, incorporate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the 1979 Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the 1992 Habitats Directive, as well sites awaiting final approval, *i.e.* potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC). The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997.

As per the requirements of the Habitats Directive, projects can only be permitted after having ascertained that there will be no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the sites in question. This was reinforced in the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling against Ireland (Case 418/04). The European Union has provided guidance as to how to make a Habitats Directive Assessment. This guidance identifies four main stages in the process as outlined below. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. If, for example, the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there will be no significant impacts on the Natura 2000 site, there is no requirement to proceed further.

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, wither alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Where significant effects cannot be ruled out, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, at screening stage, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report providing a more detailed analysis of the potential effects of a proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites is required. It is the responsibility of the proponent of the plan or project to have a NIS prepared for submission to the Competent Authority in order to assist in the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site. It would be contrary to the requirements of the Habitats Directive to permit an option which would have adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, if non-harmful alternative solutions have been identified.

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

An assessment of compensatory measures, where in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

Water Services Screening Protocol

Departmental Circular L8/08, issued by the Water Services Section of the DEHLG on the 2nd of September 2008, provides an outline of the initial Natura 2000 Screening Protocol for Water Services projects. This screening methodology is designed to assist those planning and designing water services solutions when determining whether AA for Natura 2000/European sites or habitats & species listed in the annexes of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives is necessary or not. The assessment as outlined in this report utilises this approach as part of the AA screening exercise.

Guidance Documents

Guidance documents used in the preparation of this assessment include:-

- DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities.
- EPA (2009) Waste Water Discharge Licensing – Appropriate Assessment.
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 dated 15 February, 2008.
- Water Services Section of the DEHLG Departmental Circular L8/08, issued on the 2nd of September 2008
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Circular Letter PD 5/08: *European Court of Justice ruling on retention planning permission for development requiring environment impact assessment, and the specific case of a wind farm development at Derrybrien in Galway.*
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) Guidance Note 'Regional Planning Guidelines and Habitats Directive Assessment' dated 17th of July 2009.
- Department of the Environment (1994). *Planning and Policy Guidance: Nature Conservation (PPG9)* (HMSO).
- European Commissions (2000): *Managing Natura 2000 Sites. The provisions of Article 6, of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.* Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2001): *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.* Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2007): *Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest, compensatory measures, overall coherence, opinion of the Commission.*
- National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Conservation status in Ireland of habitats and species listed in the European Council directive on the conservation of habitats, flora and fauna 92/43/EEC.* National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants (September 2006): *Appropriate Assessment of Plans.*

2. L8/08 Assessment



Map 2A: Waste Water Treatment Plants / Outfalls

(Waterville and Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan)



Map 2B: Natura 2000 Sites in the vicinity

(Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC- Site Code 000335, Iveragh Peninsula SPA – Site Code 004154 and Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC – Site Code 000365)

Assessment in accordance with Departmental Circular L8/08

In this section of the report the methodology including the flow diagram contained within the departmental circular L8/08 will be followed.

Application of Pre-Screening Questionnaire contained in DEHLG Circular L8/08

Question	Response	Output
Is the development in or on the boundary of a nature conservation site NHA/SAC/SPA?	Yes	Screen Project
Will nationally protected species be directly impacted? Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), Flora Protection order (S.I 94 of 1999)?	Potentially	Screen Project
Is the development a surface water discharge or abstraction in the surface water catchment ¹ , or immediately downstream of a nature conservation site with water dependant qualifying habitats / species ² ?	Yes	Screen Project
Is the development a groundwater discharge or abstraction in the ground water catchment ¹ , or within 5 km of a nature conservation site with water dependant qualifying habitats / species ² ?	No	-
Is the development in the surface water or groundwater catchment of Salmonid waters?	No	-
Is the treatment plant in an active or former floodplain or flood zone of a river, lake, etc?	Potentially	Screen Project
Is the development a surface discharge or abstraction to or from marine waters ³ and within 3km of a marine nature conservation site ² ?	Yes	Screen Project
Will the project in combination with other projects (existing and proposed) or changes to such projects affect the hydrology or water levels of sites of nature conservation interest or the habitats of protected species?	Potentially	Screen Project

¹ If there is a WFD sub basin plan for the sites or its protected habitats and the plan covers all potential receptors, i.e. habitats and species, this plan can be used as the basis for screening and impact assessment.

² Estuaries are considered part of a catchment.

³ Any marine area including estuaries.

Application of Screening Protocol Flowchart contained in the DEHLG Circular L8/08

Step	Question	Response	Output
1	Is the development in a nature conservation site?	Yes	Assess impacts
2a	(If the development involves a surface water abstraction / discharge) Is the development in the surface water catchment of a nature conservation site (or part of such a site)?	Yes	Assess impacts
2b	(If the development involves a groundwater abstraction / discharge) Is the development in the groundwater catchment or within 5 km of a nature conservation site (or part of such a site)?	No	-
3	Are the qualifying habitats and species of the site water dependent?	Some	Assess impacts
4	Is the development in the surface or groundwater catchment or other water dependent Annex II species, other rare or protected species or Salmonid waters?	Potentially	Assess impacts
5	Is there a WFD sub-basin plan for the site or its protected habitats / species?	No	-
6	Does this plan cover all potential receptors (habitats/species)?	-	-

Overview of L8/08 assessment findings

Outfalls from the Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan and Waterville agglomerations are located within the Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC- Site Code 000335. In addition the Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan outfall is located approx 600m from the Iveragh Peninsula SPA – Site Code 004154, while the Waterville outfall is located approx 700m from the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC – Site Code 000365.

Water dependent habitats

The following qualifying habitats of the Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC are listed as water dependent habitats in the EPA 2005 document 'Water Framework Directive – Water Status: Identification and Ranking of Nature Conservation Designated Areas':- Atlantic Salt Meadows and Mediterranean Salt Meadows.

The following qualifying habitats of the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC are listed as water dependent habitats in the EPA 2005 document 'Water Framework Directive – Water Status: Identification and Ranking of Nature Conservation Designated Areas':- Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae); Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion

vegetation; *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils, Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae); Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*.

Water dependent species

The following species of the Iveragh Peninsula SPA are listed as water dependent bird species in the EPA 2005 document 'Water Framework Directive – Water Status: Identification and Ranking of Nature Conservation Designated Areas':- Chough, Peregrine and Guillemot.

The following species of the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC are listed as water dependent species in the EPA 2005 document 'Water Framework Directive – Water Status: Identification and Ranking of Nature Conservation Designated Areas':- *Alosa fallax*, *Lampetra planeri*, *Salmo salar*, *Lampetra fluviatilis* and *Petromyzon marinus* (Fish), *Geomalacus maculosus*, and *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Molluscs), *Euphydrias aurinia* (insect), *Trichomanes speciosum* and *Najas flexilis* (Vascular Plants) and *Lutra Lutra* (Mammal).

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3. Description of the project and of key Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
3.1 Description of the project	
Location	<p>The Waterville waste water treatment plant (WWTP) is located on the seaward site of the N70 (National Secondary Roadway) within the settlement with the discharge point located nearby in Ballinskelligs Bay.</p> <p>Dún Géagáin (Dungeagan) and Baile an Sceilg (Ballinskelligs) are two small villages situated within 1.5 km of each other on the Iveragh Peninsula. Both are situated on the R566 approximately 13km south of Cahersiveen and on the western shores of Ballinskelligs Bay. The Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan WWTP is located to the southeast of Ballinskelligs with the discharge point located nearby in Ballinskelligs Bay.</p>
Distance from designated site	<p>Outfalls from the Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan and Waterville agglomerations are located within the Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC- Site Code 000335. In addition the Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan outfall is located approx 600m from the Iveragh Peninsula SPA – Site Code 004154, while the Waterville outfall is located approx 700m from the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC – Site Code 000365.</p> <p>A number of other Natura 2000 sites are located within 15km of the proposal but having regard to the location, nature and scale of the project, it is considered that significant effects on these sites is not likely, either from the proposed project on its own or in combination with other plans and projects (refer to Appendix A).</p>
Brief description of the project	<p>The project provides for the treatment and disposal of waste waters from the Waterville and Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan agglomerations. The following information is taken from the documentation submitted to the EPA as part of the overall application for the discharge licenses.</p> <p>Waterville</p> <p>A contract to upgrade the Waterville waste water network was completed in June 2009. This collection system gravitates to a septic tank in the centre of the town in the village green. The tank was constructed in 1957 and has an estimated treatment capacity of 225pe. A weir at the inlet controls flow to the tank. This was designed to discharge storm flows to a bypass culvert that discharges directly to the seafront. This can cause significant problems when a heavy rainfall event marks the end of a dry spell, as the first flush of the system, containing a higher than normal concentration of solids, can bypass the tank and be deposited on the beach. The inlet pipe to the septic tank is prone to blockages caused by oil, fat, and grease build-ups</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
3.1 Description of the project	
	<p>and so untreated sewerage is often diverted to the bypass culvert. Effluent is discharged from the tank to Ballinskelligs Bay via a 230m long, 450mm diameter gravity outfall. The outfall discharges below the low tide mark.</p> <p>The existing WWTP is overloaded and during the peak summer holiday season it is completely overloaded and provides minimal treatment.</p> <p>Ballinskelligs / Dungeagan</p> <p>Waste waters from this agglomeration gravitate to a septic tank located to the South of Ballinskelligs. This septic tank provides primary treatment before discharging treated effluent to Ballinskelligs Harbour. The reported design capacity of the septic tank is 300PE, while the estimated existing agglomeration PE in August 2006 was 690. In addition, there is no separate provision at present for storm water runoff. The WWTP is therefore at capacity / overloaded.</p> <p>Dilution capacity</p> <p>The currents within the bay are complex due to the horse-shoe shape. The prevailing South-Westerly winds strike the Waterville beach at a slightly oblique angle, causing some sediment transport in a direction north toward Falvey Strand. The bay is somewhat protected from South winds by Flog's Head and Scariff and Deenish Islands, and from the Westerly winds by Bolus Head. The peninsula of Hog's head along with the bathymetric contours tends to refract the SW waves to a more westerly direction. The existing water quality at Waterville beach in front of the village may be affected by the continuous discharge of untreated sewage just below the low water mark and the bacterial count is likely to be high. Localised eutrophication is likely and dissolved oxygen levels are expected to be low particularly during low tide. Water quality throughout the bay, while not studied is of good quality but is assumed to improve with increasing distance from Waterville Beach.</p>
Is the plan directly connected with or necessary to the Natura 2000 Site management for Nature Conservation?	No

Natura 2000 Site: Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC (Site Code 000335)	
3.2a Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC (Site Code 000335)
Site designation status	Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC)
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>This site is located at the western end of the Iveragh Peninsula, County Kerry, close to the town of Waterville. It comprises the marine waters of Ballinskelligs Bay as far out as the 5 fathom line, some adjoining terrestrial areas and the estuary of the River Inny upstream to Breahig townland. The site extends from Horse Island at the western end of the bay round to Rineen Point at its south-eastern side.</p> <p>The site is of considerable conservation significance, particularly for the presence of two types of salt marsh that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive and of a population of <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>, a species that is listed on Annex II of this directive. Additionally, the site is of significance for the nationally important populations of Common Scoter and Ringed Plover that use it. The site is also commonly used by waders such as Oystercatcher (130 individuals, 1994/95-96/97) and Curlew (140 individuals, 1994/95-96/97). A colony of Grey Seal, a protected species, occurs within the bay.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 is available from the NPWS and on-line at: http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Salt Meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietaliamaritimae</i>) • Mediterranean Salt Meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Scoter, Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher, Curlew and Grey Seal • Intertidal mud/sand flats, sandy beaches, shingle, tidal river channels, sea cliffs, wet and dry grassland, freshwater marshes, swamps, cutaway bog, scrub, bracken, salt marsh and sand dunes
Unit size	It comprises the marine waters of Ballinskelligs Bay as far out as the 5 fathom line, some adjoining terrestrial areas and the estuary of the River Inny upstream to Breahig townland. The site extends from Horse Island at the western end of the bay round to Rineen Point at its south-eastern side.
Condition / threats	<p>Atlantic Salt Meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietaliamaritimae</i>)</p> <p>Water Pollution is not listed as a main pressure or as a threat in the NPWS Atlantic Salt Meadow (1330) Conservation Status Assessment Report. The most serious threats listed are as follows: Overgrazing by sheep and cattle, discontinuous urbanization, development, dumping, landfill, land reclamation and drying out, sea defense or coastal protection works, erosion and invasion by species such as <i>Spartina anglica</i>.</p> <p>The Future Prospects are assessed as 'Unfavourable-Inadequate', largely resulting from unsustainable</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC (Site Code 000335)	
3.2a Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
	<p>grazing levels which are likely to only decrease slowly in the near future. Infilling and reclamation are likely to decrease in the future</p> <p>Mediterranean Salt Meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) Water pollution is not listed as a Grazing is listed as the significant impact and common threat in the NPWS Mediterranean Salt Meadow (1410) Conservation Status Assessment Report. Other threats listed include infilling and reclamation, invasive species, erosion (associated with water movement, recreational pressure, trampling or compaction) and climate change / sea level rise where inland migration may be impeded by artificial defensive structures such as sea walls (coastal squeeze).</p> <p>The Future Prospects are assessed as 'Unfavourable-Inadequate', largely resulting from unsustainable grazing levels which are likely to only decrease slowly.</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Iveragh Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004154)	
3.2b Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Iveragh Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004154)
Site designation status	Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA)
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge (inland for 300 m). The high water mark forms the seaward boundary except at Doulus Head/Killelan Mountain where the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base is included to provide areas for foraging and socialising activities for breeding seabirds.</p> <p>More information on this Natura 2000 is available from the NPWS and on-line at: http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chough • Peregrine • Guillemot
Qualifying habitats	-
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>Additional Special Conservation Interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulmar

Natura 2000 Site: Iveragh Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004154)	
3.2b Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kittiwake
Unit size	-
Condition / threats	Landuse is predominantly extensive grazing of sheep, and to a lesser degree, cattle. This grazing regime, which results in a tight vegetation sward, is beneficial to Chough. The habitats present are quite robust and there are few noticeable activities negatively impacting on the Chough population. However, the reduction in cattle numbers and increase in sheep numbers in the recent past, is less beneficial to Chough, as sheep grazing results in a more uniform vegetation sward. One other potential threat is the residue left in livestock dung due to the application of broad-spectrum anti-parasitic drugs.

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
3.2c Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
Name	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)
Site designation status	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
Natura 2000 Site Description	<p>This very large site encompasses the mountains, rivers and lakes of the Iveragh peninsula, and the Paps Mountains which stretch eastward from Killarney towards Millstreet. It is the most mountainous region in Ireland and includes Carrauntoohil (1039m), the highest peak in the country.</p> <p>The underlying geology is almost entirely Old Red Sandstone. The dramatic sandstone ridges and valleys have been shaped by glacial processes and many of the lakes are impounded by glacial moraines. Located close to the Atlantic in the south-west of Ireland, the site is subject to strong oceanic influences. Generally, the Lusitanian flora and fauna is well represented, while the high peaks and cliffs support arctic-alpine relicts. The site is of great ecological interest, with at least ten habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
Qualifying species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alosa fallax</i> (Killarney shad), • <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern), • <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad), • <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry spotted slug) • <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) • <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat)

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
3.2c Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) • <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (European Brook Lamprey) • <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic Salmon) • <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) • <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (European Otter)
Qualifying habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; • Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); • Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>; • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; • European dry heaths; • <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; • Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); • Blanket bog; • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles; • Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of 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 albae</i>); • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
Non-qualifying species and habitats of interest	<p>An additional twenty-two Red Data Book plant species have been recorded, but only twelve of these have been seen recently. These are Pillwort (<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>), Kerry Lily (<i>Simethis planifolia</i>), Irish Lady's Tresses (<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>), Slender Cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>), Slender Cudweed (<i>Logfia minima</i>), Betony (<i>Stachys officinalis</i>), Heath Cudweed (<i>Omalotheca sylvatica</i>), Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), Alpine Saw-wort (<i>Saussurea alpina</i>), Hoary Whitlowgrass (<i>Draba incana</i>), Smooth Brome (<i>Bromus racemosus</i>) and Holly Fern (<i>Polystichum lonchitis</i>). The first seven of these species are legally protected (Flora Protection Order, 1999). The site is very important for oceanic bryophytes, particularly the woodland species. It also contains good representative examples of the Northern Atlantic Hepatic Mat community and other oceanic montane communities. Killarney Oak woods and mountains have been nominated as a site of international importance for bryophytes. Additional plant species of interest include a fern (<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>)</p>

Natura 2000 Site: Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)	
3.2c Description of the Natura 2000 Site	
	<p>subsp. <i>stilluppensis</i>) and a Whitebeam (<i>Sorbus anglica</i>), both at their only Irish locations.</p> <p>The Killarney Woods are notable for the number of rare species of Myxomycete fungus that have been recorded, namely <i>Collaria arcyronema</i>, <i>Craterium muscorum</i>, <i>Cribraria microcarpa</i> (only known Irish site), <i>C. rufa</i>, <i>C. violacea</i>, <i>Diderma chondrioderma</i>, <i>D. lucidum</i>, <i>D. ochraceum</i>, <i>Fuligo muscorum</i>, <i>Licea marginata</i>.</p> <p>The site has six bird species which are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. A small flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese, which winters on the boglands within the National Park, is now the only regular flock in the south-west. The site has one of the highest concentrations of breeding Peregrines in the country, as well as some breeding Merlin. Chough is found both in the coastal areas and inland areas of the site, with possibly up to 30 pairs breeding. Kingfisher is a species associated with the lakes and rivers, especially in the National Park and probably breeds. Finally, a few pairs of Common Tern breed within the site. The woodlands provide habitat for a variety of breeding birds, most notably Garden Warbler, Blackcap, and probably a few pairs each of the rare Redstart and Wood Warbler. Lough Leane is a site for wintering wildfowl with the following the average counts for the two winters 1995/96 and 1996/97: Teal (208), Mallard (350), Pochard (81), Tufted Duck (323) and Coot (169).</p> <p>Also of note is the glacial relict, Arctic Charr (<i>Salvelinus alpinus</i>), a Red Data Book fish species, a unique form of which is found in Lough Coomasaharn.</p> <p>Other invertebrate species of note include: three chironomids of international importance found in the River Flesk; a wood ant (<i>Formica lugubris</i>) at one of only four Irish sites; a snail (<i>Limnaea involuta</i>), in Lough Crincaum, at its only known location; two dragonflies (<i>Cordulea aenea</i> and <i>Somatochlora arctica</i>), the former at one of only two known sites in Ireland and the latter at its only known Irish location; and several other aquatic and woodland species at their only known Irish locations.</p>
Unit size	72,960Ha
Condition / threats	Grazing from sheep and deer is a threat to certain habitats within the site. Most of the lakes are very acid sensitive and therefore vulnerable to afforestation within the catchment areas. Most are also oligotrophic and so are vulnerable to nutrient pollution. The bogs are sensitive to grazing and are also threatened by turbary, burning and afforestation. The site is also under threat from invasive non-native species, including zebra mussels and rhododendron. A rhododendron removal programme is underway in the National Park.

4. Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites																			
4.1 Assessment Criteria																			
<p>Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on Natura 2000 Sites</p>	<p>Discharge from : Effluent from the Waterville and Ballinskelligs/Dungeagan agglomerations are discharged within the Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC (Site Code 000335). The discharge consists of treated and untreated effluent from the Waste Water Treatment Plants.</p> <p>The following table is an extract from the County Kerry Waste water & Sludge Project – Strategy for Delivery (August 2006).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Settlement Name</th> <th>Estimated Existing Agglomeration (P.E.)</th> <th>Treatment Design Capacity (P.E.)</th> <th>Approx. Networks</th> <th>Other Comment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A(1)</td> <td>Waterville</td> <td>1926</td> <td>500</td> <td>5.17 Km</td> <td>Proposed scheme at Contract Document Approval Stage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E(17)</td> <td>Dungeagan / Ballinskelligs</td> <td>690</td> <td>300</td> <td>4.0 Km</td> <td>Septic Tank, overloaded</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other Discharges in the area: One-off houses, agriculture discharges and other dispersed type developments served with individual wastewater treatment systems.</p> <p>Consideration of ‘in combination’ effects Key documents of relevance in this area are those prepared as part of the Water Framework Directive, including:-</p> <p>1. South Western River Basin District – Transitional and Coastal Waters Action Programme</p> <p>Ballinskelligs Bay (Coastal Water Body) Ballinskelligs Bay has an unassigned ‘Ecological Status’</p>	Category	Settlement Name	Estimated Existing Agglomeration (P.E.)	Treatment Design Capacity (P.E.)	Approx. Networks	Other Comment	A(1)	Waterville	1926	500	5.17 Km	Proposed scheme at Contract Document Approval Stage	E(17)	Dungeagan / Ballinskelligs	690	300	4.0 Km	Septic Tank, overloaded
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Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	
	<p>Protected Areas in the vicinity Bathing Waters include: Ballinskelligs, Inny Waterville Shellfish Waters include: None Nutrient Sensitive Waters in the vicinity: None SPA: None SAC: Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary</p> <p>Pressures / Risks The 'Pressure Based Risk Assessment Results (2008) identified Ballinskelligs Bay as a coastal waterbody under pressure from point source pollution arising from waste water treatment plants. The Risk Test identified the water body as 'at risk' or 'probably at risk'.</p> <p>2. Sneem Cummeraghinny Water Management Unit (WMU) Status elements outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate Status in rivers is dictated by freshwater pearl mussel. Q score and Physchem is either high or good in all monitored water bodies in the WMU. Fish status is assigned to 3 wbs- all good status. <p>Identified Pressures/Risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient sources: All TP is diffuse – agriculture (78%), forestry (16%) and unsewered properties (5%). Point pressures: 6 WWTPs: Caherdaniel, Dungeagan, Murreagh, Parknasilla, Sneem and Waterville. 3 WWTPs identified as causing risk: Dungeagan and Waterville septic tanks are identified as causing risk due to insufficient existing capacity, however there is no evidence of impact. Caherdaniel is also identified as causing risk due to insufficient existing capacity, however there is no evidence of impact and it is discharging to a protected area (Kenmare River SAC). <p>Action Plan Measures outlined include: Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Plans contains measures to protect Freshwater Pearl mussels. Waterville and Dungeagan/Ballinskelligs septic tanks have been identified as point source discharge locations. The action plan measures outlined for these WWTPs is that the agglomerations require further investigation prior to capital works.</p> <p>3. Freshwater Peal Mussel (FWPM) Sub Basin Management Plan All FWPM sites found in the sub basin were deemed to be at good status, while the objective is high status.</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	
	<p>Analysis of the confidence in classification indicates that for the Capall river north-west of Cauteens, little in the way of measures would be required to bring this site back to high status e.g. perhaps fencing to prevent sheep accessing the river which was observed during sampling, as there is a 38% change that it may already be at high status, or close to high status. The two sites on the Cumeragh river would require more in the way of measures to improve their status to high.</p>
<p>Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size and scale • Land-take • Distance from Natura 2000 Site or key features of the Site • Resource requirements • Emissions • Excavation requirements • Transportation requirements • Duration of construction, operation etc • Others 	<p>Likely impacts to arise as a result of this project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on Natura 2000 sites relate to water quality issues as both WWTPs located in the agglomeration are overloaded and as a number of water dependent species / habitats are located within Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the outfalls. This will be considered in more detail below.</p> <p><u>Iveragh Peninsula SPA (Site Code 004154)</u> Chough predominantly feed on soil invertebrates associated with improved pasture, unimproved and grassland and coastal grass type habitats. A 2003 study by Gray <i>et al</i> noted that Kerry held the largest number of birds in the Country (31%) and that the population in Kerry remained fairly stable*. It is noted that the high water mark generally demarcates the boundary of this Natura 2000 site and accordingly, the designated habitat is unlikely to be affected by way of the project. This view is supported by the River Basin Management Plan for the South West which did not list this Natura 2000 site as a protected area in the Sneem Cumeraghinnny Water Management Unit.</p> <p>* Gray, N., Thomas, G., Trowby, M. and Newton, S.F. (2003) 'The status and distribution of Chough <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> in the Republic of Ireland 2002/03. Irish Birds (7) P147-156.</p> <p><u>Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC (Site Code 000365)</u> The Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC is partially located upstream of Ballinskelligs Bay. Significant water bodies contained in this SAC and which discharge to Ballinskelligs Bay, via the Currane River, include Lough Currane, Lough Derriana, Lough Namona and Cloonaghlin Lough as well as the River Cumeragh and River Finglas. These water systems are known to support water dependent qualifying species for which the SAC has been selected, including Salmon, Sea, River and Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussels and Otters.</p> <p>Salmon, Sea and River Lamprey spend part of their life cycles at sea and in estuarine waters and are vulnerable to water pollution. Otter territories can include coastal waters and as they require freshwater to wash their coats, a suitable location where freshwater enters a sheltered coastline can be a particularly</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	<p>important resource requirement for the species. Otters are also vulnerable to water pollution which can reduce fish stocks / food availability. Freshwater pearl mussels rely on the presence of a healthy population of salmonids (Salmon, Trout) to complete part of their lifecycle and so they may be indirectly affected by water quality in Ballinskelligs Bay.</p> <p>Having regard to the above, it is considered that a number of qualifying species for which the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC has been selected may be either directly or indirectly affected by water quality in Ballinskelligs Bay, particularly in the vicinity of the mouth of the River Currane, which is located approx 700m south of Waterville's Waste Water Treatment Plant's outfall.</p> <p><u>Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC (Site Code 000335)</u></p> <p>Water quality is not listed as a main threat or pressure on Mediterranean or Atlantic Salt Meadows, which are the Annex 1 type habitats for which this Natura 2000 site has been selected. However water quality can impact on other species / habitats of ecological value that are located within the Natura 2000 site, such as sandy beaches, shingle, tidal river channels. In addition, a colony of Grey Seal, a protected species which occurs within the bay could be adversely affected by way of water pollution.</p>
<p>Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of habitat area • Disturbance of key species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation value • Climate change 	<p>The existing WWTPs within the agglomeration are noted to be overloaded, which results in the discharge of partially treated / untreated effluent to Ballinskelligs Bay, a Bay where currents are complex due to its horseshoe shape. The existing water quality at Waterville beach in front of the village may be affected by the continuous discharge of untreated sewage just below the low water mark and the bacterial count is likely to be high. Localised eutrophication is likely and dissolved oxygen levels are expected to be low particularly during low tide. Water quality throughout the bay, while not studied is of good quality but is assumed to improve with increasing distance from Waterville Beach.</p> <p>Potential nutrient enrichment of receiving waters due to the continuous discharge resultant from the operation of the existing WWTPs has the capacity to adversely affect water quality which could be harmful to populations of protected aquatic species for which the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC has been designated. Such nutrient enrichment also has the potential to impact on biodiversity interests of the Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary SAC.</p> <p>It is noted that the South Western River Basin District – Transitional and Coastal Waters Action Programme outlines that the 'Pressure Based Risk Assessment Results' (2008) identified Ballinskelligs Bay as a coastal</p>

Assessment of the effects of the proposed project on Natura 2000 Sites	
4.1 Assessment Criteria	
	waterbody under pressure from point source pollution arising from waste water treatment plants. The Risk Test identified the water body as 'at risk' or 'probably at risk'.
Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference with the Key relationships that define the structure of the site • Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site 	<p>No impacts are reported on protected species or habitats arising from the operation of these facilities. Information at hand suggests that while overall water quality in Ballinskelligs Bay is likely to be high, that at Waterville beach in front of the village may be affected by the continuous discharge of untreated sewage just below the low water mark and that the bacterial count is likely to be high. Consequently, localised eutrophication is likely and dissolved oxygen levels are expected to be low particularly during low tide.</p> <p>Such continued overloading may lead to a progressively spreading zone of influence. Accordingly, best practice would be to improve from the current primary treatment facilities at both Waterville and Ballinskelligs/Dungeagan, particularly if the population targets / economic growth targets for the area are to be facilitated. It is noted that Kerry County Council have plans in place to upgrade these plants and that those for the Waterville WWTP are at advanced stages.</p> <p>Given the location of the Waterville WWTP, its outfall and its existing capacity issues, it is considered that it can <u>not</u> be objectively concluded that neither the structure nor the function of Natura 2000 sites will be significantly impacted upon by the operation of these facilities. Accordingly and in order to ensure that potential impacts are avoided, it is recommended that the Waterville WWTP upgrade proposals should be proceeded with.</p>
Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale of magnitude of impacts is not known.	<p>Both the Ballinskelligs/Dungeagan and Waterville WWTPs are currently overloaded and thus contribute to eutrophying materials entering Ballinskelligs Bay, which itself is a designated cSAC, In addition, the Waterville agglomeration and outfall are located in the vicinity of the mouth of the River Currane and accordingly water quality in this part of the Bay is likely to be of importance for Salmon, Sea and River Lamprey, Otter and Freshwater Pearl Mussel, qualifying species for which the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment SAC has been designated. As the magnitude of water quality concerns on protected species and habitats at this location is not known. Notwithstanding this, it is considered that the Waterville WWTP upgrade proposals, which is would sufficiently alleviate concerns in this regard.</p> <p>It is noted that Kerry County Council also have plans in place to upgrade the Ballinskelligs/Dungeagan WWTP. Prior to such upgrading works taking place continual monitoring of discharge effluent and maintenance of the WWTP (desludging etc) should be carried out so as to maintain the plant in good working order.</p>

5. Conclusion

This report objectively concludes that provided the Waterville Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade proposals, which are at advanced stages, are proceeded with, then significant impacts to key sensitive receptors (salmon, otter, freshwater pearl mussel, sea and river lamprey) and other qualifying features of the Natura 2000 sites will be avoided. Prior to WWTP upgrading works taking place continual monitoring of discharge effluent and maintenance of the WWTPs (desludging etc) should be carried out so as to maintain the plants in good working order.

It is recommended that this report be forwarded to the National Parks and Wildlife Service / the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Birdwatch Ireland for consultation.

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Appendix A: Consideration of in-situ and ex-situ Natura 2000 Sites

DEHLG guidance recommends that, at a minimum, Natura 2000 sites located within 15km of proposed project should be considered. In this section of the report the information available on Natura 2000 sites within or immediately adjoining the project area in situ and ex situ are mapped and tabulated, as appropriate, and this information was used in carrying out the overall screening report.

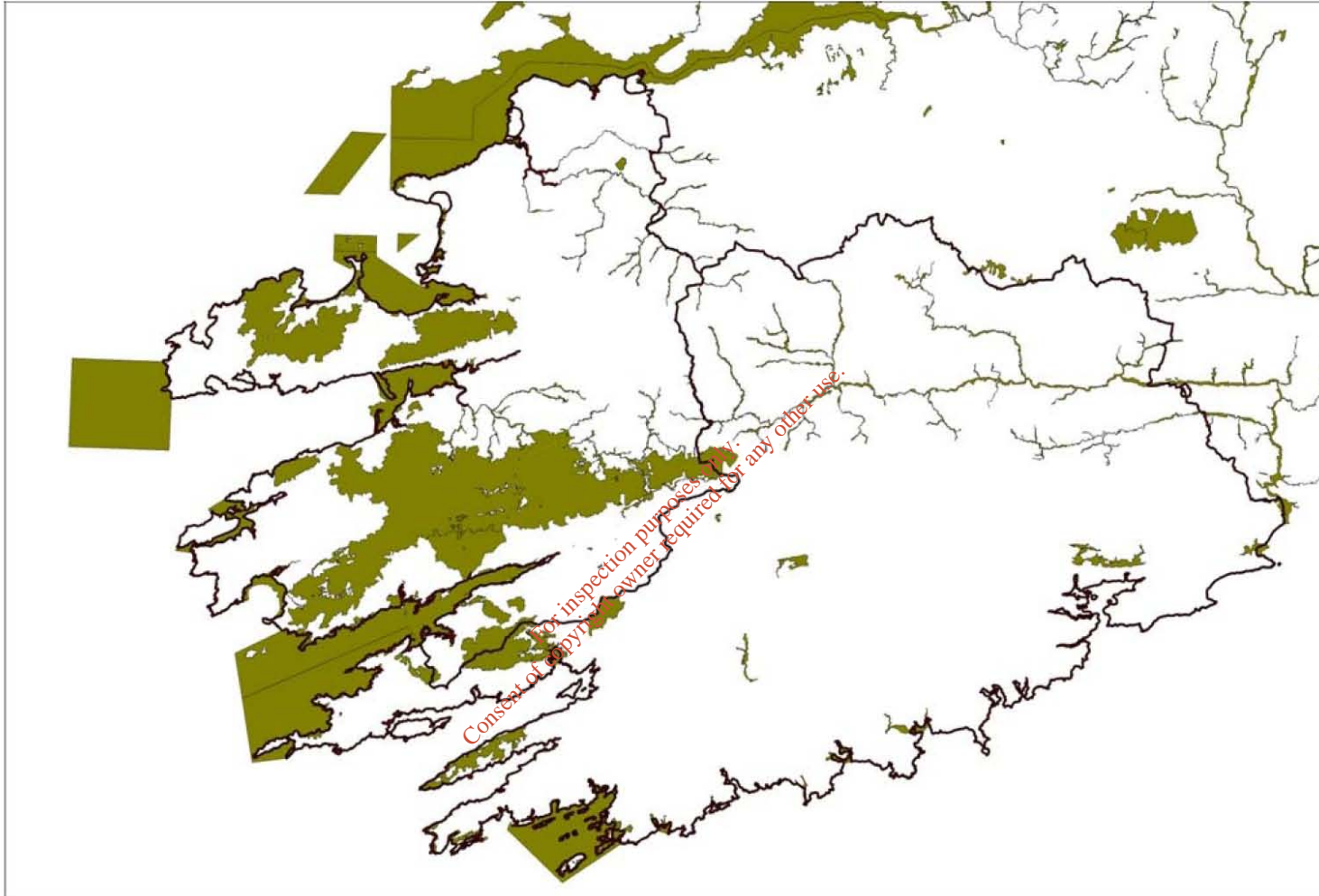
The following sites, the majority of which are ex-situ sites, were identified as being located within 15km of the proposed project(s).

- SAC 000335 - Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary
- SAC 000365 - Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy'S Reeks & Caragh River Catchment
- SAC 002262 - Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel

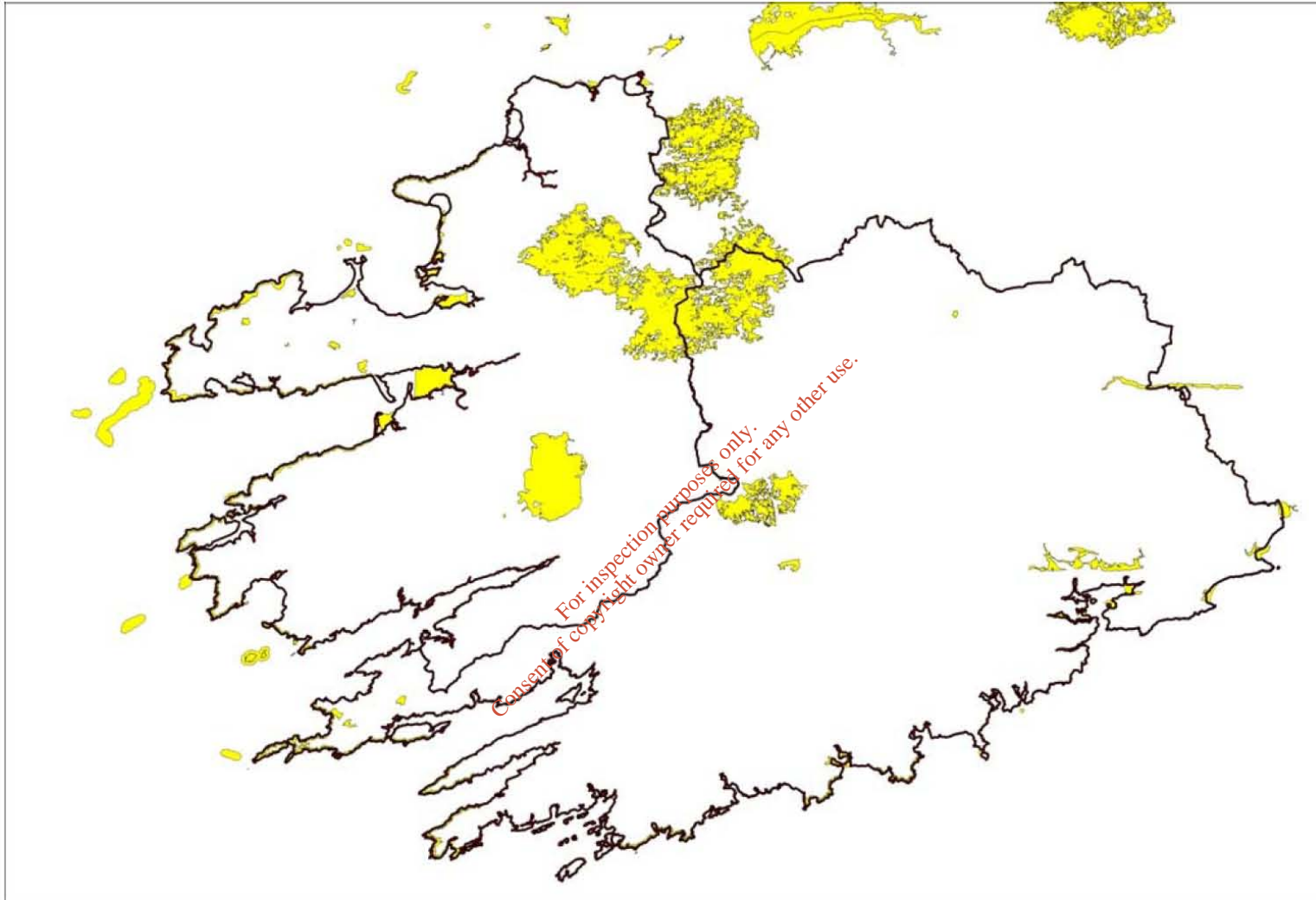
- SPA 004003 - Puffin Island
- SPA 004007 - Skelligs
- SPA 004154 - Iveragh Peninsula

The following maps show the Natura 2000 sites located in the South West Region. Information, data and maps of these and other Irish Natura 2000 sites, is available from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website at <http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData>

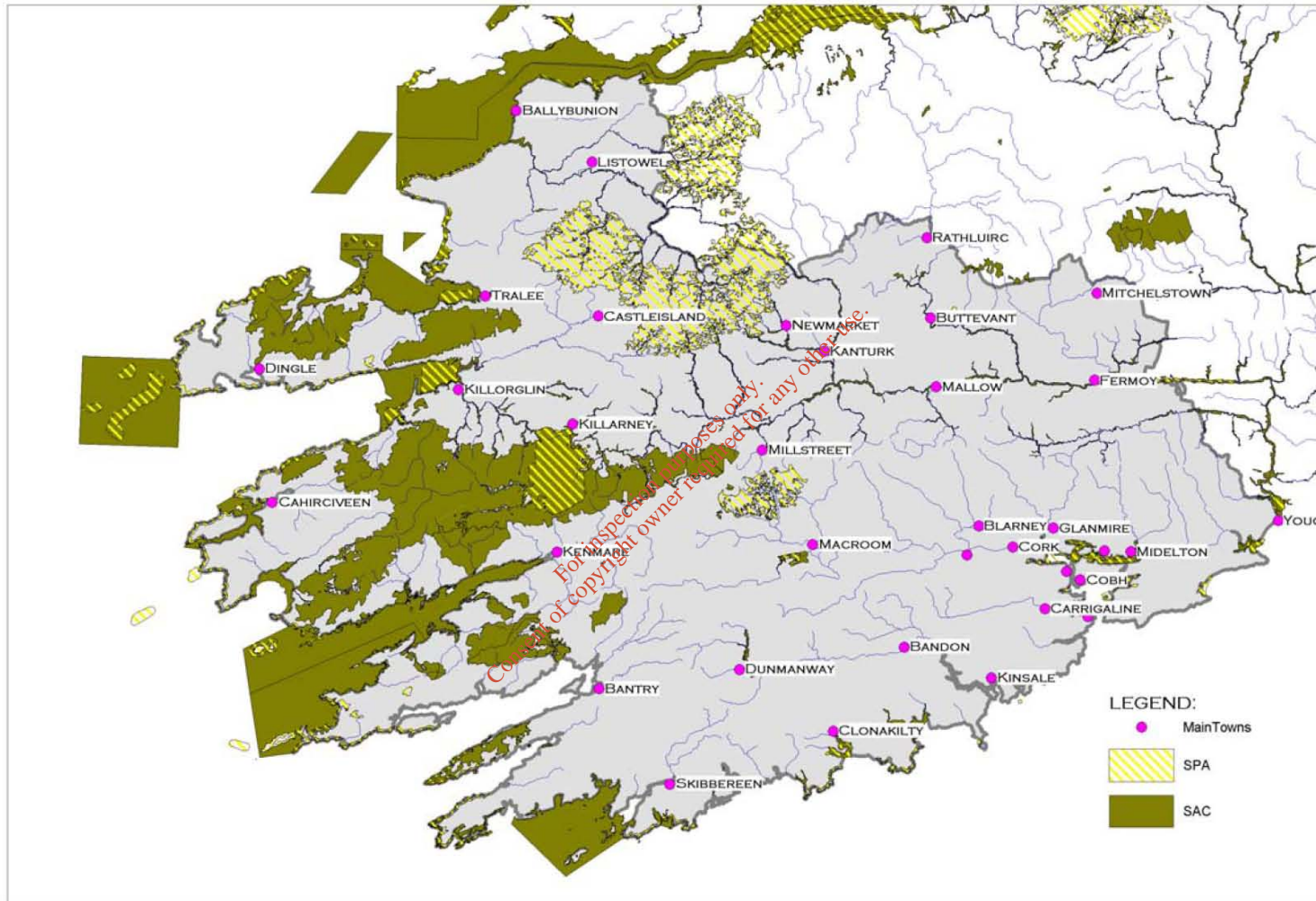
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Special Areas of Conservation within or adjoining the South West Region (SAC and cSAC)



Special Protected Areas within or adjoining the South West Region (SPAs and pSPAs)



Location of Natura 2000 sites in relation to the Region's Main Towns and Watercourses

Natura 2000 sites, the reasons for their designation, (draft) conservation objectives and the environmental conditions considered necessary to support their site integrity

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
<p><u>SAC 000335 - Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary</u></p>	<p>This site is of considerable conservation significance particularly for the presence of 2 types of salt marsh Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietaliamaritimae); Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritime)</p> <p>The site also contains a population of the rare liverwort species <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> – a species located on sand dunes within the site and that is listed on Annex II.</p> <p>Nationally important populations of common Scoter and Ring Plover are also present.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietaliamaritimae); Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) 2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>. 3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. 4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. 	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeding, fishing, dumping, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion / trampling / accretion associated with human impacts (fires, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure, bait digging etc)</p> <p>Adequate quality water</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species (bracken etc)</p> <p>Limited dredging activities</p> <p>No physical barriers to significantly restrict movement of sand and communities associated with mobile substrate</p> <p>Lack of physical constraints & ability to modify dune distribution in response to natural dynamic coastal processes</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>
<p><u>SAC 000365 - Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks & Caragh River Catchment</u></p>	<p>The site is of great ecological interest, with at least ten habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The site is a candidate SAC selected for blanket bog, Yew wood and alluvial woodlands, priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a candidate SAC for lowland oligotrophic lakes, upland oligotrophic lakes,</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseeding, fishing, dumping, tree felling, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion / trampling associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, peat extraction, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES	<p>floating river vegetation, alpine heath, dry heath, wet heath, <i>Molinia</i> meadows, old Oak woodlands, Rhynchosporion, Calaminarian grassland and Juniper scrub, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The lakes and rivers associated with these lakes are also of importance.</p> <p>The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive – Killarney Fern, Slender Naiad, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Kerry Slug, Marsh Fritillary, Killarney Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Sea Lamprey, Lesser Horseshoe Bat and Otter.</p> <p>Overall, the site is of high ecological value because of the diversity, quality and extensiveness of many of the habitats and impressive list of rare species of flora and fauna. In recognition of its importance the Killarney National Park has been designated a World Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>1. To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; European dry heaths; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Blanket bog; Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles; Alpine and Boreal heaths; <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of 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 albae</i>); Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>.</p> <p>2. To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: <i>Alosa fallax</i>,</p>	<p>Adequate water supply</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>Limited alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as reclamation, afforestation / commercial forestry, deforestation, peat extraction, development, track / roadway provision etc)</p> <p>No significant loss of bat roosting sites or of woodland / scrub / hedgerows located in the vicinity of roosting sites</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure, camping etc)</p> <p>The control of fish stocking and introduced or invasive species (<i>Rhododendron</i>, Zebra Mussel, bracken etc)</p> <p>Maintain natural regeneration and diverse vegetation structure</p> <p>Presence of suitable quiet stretches of river for Otters</p> <p>No artificial barriers significantly impairing adult salmon and lamprey from reaching existing and historical spawning grounds and smolts from reaching the sea</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SACs / cSACs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	<p><i>Trichomanes speciosum, Najas flexilis, Geomalacus maculosus, Euphydryas aurinia, Rhinolophus hipposideros, Petromyzon marinus, Lampetra planeri, Salmo salar, Lampetra fluviatilis, Margaritifera margaritifera, Lutra lutra.</i></p> <p>3. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site</p> <p>4. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>	
<p><u>SAC 002262 - Valencia Harbour / Portmagee Channel</u></p>	<p>This site is of particularly interest because it contains important examples of three habitats listed on Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive mainly: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs.</p> <p>Conservation Objectives</p> <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>3. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, fishing dumping, killing / removal of significant biological material, pesticide use etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality (limited sediment input, limited nutrient input etc)</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, development etc)</p> <p>Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure, bait digging etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species</p> <p>Limited dredging activities</p> <p>No physical barriers to significantly restrict movement of sand and communities associated with mobile substrate</p> <p>No significant change in water clarity and average light attenuation</p> <p>No significant change in temperature and salinity of the water</p> <p>No significant aggregate extraction or dredging activities</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SPAs / pSPAs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
<u>SPA 004003 - Puffin Island</u>	<p>Site is selected for: Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Razorbill, Puffin, Assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds</p> <p>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Fulmar, Lesser Black-backed Gull</p> <p>Main conservation objective: To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Razorbill, Puffin, Assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds, Fulmar, Lesser Black-backed Gull.</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, grazing, fishing etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality</p> <p>No significant erosion associated with human impacts (livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation etc)</p> <p>Avoidance of disturbance (noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species</p>
<u>SPA 004007 - Skelligs</u>	<p>Site is selected for: Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Gannet, Puffin, Assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds</p> <p>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Fulmar, Kittiwake, Guillemot</p> <p>Main conservation objective: To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Gannet, Puffin, Assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Guillemot.</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of aquaculture, grazing, fishing etc)</p> <p>Adequate water quality</p> <p>No significant erosion associated with human impacts (livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation, afforestation, development, etc)</p> <p>Avoidance of disturbance (noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc)</p> <p>The control of introduced or invasive species</p>
<u>SPA 004154 - Iveragh Peninsula</u>	<p>Site is selected for: Peregrine, Guillemot, Chough</p> <p>Additional Special Conservation Interests: Fulmar, Kittiwake</p> <p>Main conservation objective: To maintain the special conservation interests for this SPA at favourable conservation status: Peregrine, Guillemot, Chough,</p>	<p>Habitat Management (control of drainage, control of the use of agricultural pesticides, grazing / mowing, burning, fertiliser / lime input, reseedling, aquaculture, fishing etc)</p> <p>No significant erosion associated with human impacts (drainage, fires, livestock grazing, motorised vehicles, recreational activities etc).</p> <p>No change in land use which would result in significant habitat loss or fragmentation (human activities such as land improvement / reclamation,</p>

Name of Site	Reason for designation	Environmental conditions necessary to support site integrity
SPAs / pSPAs WHICH ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE PLAN AREA OR WHICH ARE EX SITU SITES		
	Fulmar, Kittiwake.	afforestation, development, track / roadway provision, dumping etc) Limited disturbance (light, noise, human activity including recreational pressure etc) The control of introduced or invasive species

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Appendix B: Description of other strategies, plans, programmes and projects reviewed in order to identify potential 'in-combination' effects on Natura 2000 Sites

In this section of the report, other strategies, plans, programmes and projects are described in order to consider the potential for 'in combination' effects. In this instance, 'in combination' is taken to refer to the cumulative effect of influences acting on sites from all plans and projects in the context of prevailing environmental conditions. Underlying environmental trends such as sea level rises, climate change and increased flood risk have also been taken into account in the potential for significant effects.

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
UN Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>The UN Convention on Biological Diversity was a direct result of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It came into force in 1993, being ratified by Ireland in 1996. Its objective is the conservation of global biodiversity as well as to ensure equitable access to the world's genetic resources.</p> <p>It requires each party to develop strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and that these should be integrated into other national initiatives that may have biodiversity implications. Monitoring programmes and appropriate designations for protected areas must be established, while undesirable alien species which threaten ecosystems should be controlled. In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels.</p>	-
Agenda 21	<p>Agenda 21 was the main outcome of the United Nations' Conference on Environment and Development that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. That Conference endorsed the concept of sustainable development, requiring that economic growth must be compatible with the needs of both present and future generations and that environmental protection should form an integral part of the development process. These principles are required to be supported by a precautionary approach, which ensures that an absence of complete scientific certainty is not a justification of postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. The key role of EIA is stressed in respect of activities that may have a significant affect on the environment. Local Agenda 21 aims</p>	-

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	to promote sustainable development at local and regional level.	
Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	This international policy initiative sets out an action plan for the implementation of the activities adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. It covers topics such as poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, managing natural resources, sustainable development and other aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21.	To strengthen the commitment to sustainable development from Governments at all levels.
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was decided in December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. Its objective is to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a response to climate change. Developed countries, the so-called Annex I states, have to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by a collective average of 5% below their 1990 levels. An Annex I country which fails to meet its Kyoto obligation is subject to possible penalties, although the Protocol also makes provision for flexible mechanisms which permit the purchasing of greenhouse gas emission allowances from other states. The National Climate Change Strategy sets out how Ireland is participating in this process.	-
The European Integrated Maritime Policy and Action Plan (2007)	The Integrated Maritime Policy Action Plan from 2007 set out a particularly ambitious work programme. It included new working methods, cross-cutting tools and a wide range of specific actions that aimed to benefit the maritime economy, protect marine environment, strengthen research and innovation, foster development in coastal and outermost regions, address international maritime affairs, and raise the visibility of Europe's maritime dimension.	<p>It is envisaged that the European Integrated Maritime Policy Action Plan will create new economic development opportunities for this region. Strategic policy orientations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of maritime governance, where permanent structures for cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder consultation need to be put in place at European, national and regional levels of government, building on hitherto achievements. • Development of cross-cutting policy tools, namely maritime spatial planning, comprehensive marine knowledge and data, and integrated maritime surveillance. These tools can streamline the way we manage maritime space and maritime activities and help preserve marine ecosystems. • Defining boundaries of sustainability, to be set in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, will help develop all maritime activities with greater regard to their

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
		<p>cumulative impacts on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of sea-basin strategies, which allows adapting priorities and policy-making tools to the unique geographical, economical and political context of each maritime region. • Development of international dimension of the Integrated Maritime Policy, to strengthen the EU's position in multilateral and bilateral relations. • Renewed focus on sustainable economic growth, employment and innovation through, for example, strengthened links between energy and climate change policies and the IMP which will help promote renewable energies from the sea and develop climate change adaptation strategy for coastal and maritime areas.
<p>Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland 1997</p>	<p>The aim outlined for Ireland in our first sustainable development strategy, published in 1997, was "to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community".</p> <p>The principal goals and policies defined in the 1997 publication Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland continue to inform the development and delivery of policies and programmes in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development. The integration of environmental considerations into other policy areas is a key means of securing balanced development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage efficient use of energy, transport and natural resources through careful selection of development locations; • Promote the most effective use of already developed areas; • Secure protection and enhancement of the natural environment; • Accommodate new development needs in an environmentally sustainable way.
<p>National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020</p>	<p>The identification of development corridors is only the initial step in the process of balanced regional development. The success of the spatial strategy in its role of achieving strong and sustainable economic growth is dependent on a number of factors including the development of an area's Potential, Critical Mass and Linkages.</p> <p>The NSS, prepared by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is a twenty-year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic, and physical development, and population growth between regions. Its focus is on people, on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of the strengthening, consolidating and development of gateway and hub settlements. • Promotion of rural diversification • Associated infrastructural developments <p>Possible impacts may arise where there is a requirement to provide for new development / infrastructure. Avoidance on or near protected areas should be implemented or where this is not possible favouring of infrastructure that carries a lower risk of damage to protected areas should be emphasised in the RPGs.</p>

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>places and on building communities.</p> <p>Implementation of the NSS at regional and local level is through the formulation of guidelines, integrated planning frameworks, Development Plans and strategies.</p> <p>The NSS has identified the important need to support the role of smaller towns, villages and rural areas at the local level.</p>	
<p>Making Ireland's Development Sustainable 2002</p>	<p>This document focuses on the link between economic activity and pressures on the environment. Sustainable development emerged as an idea in the late 1980s and led to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At the Summit, world leaders agreed to implement an action programme for sustainable development called, Agenda 21. The Irish Government published Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland in 1997 which applies Agenda 21 in Irish circumstances.</p> <p>Making Ireland's Development Sustainable reviews progress with sustainable development in Ireland since Rio, assesses the challenge we now face and sets out policies and actions to meet that challenge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad emphasis on eco-efficiency as a means of achieving both environmental and economic objectives, • Pressing ahead with the catchment-based approach to water quality, including through investment in waste water infrastructure and additional regulations where necessary, • Development of a national strategy to meet the requirements of the Gothenburg Protocol and the related EU Directive concerning transboundary air emissions, • Implementing the policy approaches to waste management set out in Government policy statements, • Implementation of a National Spatial Strategy, addressing among other things issues relating to settlement patterns.
<p>National Climate Change Strategy, 2007-2012</p>	<p>This National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 was published in April 2007, develops from the 2000 Climate Change Strategy, and it builds on the commitment to sustainable development set out in Towards 2016 taking into account the review contained in Ireland's Pathway to Kyoto Compliance (2006). Its purpose is to demonstrate how Ireland is to meet its 2008-2012 Kyoto commitments and to identify further policy measures needed for the period from 2012 and after 2020.</p>	<p>The Strategy for reducing emissions is shared across all sectors but the main focus is on reducing transport emissions, encouraging more use of renewable energy sources, reducing energy consumption of buildings, changes in agriculture including promoting forestry, reducing herds, altering feeding regimes and greater use of agricultural waste and biomass for energy production. The Strategy sees local authorities as the key agents for change at the local level in achieving target reductions through their waste management plans by ensuring those generating waste pay the full cost of waste collection, treatment and disposal.</p>
<p>National Development Plan 2007-2013</p>	<p>The National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 <i>Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All</i> is a blueprint for the economic and social development of the Country up until 2013. One of the principal objectives of the plan is to promote balanced regional development. This plan builds on the previous NDP which identified the need for a National Spatial Strategy, in order to promote regional development throughout</p>	<p>Cork Gateway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate growth and development within the City. • Improved transport infrastructure • Roads, water services, port relocation and associated infrastructure to facilitate docklands regeneration; • Enhancement of tourism, cultural and recreational facilities;

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>the country by the identification of a number of development corridors as Gateways and Hubs in individual regions. These development corridors have been designated to act as development growth areas that will be promoted in terms of infrastructure and investment to act as economic drivers for their region.</p> <p>The five 'Investment Priorities' of the plan are Economic Infrastructure; Enterprise, Science and Innovation; Human Capital; Social Infrastructure; and Social Inclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands at Ringaskiddy and Carrigtohill to be developed by IDA Ireland as part of its Strategic Sites Initiative; and <p>Hub Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved transport, telecommunications and water services infrastructure • Physical regeneration of local housing stock; • Economic linkages with surrounding rural areas. <p>Rural areas</p> <p>Priority areas for investment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure; • Enterprise and Employment; • Agriculture and Food; • Tourism, Culture and Sport; and • Marine Sector.
<p>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future For Ireland - The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (White Paper)</p>	<p>Sub-titled the Energy Policy Framework 2007–2020, this document addresses how Ireland is to respond to international energy supply issues in the context of severe limitations on indigenous fuel supplies. Recognising that 90% of energy is currently imported the White Paper sets down a series of strategic goals.</p> <p>These include actions relating to security of energy supply, of which the development of additional electrical inter-connectors with other European Countries is a particular priority. Other measures include ensuring fuel diversity, the upgrading of the national transmission networks, stimulating hydrocarbon exploration and contingency planning in respect of possible energy supply disruption. The sustainable supply and use of energy is also a theme, with policy proposals to address climate change and energy efficiency. In relation to the use of renewables, a highly ambitious 33% contribution to electricity generation by 2020 is proposed.</p> <p>The main areas within which the strategic goals are framed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to ensure security of energy supply; • Actions to promote the sustainability of energy supply and use; 	<p>Actions outlined to ensure security of energy supply include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand • Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland • Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation • Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks • Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production • Being prepared for energy supply disruptions <p>Actions outlined to promote the sustainability of energy supply and use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing climate change by reducing energy related greenhouse gas emissions • Accelerating the growth of renewable energy sources • Promoting the sustainable use of energy in transport • Delivering an integrated approach to the sustainable development and use of bioenergy resources

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to enhance competitiveness of energy supply; Integrated approach to delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising Energy Efficiency and energy savings across the economy • Accelerating Energy Research Development and Innovation Programmes in support of sustainable energy goals <p>Actions outlined to enhance the competitiveness of energy supply include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering competition and consumer choice in the energy market • Delivering the All-Island Energy Market Framework • Ensuring that the regulatory framework meets the evolving energy policy challenges • Ensuring a sustainable future for Semi-State Energy Enterprises • Ensuring affordable energy for everyone • Creating jobs, growth and innovation in the energy sector
Grid 25 (Eirgrid 2008)	<p>Eirgrid, which is the Transmission System Operator (TSO), has put in place an infrastructure initiative / strategy until 2025 (Grid 25) aimed at facilitating reliable, secure and affordable electricity supplies throughout Ireland. Aims include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting growth in the regions and ensuring continued reliability and security of supply; • Providing high-quality, high voltage bulk power supply for Ireland that will enable the different regions to attract in future industry and boost existing industry; • Exploiting Ireland's natural renewable sources of energy (wind and wave); • Reducing Ireland's carbon emissions by transmitting renewable energy in line with Government policy; • Increasing Ireland's connectivity to the European Grid, allowing for both bulk exports of electricity and imports of electricity when appropriate. 	<p>Eirgrid has divided up the network into seven regions. With the exception of part of North Kerry the 'South West Planning Region' is contained within Eirgrids South West Region. North Kerry is located within Eirgrids Western Region.</p> <p>West Region Key Developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-rating over 250 km of existing networks to facilitate higher capacity power flows, using existing corridors where possible (which will allows for renewable resources from both wind and wave to feed into the National Electricity Grid) • Strengthening the transmission capacity across the Shannon Estuary. <p>South West Key Developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €730m will be invested in the infrastructure of the region, to include the upgrading of approximately 130 km of transmission network and new transmission developments; • Strengthening of the Cork network to allow power to be exported from the two large gas fired generators in East Cork; • Planned grid reinforcements to connect significant amounts of

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
		wind generation; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant strengthening of capacity between the South West and the South East to allow excess power to flow from both renewable and conventional sources to supply demand in other parts of the country.
National Biodiversity Plan 2002	<p>The National Biodiversity Plan sets out the framework through which Ireland is to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity over a five-year period being prepared as a response to the UN Convention of Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Plan has been developed to coincide with the National Heritage Plan, which sets out the framework for the protection and enhancement of all aspects of Ireland's heritage, which includes our natural heritage over the five years, from 2002.</p> <p>Objectives include the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity. Although such issues would generally be dealt with at local or site level, the RPGs should have regard to these objectives and promote such objectives where possible.</p>	-
National Heritage Plan 2002	<p>The purpose of the National Heritage Plan is to set out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Ireland's heritage over the five years from 2002.</p> <p>The goals of the National Heritage Plan are in line with the principles underlying the Government's Policy Statement on Heritage. The Plan is published with the endorsement of the Government, in fulfilment of a clear commitment in the Government's Action Programme for the Millennium.</p>	-
The Economic and Social Aspects of Biodiversity – Benefits and Costs of Biodiversity in Ireland	<p>The DEHLG document <i>The Economic and Social Aspects of Biodiversity – Benefits and Costs of Bio-diversity in Ireland</i> made significant progress in identifying overall biodiversity patterns across the country and a map was produced indicating biodiversity index value.</p>	-

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
Waste Management - Changing Our Ways (1998)	<p>Published in 1998, Waste Management - Changing our Ways, sets out a national policy framework for the adoption and implementation by local authorities of their waste management plans.</p> <p>This was the first in a series of comprehensive government policy documents on the management of waste in Ireland. It endorsed the integrated waste management approach, based on the internationally adopted hierarchy of options which places greatest emphasis on waste prevention, followed by minimisation, re-use, recycling, energy recovery and finally, the environmentally sustainable disposal of residual waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy document emphasises the pressing need for Irish waste management to move away from landfill, viewing the ultimate role of landfill as acting as a disposal outlet only for residual waste that cannot be reclaimed or recycled. • Policy document specifies that a small national network of regional landfill sites is required, with this network being served by increasing numbers of more localised waste recovery facilities and composting plants. • Changing Our Ways reiterates the targets for the progressive reduction of the use of landfill for biodegradable waste which are set down in the EU Landfill Directive, but adds further national targets such as for the reclamation of construction and demolition waste.
National Strategy for Biodegradable Waste	<p>The National Strategy for Biodegradable Waste was published in April 2006, being an obligation on Ireland under the Landfill Directive. An aim is to set out how the three progressive landfill diversion targets of the Directive are to have effect. While significant progress in the development of recycling and waste reclamation initiatives is noted, the continuing national dependency on landfill is described as substantial. It states that a major increase in recycling and biological treatment capacity is necessary in order to facilitate the EU requirements for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill.</p>	<p>The preferred options for dealing with Biodegradable Waste are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and minimisation – avoiding generating the waste • Recycling – mainly of paper and cardboard but also of textiles • Biological treatment – mainly of kitchen and garden waste including composting • Residual treatment – thermal treatment with energy recovery or by way of mechanical-biological treatment.
National Hazardous Waste Management Plan	<p>The Primary objective of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan is to prevent the production of hazardous waste and to minimise the effect of hazardous waste on the environment.</p> <p>The secondary objective is to manage hazardous waste in such a manner is to ensure that environmental pollution is minimised and not transferred from one medium to another; in other words to bring about a qualitative reduction in the quantity of hazardous waste requiring management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To describe and predict the type, quantity and origin of hazardous waste, its movement within, into and out of the country and facilities available for the collection, recovery and disposal of the waste. • To provide for, as appropriate, the identification of sites at which waste disposal activities that to a significant extent involved hazardous waste have been carried on, the assessment of any risk of environmental pollution and the recommending of measures to prevent or limit such pollution and to identify remedial measures. • To have regard to the precautionary principle in relation to the potentially harmful effects of emissions and the risk of environmental pollution. • To make recommendations, as respects the management of

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
		hazardous waste
OPW Guidelines on Flood Risk 2005	The OPW provide guidance on Planning Policy in relation to flooding. The policy which the Planning Authority should adopt is 'Development should not itself be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations'.	-
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DEHLG 2009)	<p>These guidelines require the planning system at national, regional and local levels to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding by not permitting development in flood risk areas, particularly floodplains, unless where it is fully justified that there are wider sustainability grounds for appropriate development and unless the flood risk can be managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall; • Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management based on avoidance, reduction and then mitigation of flood risk as the overall framework for assessing the location of new development in the development • Incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals. <p>Ensuring that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management is a core objective of the draft guidelines.</p>	-
Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines (DEHLG 2005)	<p>These guidelines set out in detail how the Government's policies on rural housing are to be implemented by planning authorities in making their development plans and in the operation of the development control system to ensure a vibrant future for all rural areas.</p> <p>While these guidelines facilitate the sustainable development of one-off houses in the open countryside, they also make it clear that in considering development proposals, including the attachment of planning conditions, planning authorities should only consider approving proposals they are satisfied will not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 designated areas.</p>	-

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DEHLG 2009)	This guidance document revises and updates the Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities published in 1999. The guidelines are focused on creating sustainable communities by incorporating the highest design standards and providing a coordinated approach to the delivery of essential infrastructure and services.	Promote the consolidation of the urban areas by providing for high-density residential development in the right locations, well-serviced in terms of public transport and community facilities and built to the highest possible standards.
Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-20 (Fáilte Ireland South West)	<p>Strategic Goals</p> <p>1. Build on the region's position as Ireland's leading tourism destination outside of Dublin, by focusing on innovative developments and marketing while delivering top quality experiences based on the region's natural and cultural assets and well-established range of leisure and business tourism facilities.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver high quality nature-based holiday experiences integrating wellness with adventure and related activities 'Nature and Nurture' based around established tourism service centres in counties Kerry and Cork • Position the City of Cork as a principal gateway to the region and as a major urban destination for business and leisure visitors • Exploit the maritime heritage and indigenous strengths of the region's coastal environs • Capitalise on the tourism potential of country pursuits and the cultural and linguistic heritage of the rural areas of Cork and Kerry. <p>2. Improve transportation links to and within the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a South West Coastal Walking Route and identify new walking routes in the region • Develop the potential for Cruise ships to dock and tender in the South West • Develop the heritage and cultural assets of the South West (Castles, Houses, Gardens, Trails etc • Ensure the sustained growth of Killarney and Ring of Kerry as a primary tourism hub with particular emphasis on the county's carrying capacity • Develop a major attraction to celebrate and stage natural culture • Promote the development of Cork's Inner and Outer harbours and explore the potential to develop tourism facilities in Cork's City Quays • Explore the potential of development of a necklace of marinas stretching along the coastline and a cluster of 'Centres of Excellence' in sailing • Develop the Blackwater and Lee valleys as inland propositions for country pursuits • Position the region as a leading destination for nature-based leisure activities. • Develop a regional coastal walking route. • Develop and market a West Cork island cluster, including a heritage trail and activities. • Develop boat-touring along the coastline.
Water Framework Directive / River Basin Management Plans	These provide for a programme of measures and a river basin management strategy, designed to achieve at least good status for all waters and to maintain high status where it exists for the three river basins located in the SW Region (South West RBD, Shannon IRBD and the South East RBD). It is envisaged that the final strategy will make recommendations in relation to managing development within the river	This Directive will set environmental objectives for each particular type of water body, with due consideration to social and economic costs. River Basin Management Plans are central to the framework as they advocate an integrated approach to the management of water bodies and consideration of the cumulative impacts of all activities within a river basin and district. They also

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	basin district	consider the risk posed to the environment.
Waste Management Plans	Kerry, Limerick, Clare Waste Management Plan which covers the period from 2006-11. Cork City Council and Cork County Council carried out a joint Waste Management Strategy for Cork in 1995. These Plans detail the amount of waste being generated in the Counties, the progress made since the previous Plans were introduced and how it is proposed to minimize and treat the waste that is produced in the Counties going forward. The concept of Reduction, Re-use and Recycling is fundamental to Regions Waste Management Plans.	<p>The Kerry/Limerick/Clare Waste Management Plans implementation provides for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencement of the process for the provision of thermal treatment capacity • Provision of adequate landfill capacity. <p>The Cork Waste Management Plans implementation provides for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Waste Recovery Facility that will allow active segregation of a large number of waste streams for their more effective recovery and disposal. • Development of an engineered residual landfill site in Cork County.
Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015	<p>The County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. The following are the overall objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>OS 2-1: Provide an improved quality of life for all the citizens of the area by promoting the area's economic potential, protecting its natural and built environment and safeguarding its cultural heritage.</p> <p>OS 2-2: Provide for the development of the area in a manner which is sustainable and protects its social, cultural, environmental and economic assets for future generations and is compliant with relevant EU and national legislation.</p> <p>OS 2-3: Provide for balanced growth throughout the area by promoting the strengthening of rural communities and provide the infrastructure to facilitate job creation in these areas.</p> <p>OS 2-4: Strengthen towns and villages throughout the County, improve the infrastructure provided, develop the critical mass necessary to maintain and expand the service provision within them, and make them more attractive places in which to live. In this plan, the term village is used to describe a close group of contiguous dwellings and services including shops etc. with a defined urban structure. It does not include a grouping of one-off rural housing dispersed over a townland or group of townlands.</p> <p>OS 2-5: Promote the development of the Tralee Killarney Hub as a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the development of the Tralee-Killarney Hub • Facilitate the provision of vibrant settlements throughout the County • Provide for the development of sustainable rural housing in the County • Encourage sustainable economic and employment growth in both urban and rural areas • Support the development of large scale industrial uses on zoned land within the Tarbert / Ballylongford area including large scale marine-related industry and enterprise which require deep water access • Facilitate the sustainable development of a diversified tourism industry • Encourage the provision of recreational and tourism infrastructure and outdoor recreational activities • Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of the energy and in particular the renewable energy sector in the County • Facilitate the development of the County's telecommunications network • Improve the transport infrastructure in the County • Improve waste management and water services infrastructure in the County

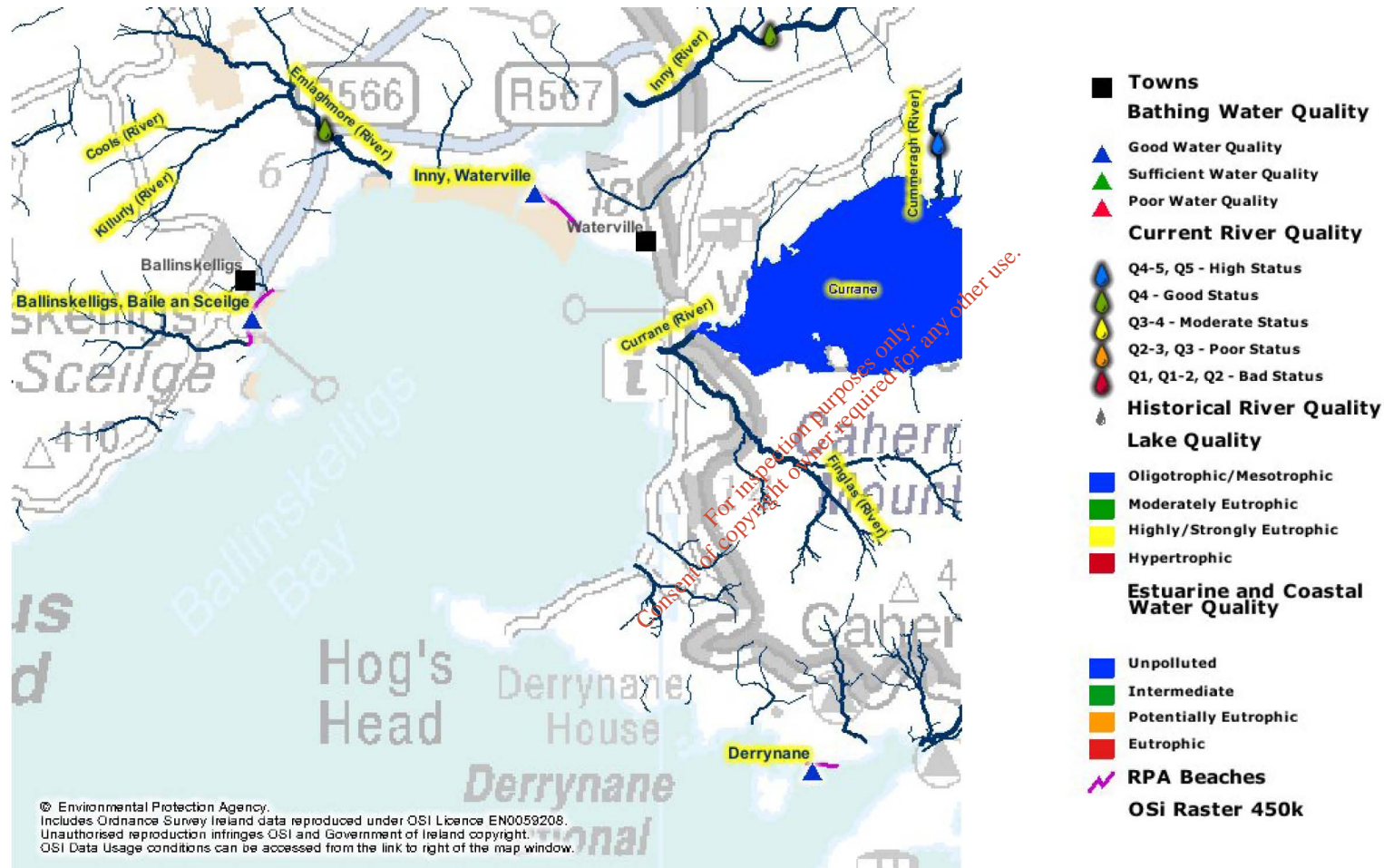
Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>means of strengthening the economic base of the County and acting as a focus for inward investment.</p> <p>OS 2-6: Ensure that the existing provisions, including land-use zoning, of the adopted Local Area Plans will remain in force pending their review during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>OS 2-7: Provide a high quality of design in private and public development, increasing the quality of the public realm while maintaining the character, form and settlement pattern of the villages.</p> <p>OS 2-8: Provide the infrastructure and support for the development and expansion of employment opportunities, including indigenous knowledge based industries.</p> <p>OS 2-9: Protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the County and promote Irish as the living community language.</p> <p>OS 2-10: Promote renewable energy measures and sustainable settlement patterns in order to promote energy conservation and sustainable communities and travel patterns in the future.</p> <p>OS 2-11: Protect the landscape of the County as an economic asset in addition to its intrinsic beauty and amenity value.</p> <p>OS 2-12: Facilitate where possible, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, family members on their own land.</p> <p>OS 2-13: To ensure that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be incorporated into development management and policy formulation in the county.</p> <p>OS 2-14: To protect and promote the natural biodiversity of the County through development management and as a core principle of policy formulation.</p> <p>OS 2-15: Ensure that all plans and programmes during the lifetime of this plan are screened for the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – The SEA Directive and the associated Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004.</p> <p>OS 2-8: Provide the infrastructure and support for the development and expansion of employment opportunities, including indigenous knowledge based industries.</p> <p>OS 2-9: Protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the County and promote Irish as the living community language. OS 2-10: Promote renewable energy measures and sustainable settlement patterns in</p>	<p><i>It is noted that a HDA screening report for the Kerry County Development Plan (2009-2015) indicated that it would not be likely to have significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.</i></p>

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	<p>order to promote energy conservation and sustainable communities and travel patterns in the future.</p> <p>OS 2-11: Protect the landscape of the County as an economic asset in addition to its intrinsic beauty and amenity value.</p> <p>OS 2-12: Facilitate where possible, in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, family members on their own land.</p> <p>OS 2-13: To ensure that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions will be incorporated into development management and policy formulation in the county.</p> <p>OS 2-14: To protect and promote the natural biodiversity of the County through development management and as a core principle of policy formulation.</p> <p>OS 2-15: Ensure that all plans and programmes during the lifetime of this plan are screened for the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – The SEA Directive and the associated Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004.</p>	
<p>Cork County Development Plan 2009-2015</p>	<p>The County Development Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. The key aims that underpin the strategy were first development in the County Development Plan 2003 and this plan seeks to maintain and enhance their implementation into the future in order to achieve the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhanced quality of life for all, based on high quality residential, working and recreational environments and sustainable transportation patterns; • Sustainable patterns of growth in urban and rural areas, reflecting the need to reduce energy consumption and emissions and taking account of the need to plan for the effects of climate change, that are well balanced throughout the County, together with efficient provision of social and physical infrastructure; • Sustainable and balanced economic investment, in jobs and services, to sustain the future population of the County together with wise management of the County's environmental, heritage and cultural assets; • Responsible guardianship of the County so that it can be handed on to future generations in a healthy state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable development in the County, consolidating development within the settlements • Promote and encourage sustainable economic growth in the County • Protect and develop the County's principle transportation, waste, water services, telecommunications and energy infrastructure <p><i>It is noted that a HDA screening report for the Cork County Development Plan (2009-2015) indicated that it would not be likely to have significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.</i></p>

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
Kerry County Council Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2008-2012	This document outlines a series of policies aims and actions to deal with education, access, research and management of the county's heritage and biodiversity assets.	-
Cork County Heritage Plan 2005-2010 and County Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014	<p>The main aims of the Cork County Heritage Plan are stated to be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness and to promote appreciation and enjoyment of the heritage of Co. Cork • To develop and encourage best practice in relation to the management and care of heritage in Co. Cork and to deliver practical actions to achieve this; • To gather and disseminate information about heritage in Co. Cork <p>The stated aim of the Cork Biodiversity Action Plan is 'to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to ensure that every person in the county has the opportunity to appreciate and understand its importance in our lives'</p>	-
Kerry and Cork Noise Action Plans	<p>A number of Noise Action Plans have been prepared by the Local Authorities in the Region to address environmental noise.</p> <p>These plans are prepared as per the requirements of the Environmental Noise Directive. The aim of the Directive and subsequent Regulations is to provide for the implementation of an EC common approach to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. Environmental noise is unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities, including noise emitted by means of transport, road traffic, rail traffic, air traffic and noise in agglomerations over a specified size.</p> <p>Types of noise not included in the Regulations are noise that is caused by the exposed person, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at workplaces or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.</p>	-
Kerry Strategic Water Study	The Kerry Strategic Water Study was commissioned to consider the water services of Kerry over a 25 year period. It identifies the need for priority investment in both water and waste water treatment in the	This report provides for upgrades to existing waste water treatment plants in the County.

Strategy/Plan/ Programme/ Project	Overview of Policy Direction:	Key issues contained in the Strategy / Plan / Programme, considered for potential 'in combination' effects include:
	County.	
Cork Strategic Water Study	The Cork Strategic Water Study was commissioned to consider the water services of Cork over a 25 year period. It identifies the need for priority investment in both water and waste water treatment in many of the metropolitan towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased water abstraction from the Lee Road and Inniscarra Dam. • Promote the development of a north ring water main from Inniscarra to Middleton via the proposed new town of Monard also serving any new growth in the northern environs of Cork City. • Promote upgrading of the Carrigrennan wastewater treatment works on little island and extension of this scheme to the proposed new town of Monard. • Promote the development of the Cork Lower Harbour Towns Waste Water Scheme • Promote modular extensions to the existing treatment works at Middleton, Carrigtwohill, Blarney and Ballincollig.
West Iveragh Settlements LAP 2008-2014	This is a local area plan for the West Iveragh Peninsula Area and includes the settlements of Waterville, Caherdaniel, Knightstown, Portmagee, Baile an Sceilg, Chapelstown, Dun Geagain, Kells, Maistir Gaoithe & an Chillin Liath, Renard and An Gleann. The settlement strategy (S5.2) outlines that 'Knightstown, Portmagee and Waterville' are considered important local service centres that have the capacity to absorb further development and act as stabilizing service centres for their rural hinterlands. The smaller settlements will continue to fulfill their existing role as focal points for the existing rural communities and will not be targeted for priority infrastructural development or growth over the six year period of the plan.'	Increased growth facilitated by the Plan could place additional pressures on existing infrastructure.

Appendix C: Current Water Quality in the Vicinity of the Agglomerations



EPA WATER STATUS REPORT GENERATED 11/11/2010

PLANNING POLICY UNIT
KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 2010.