

**SCREENING**  
**FOR**  
**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**  
**REPORT**

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**FOR**  
**PROPOSED VARIATION No. 2**  
**TO THE**  
**LOUTH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2022**  
**(AS VARIED)**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF**  
**ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE**

**for: Louth County Council**

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County Louth



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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

This Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, as varied, has been prepared to assist the competent authority in assessing whether or not Stage Two AA is required. AA is a procedure carried out in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the "Habitats Directive").

## 1.2 Legislative Context

The Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the "favourable conservation status" of habitats and species of European Community Interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds) with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as European sites and Natura 2000.

AA is required by the Habitats Directive, as transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act (as amended). AA is an assessment of the potential for adverse or negative effects of a plan or project, in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of a European site. These sites consist of SACs and SPAs and provide for the protection and long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

## 1.3 Approach

This Screening for AA report of Proposed Variation No. 2 is based on best scientific knowledge, has utilised ecological expertise and is supported by desktop research on national databases including the National Biodiversity Data Centre<sup>1</sup>, the NPWS<sup>2</sup>, and EPA<sup>3</sup> mapping websites (including data collected for the most recent Article 12 and 17 conservation status reporting cycle, 2019).

The ecological desktop study completed for the Screening for AA report of the Proposed Variation No.2 comprised the following elements:

- Identification of European sites within 15 km of Proposed Variation No. 2 boundary;
- Examination of European sites hydrologically linked (via direct surface water connection or shared groundwater body) or other ecological link beyond 15 km of Proposed Variation No. 2 boundary;
- Examination of the NPWS Qualifying Interests (for SACs), Special Conservation Interests (for SPAs) and Conservation Objectives or the above identified sites with potential pathways to the Proposed Variation No. 2 area; and
- Examination of available additional information on protected and or designated species as relevant/necessary.

There are four main stages in the AA process as follow:

### **Stage One: Screening**

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

### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European 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. If adequate mitigation is proposed to ensure no significant adverse impacts on European sites, then the process may

<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites> and <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba>

<sup>3</sup> Available at: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>

end at this stage. However, if the likelihood of significant impacts remains, then the process must proceed to Stage Three.

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

The process that examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site.

**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 (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. This approach aims to avoid any impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making process and avoiding such impacts. Second, the approach involves the application of mitigation measures, if necessary, during the AA process to the point where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If potential impacts on European sites remain, the approach requires the consideration of alternative solutions. If no alternative solutions are identified and the plan/project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect(s).

The assessment of potential effects on European sites is conducted following a standard source-pathway-receptor<sup>4</sup> model, where, in order for an effect to be established all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the model is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

In the interest of this report, receptors are the ecological features that are known to be utilised by the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of a European site. A source is any identifiable element of the Proposed Variation No. 2 provision that is known to interact with ecological processes. The pathways are any connections or links between the source and the receptor. This report provides information on whether any likely significant effect on any European Site could arise from the Proposed Variation No. 2.

This report has been prepared taking into account legislation including the aforementioned legislation and guidance including the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009;
- "Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC", European Commission 2018;
- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, European Commission Notice, Journal of the European Union, 2021; and Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021.

This report has been conducted in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species, for which the relevant European sites have been designated.

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<sup>4</sup> Source(s) – e.g. pollutant run-off from proposed works; Pathway(s) – e.g. groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and Receptor(s) – qualifying aquatic habitats and species of European Sites.

## Section 2 Description of the Proposed Variation

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. The Plan has already been varied in 2022 with Variation No. 1<sup>5</sup>.

Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA. These guidelines replace their predecessor; the 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) (2009)<sup>6</sup>. The 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities' have also undergone Appropriate Assessment, from which a Natura Impact Statement was produced<sup>7</sup>.

Table 2.1 below sets out the sections/tables in the County Development are proposed to be amended as part of Proposed Variation No. 2. For further detail, the Proposed Variation document should be referred to.

**Table 2.1 Sections and Tables of the County Development Plan proposed to be amended as part of Proposed Variation No. 2**

Plan Chapter	Section/Table/Policy Objective/Figure	Topic	Proposed Change
<b>Chapter 3 – Housing</b>	Section 3.2.1	Legislative Changes and Policy Responses	Various amendments including the year of the publication of Design Standards for New Apartments
	Section 3.11 (p.3-11)	Densities	Update and amend text to include reference to the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines
	Section 3.13 (page 3-13)	Principles for Quality Design and Layout	Omit text, and image pertaining to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines and associated Urban Design Manual. Insert image of 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
	Section 13.3.1 Figure 3.1 (page 3-15)	Placemaking	Omit Figure 3.1 – Urban Design Manual Criteria
	Policy Objective HOU 20 (page 3-17)	Policy Objective	Omit reference to 'Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' and include reference to 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
<b>Chapter 4 – Social and Community</b>	Section 4.5 (page 4-5)	Communities Facilities and Social infrastructure	Amended text in this section to omit the reference to Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (May 2009)
<b>Chapter 4</b>	Policy Objective SC11 (page 4-6)	Policy Objective	Include reference to Community, Social and Cultural Infrastructure Audit
<b>Chapter 13 – Development Management Guidelines</b>	Section 13.8.1 (page 13-9)	Introduction	Omit reference to: i) The Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, DEHLG, (2009); ii) Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide, DEHLG, (2009); Add reference to 'Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines' and the 'National Policy on Architecture'.
	Section 13.8.4 (page 13-9)	Density and Plot Ratio	Amend text in accordance with 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines and refer to Appendix B 'Measuring Residential Density' (page 68).
	Section 13.8.6 (page 13-10)	Building Heights	Refer to Appendix D Design Checklist of 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines' and any associated Design Manual
	Section 13.8.8 (page 13-11)	Design Statement	Omit reference to Urban Design Manual; Amend text to add reference to Appendix D Design Checklist of the 'Sustainable and Compact Settlements Guidelines'; and Appendix C 'Supplemental Information for Planning Applications' of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines'.

<sup>5</sup> Variation No. 1 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 updated the Plan: to take account of the methodology and housing projections as set out in the Section 28 Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning' and the 'Projected Housing Demand by Local Authority Area 2020-2031 – ESRI NPF Scenario Housing Supply Target' provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in December 2020; and to ensure that the Plan is consistent with Part V of the Planning and Development Act as amended by the Affordable Housing Act 2021. Variation No. 1 was screened for the need to undertake Stage 2 AA and it was determined that Stage 2 AA was not required.

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/111252/bf943e60-30d5-4ac3-8c7a-dc4f68b3d688.pdf#page=null>

<sup>7</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/280891/d4b49111-c8e9-4cab-b2f3-358b7c0f10ff.pdf#page=null>

Plan Chapter	Section/Table/ Policy Objective/ Figure	Topic	Proposed Change
	13.8.9.1 (page 13-11)	Privacy	Omit reference to minimum of 22m separation distance. Amend the text to reflect the revised minimum separation distance of 16m.
	Section 13.8.10 (page 13-11)	Daylight and Sunlight	Omit reference: 'Site Layout Planning for Daylight and Sunlight: A Guide to Good Practice (2011) and BS 8206-2008 – 'Lighting for Buildings – Part 2: Code of Practice for Daylighting'. Insert a reference to A New European Standard for Daylighting in Buildings IS EN17037:2018, UK National Annex BS EN17037:2019 and the associated BRE Guide 209 2022 Edition (June 2022) as set out in section 5.3.7 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
	Section 13.8.15 (page 13-13)	Public Open Space	Omit reference to 15% public open space of the total site area. Amend the text to reflect the change in public open space requirements as per Section 5.3.3 of 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
	Section 13.8.17 (page 13-14)	Private Open Space	Update text and amend Table 13.4 to reflect the revised minimum private open space requirements as set out in Table 5.1 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
	Section 13.8.28	Design Standards for new Apartments	Amend reference to The Design Standards for New Apartments (2023)
	Section 13.16 (page 13-41)	Transport	Omit reference to Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities; and replace with reference to 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'. Insert a reference to the 'National Sustainable Mobility Policy'.
	Section 13.16.11	Parking Standards that reflect the Demand and Location	Remove text relating to existing criteria and amend text to reflect new guidelines
	Table 13.10 (p 13-44)	Car and Cycle Parking	Update Table 13.10 'Parking Areas in County Louth' to take account of the criteria/parking tiers set out in Table 3.8 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
	Table 13.11 (p13-45)		Update the Car Parking Standards for residential dwellings in Table 13.11 to reflect the car parking requirements set out in SPPR 3 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines'.
<b>General</b>	Various	Section numbers and Table numbers	All section numbers and Table numbers will be reviewed and updated to take account of any sections or tables deleted as a result of the proposed Variation.

## Section 3 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

### 3.1 Introduction to screening

This stage of the process identifies any potential significant affects to European sites from a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.

An important element of the AA process is the identification of the “Conservation Objectives” (COs), “Qualifying Interests” (QIs) and/ or “Special Conservation Interests” (SCIs) of European Sites requiring assessment. QIs are the habitat features and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive for which each European Site has been designated and afforded protection. SCIs are wetland habitats and bird species listed within Annexes I and II of the Birds Directive. It is also vital that the threats to the ecological / environmental conditions that are required to support QIs and SCIs are considered as part of the assessment.

The following NPWS Generic Conservation Objectives have been considered in the screening:

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected; and
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.

Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat<sup>8</sup> or species<sup>9</sup> at that site have been considered.

### 3.2 Identification of relevant European Sites

The Department of the Environment (2009) Guidance on AA recommends a 15 km pathway consideration zone to be considered. All European sites within a 15km radius of the County Development Plan area to which Proposed Variation No. 2 relates were examined to assess potential connectivity corridors on a landscape scale, and assess potential interactions between Proposed Variation No. 2 and the Conservation Objectives of each of the sites.

Details of European sites that occur within the 15 km Pathway Consideration Zone of, or have hydrological / ecological connectivity with, the Proposed Variation No. 2 area are listed in Table 3.1 and mapped in Figure 3.1.

Information on QIs, SCIs, site-specific vulnerabilities and sensitivities (see Appendix I) and background information (such as that within Ireland’s Article 17 Report to the European Commission, site synopses and Natura 2000 standard data forms) has also been considered by the AA screening assessment. The COs of the European sites that have been considered throughout the assessment report, were sourced from the following NPWS documents:

- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Mountain SAC [IE0000453] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SAC [IE0000455] Version 1.
- NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives for Clogher Head SAC [IE0001459] Version 1.
- NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC [IE0001957] Version 1.
- NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [IE0002299] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Shore SAC [IE0002306] Version 1.
- NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives for Dundalk Bay SPA [IE0004026] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Carlingford Lough SPA [IE0004078] Version 1.
- NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives for Boyne Estuary SPA [IE0004080] Version 1.
- NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Stabannan-Braganstown SPA [IE0004091] Version 1.

<sup>8</sup> Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

<sup>9</sup> The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [IE0004232] Version 1.

NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives for River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA [IE0004158] Version 1.

NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives for North-west Irish Sea SPA [IE0004236] Version 1.

The COs focus on maintaining the favourable conservation condition of the QIs/SCIs of each European site, therefore the screening process concentrated on assessing any likely significant effects on any European Site of the Plan with respect to the QIs/SCIs of each European site.



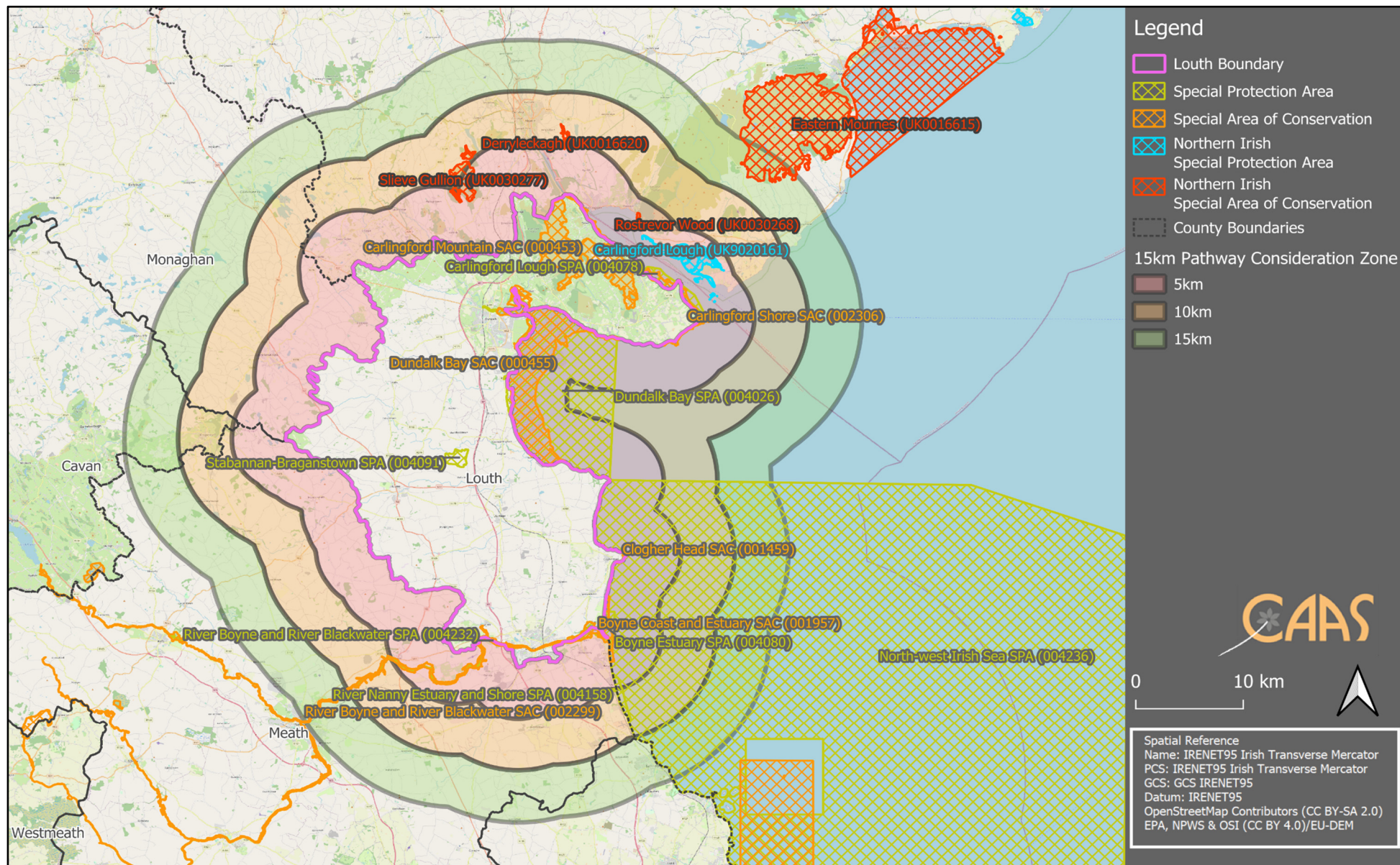


Figure 3.1 European sites with pathways for potential effects from the Plan boundary<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Source: NPWS (datasets accessed January 2024). UK SACs and SPAs no longer form part of the Natura 200 network, and therefore are not subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive. UK SACs and SPAs which occur within the 15km pathway consideration zone here have been included for context only and are not otherwise part of this Screening for AA report.

### 3.3 Assessment Criteria

All provisions of Proposed Variation No. 2 are considered in this report with respect to the ecological sensitivities of each of the European sites identified. The sensitivities, threats and pressures of the QIs in relation to all potential sources for effects identified, and potential pathways for such effects identified above are then examined by the Screening for AA in Table 3.1. If/where sources within Proposed Variation No. 2 and pathways for potential significant effects are identified, the European sites concerned will proceed to Stage 2 AA (where a Natura Impact Statement is then required).

#### 3.3.1 Is Proposed Variation No. 2 Necessary to the Management of European Sites?

The overarching objective of Proposed Variation No. 2 is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities'<sup>11</sup>, published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, which replaces its predecessor, the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) (2009)<sup>12</sup>. Therefore, Proposed Variation No. 2 is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

#### 3.3.2 Elements of Proposed Variation No. 2 with Potential to Give Rise to Effects

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for various likely significant effects on European Sites and through the production of a Natura Impact Statement, facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. Plan elements that were identified as having the potential to affect European Sites include:

- Provisions for sectors such as transport, urbanisation, streetscape works, community facilities, utilities, natural resource, coastal, tourism and recreation development that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and/habitat fragmentation.

Regarding the Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 (CDP); the Variation is comprised of several amendments made to the CDP to account for the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities' 2024 (full details of which are set out in Section 2). Proposed Variation No. 2 concerns the following chapters within the CDP:

- Housing (Chapter 3);
- Social and Community (Chapter 4);
- Development Management Guidelines (Chapter 13); and,
- All areas where the previous Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines of 2009 were referenced.

Accounting for the contents of the 2024 Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities within the CDP, as represented by Proposed Variation No. 2, involve changes to the above Chapters such as:

- Updating the tiered approach to density with a focus on delivering sustainable and compact densities in suitable locations, whilst retaining the quality of living space in aspects such as daylight, quality of public realm, and open space;
- Altering the Public Open Space requirements from 15% to 10-15%<sup>13</sup>;
- Reducing private open space requirements
- Altering densities of residential dwellings from 22m to 16m;
- Increasing focus for residential development along public transport thoroughfares and connectivity points; and,
- Adjusting parking availability relative to public transport proximity and availability

The above summarised Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 involves taking account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements

<sup>11</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aaea6-sustainable-residential-development-and-compact-settlements-guidelines-for-planning-authorities/>

<sup>12</sup> Available at: <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/111252/bf943e60-30d5-4ac3-8c7a-dc4f68b3d688.pdf#page=null>

<sup>13</sup> Does not apply to development sites which "contain significant heritage, landscape or recreational features and sites that have specific nature conservation requirements". For such sites "a higher proportion of public open space may need to be retained".

Guidelines for Planning Authorities' 2024. This Guidance document has itself undergone Appropriate Assessment, for which a Natura Impact Statement has been produced<sup>7</sup>. The variation involves increases in density of housing design, while maintaining quality public and private realm spaces for the benefit of residents, and ensuring important natural environment features / protected habitats and species will be taken into account in the design constraints.

Therefore, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan and the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report and Natura Impact Statement that accompanies the Plan and Guidelines respectively).

### 3.3.3 Screening of Sites

Table 3.1 examines whether there is potential for likely significant effects on European sites considering information provided above, including Appendix I. European sites are screened based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- The existence of potential for pathways for likely significant effects, such as hydrological links between Strategy proposals and the site to be screened;
- The distance of the relevant site from the Strategy boundary; and
- The existence of a link between identified threats or vulnerabilities at a site to potential impacts that may arise from the Strategy.

As outlined in the European Commission Environment DG document "*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*" outlines the types of effects that may affect European Sites.

These include effects from the following activities:

- Land take
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.)
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air)
- Excavation Requirements
- Transportation Requirements
- Duration of Construction, Operation, Decommissioning

In addition, the guidance document outlines the following likely changes that may occur at a designated site, which may result in effects on the integrity and function of that site:

- Loss/reduction of habitat area;
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Disturbance to key species;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and
- Climate change.

Assessment of potential impacts on European Sites is conducted utilising a standard source-pathway model (see approach referred to under Section 1 and Section 3). Proposed Variation No. 2 is considered in Table 3.1 with reference to the QIs/SCIs of all of the European sites identified.

**Table 3.1 Screening for AA**

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Alkaline fens [7230], European dry heaths [4030], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001459	Clogher Head SAC	Site is within or partially within County Louth	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Estuaries [1130], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p>	No	No

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				<p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>		
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Alkaline fens [7230], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Shelduck ( <i>Tadoma tadoma</i> ) [A048], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
004078	Carlingford Lough SPA	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p>	No	No

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Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Qualifying Feature (Qualifying Interests & Special Conservation Interests)	Analysis for Likely Significant Effects (Refer also to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above)	Likelihood of Significant Effects	Likelihood for Significant In-Combination Effects
				<p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>		
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	Site is within or partially within County Louth	Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albirostris</i> ) [A195], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> ) [A187], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013], Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204], Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Little Gull ( <i>Larus minutus</i> ) [A177]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	3.88	Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143]	<p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024, and subject to Stage 2 AA.</p> <p>The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for potential likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.</p> <p>As discussed in Section 3.3.2, there are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan).</p> <p>Considering the above, the Conservation Objectives, and the known threats and pressures relating to European sites, there is no additional source for an effect on any European site that has a pathway with a likelihood for a significant effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes. Consequently, no further assessment is required.</p>	No	No

### **3.4 Other Plans and Programmes**

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an assessment of a plan or project to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the plan or project, have the potential to adversely impact upon European sites. There are no provisions in Proposed Variation No. 2 that introduce any additional source for an effect on any European site that was not already considered by the existing Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 and associated AA processes (refer also to the detail provided under Section 3.3). Therefore, there are no in combination effects identified resulting from the implementation of Proposed Variation No. 2.



## **Section 4 Screening for AA Concluding Advice**

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Louth County Council. Proposed Variation No. 2 seeks to update the County Development Plan to take account of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in January 2024.

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. There are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 2 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan). As are no provisions in the Proposed Variation No. 2 that introduce any additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site, there are no in combination likely significant effects identified.

Therefore, it is concluded in this Screening for AA to inform the competent authority carrying out the AA Screening, that Proposed Variation No. 2 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for a significant effect to any European site as a result of implementing Proposed Variation No. 2 can be ruled out.

This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

## Appendix I Background information on European sites

List of European Sites considered by the screening assessment; including the Qualifying features (Qualifying Interests or Special Conservation Interests) and Site Vulnerability/Sensitivity

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
000453	Carlingford Mountain SAC	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Alkaline fens [7230], European dry heaths [4030], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> ) [8110]	J02.01.03, B02.01, I03.01, J01, G02, J03.02, I02, K04.01, D02.03, I01, B02.02, A04.03, X, A04.02, G05, J03.01, G01.08, G01.03.02, G05.01	Infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, forest replanting, genetic pollution (animals), fire and fire suppression, sport and leisure structures, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity, problematic native species, competition (flora), communication masts and antennas, invasive non-native species, forestry clearance, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, no threats or pressures, non-intensive grazing, other human intrusions and disturbances, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, other outdoor sports and leisure activities, off-road motorized driving, trampling, overuse
000455	Dundalk Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> ) [1410], Estuaries [1130], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330]	G02.09, I01, J02.12.01, H01, H02.06, J02.04, J03.01, H04.02, M02.04, J02.01.03, G02, J02.01.02, H05, E03.03, F02.03.01, K04.01, J02.04.01, E03.01, F05, H01.06, K01.01, G01, G05.02, H05.01, K02, G01.01.01, J03.02	Wildlife watching, invasive non-native species, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), diffuse groundwater pollution due to agricultural and forestry activities, flooding modifications, reduction or loss of specific habitat features, nitrogen-input, migration of species (natural newcomers), infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, sport and leisure structures, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges), disposal of inert materials, bait digging or collection, competition (flora), flooding, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, diffuse pollution to surface waters due to transport and infrastructure without connection to canalization or sweepers, erosion, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, shallow surface abrasion or mechanical damage to seabed surface, garbage and solid waste, biocenotic evolution, succession, motorized nautical sports, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity
001459	Clogher Head SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]	J03.01, J02.12.01, E06.02, D01.01, D03.01.03, E05, X, D03.01, A04.02, E03.01, I01, G02, F02.01, A04.03, D03.01.02	Reduction or loss of specific habitat features, sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, reconstruction, renovation of buildings, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, fishing harbours, storage of materials, no threats or pressures, port areas, non-intensive grazing, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, invasive non-native species, sport and leisure structures, professional passive fishing, abandonment of pastoral systems lack of grazing, piers or tourist harbours or recreational piers
001957	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> ) [1330], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Estuaries [1130], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]	G05, E03.01, J03.03, H01, J02.12, J02.02, J02.12.01, J02.01.03, L07, E03.03, G03, E01, K02, G01.03.02, D01.01, G05.04, G01.02, E05, I01, D01.05, J02	Other human intrusions and disturbances, disposal of household or recreational facility waste, reduction, lack or prevention of erosion, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, removal of sediments (mud...), sea defence or coast protection works, tidal barrages, infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits, storm, cyclone, disposal of inert materials, interpretative centres, urbanised areas, human habitation, biocenotic evolution, succession, off-road motorized driving, paths, tracks, cycling tracks, vandalism, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, storage of materials, invasive non-native species, bridge, viaduct, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	Alkaline fens [7230], River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) [1099], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) [91E0], Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) [1106], Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) [1355]	A01, E01.04, A05.02, G05.06, E02, A03, D01.02, H01, E03.02, G05, A10.01, G01, G02.10, J02.11, C01.01, A07, B01.02, A08, J02.05.02, J02.10, E05, J02, J02.15, I01, D01.05, E03.04	Cultivation, other patterns of habitation, stock feeding, tree surgery, felling for public safety, removal of roadside trees, industrial or commercial areas, mowing or cutting of grassland, roads, motorways, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), disposal of industrial waste, other human intrusions and disturbances, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other sport or leisure complexes, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, sand and gravel extraction, use of biocides, hormones and chemicals, artificial planting on open ground (non-native trees), fertilisation, modifying structures of inland water courses, management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes, storage of materials, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, invasive non-native species, bridge, viaduct, other discharges
002306	Carlingford Shore SAC	Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]	F05, G05, F02, F04.02.01, F01.02, H01, F05.07, F06, F01.03, G01.03, F02.03, G01.01, F01, F03.01, X, H01.01, G01.03.01	Illegal taking or removal of marine fauna, other human intrusions and disturbances, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hand raking, suspension culture, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), other (i.e. drift nets), hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above, bottom culture, motorised vehicles, leisure fishing, nautical sports, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting, no threats or pressures, pollution to surface waters by industrial plants, regular motorized driving
004026	Dundalk Bay SPA	Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) [A160], Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina</i> ) [A149], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) [A054], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Greylag Goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043], Teal ( <i>Anas crecca</i> ) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Great Crested Grebe ( <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> ) [A005], Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Bar-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ) [A157], Red-breasted Merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ) [A069], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Mallard ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> ) [A053]	F02.03, E01, J02.12, E02, A04, D03.02, G01.02, E01.03, J02.11, I01, E03, G01.01, D01.02, A08	Leisure fishing, urbanised areas, human habitation, dykes, embankments, artificial beaches, general, industrial or commercial areas, grazing, shipping lanes, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, dispersed habitation, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, invasive non-native species, discharges, nautical sports, roads, motorways, fertilisation

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature	Pressure Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
004078	Carlingford Lough SPA	Light-bellied Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ) [A674], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	F01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture
004080	Boyne Estuary SPA	Grey Plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ) [A141], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) [A162], Lapwing ( <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> ) [A142], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ) [A048], Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ) [A169], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Black-tailed Godwit ( <i>Limosa limosa</i> ) [A156], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140]	I01, G02.01, G01.02, E01, J02.05, F02.03, J02.01.02, J02.11, F01	Invasive non-native species, golf course, walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, urbanised areas, human habitation, modification of hydrographic functioning, general, leisure fishing, reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh, siltation rate changes, dumping, depositing of dredged deposits, marine and freshwater aquaculture
004091	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA	Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ) [A043]	A04, A08, A02, A01, D01.02	Grazing, fertilisation, modification of cultivation practices, cultivation, roads, motorways
004158	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA	Ringed Plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) [A137], Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ) [A140], Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ) [A144], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Knot ( <i>Calidris canutus</i> ) [A143], Oystercatcher ( <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ) [A130]	G01.02, E01.01	Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles, continuous urbanisation
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	Kingfisher ( <i>Alcedo atthis</i> ) [A229]	D01.02, E01, X, E01.03, J02	Roads, motorways, urbanised areas, human habitation, no threats or pressures, dispersed habitation, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
004236	North-west Irish Sea SPA	Red-throated Diver ( <i>Gavia stellata</i> ) [A001], Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ) [A184], Cormorant ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ) [A017], Fulmar ( <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> ) [A009], Great Northern Diver ( <i>Gavia immer</i> ) [A003], Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ) [A018], Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) [A179], Little Tern ( <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ) [A195], Common Scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ) [A065], Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ) [A188], Lesser Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) [A183], Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) [A193], Great Black-backed Gull ( <i>Larus marinus</i> ) [A187], Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) [A182], Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ) [A200], Roseate Tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ) [A192], Manx Shearwater ( <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> ) [A013], Puffin ( <i>Fratercula arctica</i> ) [A204], Arctic Tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ) [A194], Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ) [A199], Little Gull ( <i>Larus minutus</i> ) [A177]	N/A	N/A

List of all Qualifying Interests of SACs that have been considered by the screening assessment, including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
[1099]	River Lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> )	The main pressures on River Lampreys are associated with hydropower infrastructure and changes in rainfall due to climate change. The use of synthetic and natural fertilisers, drainage and also infrastructure related to shipping are also considered to be pressures on the species.	A19, A20, A31, D02, E03, N01, N02, N03	Application of natural fertilisers on agricultural land, application of synthetic (mineral) fertilisers on agricultural land, drainage for use as agricultural land, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface water dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological change. Availability of suitable spawning ground is a considerable issue for the species.
[1106]	Salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )	Known pressures include exploitation at sea in commercial fisheries, interceptor fisheries in coastal waters, aquaculture and predation. In addition, the negative influence of climate change on prey structure as well as alterations in habitat and water quality are also pressures on the species.	A25, A26, B23, D02, F12, F28, G11, G19, G20, I02, J01, K05, L06, N01	Agricultural activities generating point source pollution to surface or ground waters, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, forestry activities generating pollution to surface or ground waters, hydropower (dams, weirs, run-off-the-river), including infrastructure, discharge of urban waste water (excluding storm overflows and/or urban run-offs) generating pollution to surface or ground water, modification of flooding regimes, flood protection for residential or recreational development, illegal harvesting, collecting and taking, other impacts from marine aquaculture, including infrastructure, abstraction of water, flow diversion, dams and other modifications of hydrological conditions for freshwater aquaculture, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), physical alteration of water bodies, interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Disease, parasites and barriers to movement.
[1130]	Estuaries	Most of the pressures on estuaries come from various sources of pollution, including domestic wastewater, agriculture and marine aquaculture. Alien invasive species such as the naturalised Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ) are also recognised as a significant pressure	A28, F20, G16, I02, XU	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), unknown pressure	Inappropriate development, changes in turbidity
[1140]	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Pressures on mudflats and sandflats are partly caused by pollution from agricultural, forestry and wastewater sources, as well as impacts associated with marine aquaculture, particularly the Pacific oyster ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ).	A28, F20, G16	Agricultural activities generating marine pollution, residential or recreational activities and structures generating marine pollution (excl. marine macro- and micro- particular pollution, marine aquaculture generating marine pollution	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Moderate sensitivity to pollution. Changes to salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development.
[1210]	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Most of the pressures on drift lines are associated with activities such as recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, F01, F06, F07, F08	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures)	Overgrazing and erosion. Changes in management.
[1220]	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	The main pressures on this habitat are associated with coastal defences (which can interfere with sediment dynamics), recreation and shingle removal.	C01, E01, F07, F08, F09, I02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial,	Marine water dependent. Low sensitivity to hydrological changes. Coastal development, trampling from

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EU Code	Qualifying Interests	Article 17 Report Summary - Threats and Pressures	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures	Sensitivity of Qualifying Interests
				industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), deposition and treatment of waste/garbage from household/recreational facilities, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	recreational activity and gravel removal.
[1230]	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	A number of significant pressures were identified, including trampling by walkers, invasive non-native species, gravel extraction, and sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change.	C01, E01, F07, F08, I02, N03, N04	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change, sea-level and wave exposure changes due to climate change	Land use activities such as tourism and/or agricultural practices. Direct alteration to the habitat or effects such as burning or drainage.
[1310]	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pressures on Salicornia mud are caused by alien species and overgrazing by livestock	A09, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine water dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Infilling, reclamation, invasive species.
[1330]	Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	The main pressures on Atlantic salt meadows are from agriculture, including ecologically unstable grazing regimes and land reclamation, and the invasive non-native species common cord-grass ( <i>Spartina anglica</i> ).	A09, A33, A36, F07, F08, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Overgrazing, erosion and accretion.
[1355]	Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )	There are no pressures facing this species	Xxp, Xxt	No pressures, no threats	Surface and marine water dependent. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Sensitivity to pollution.
[1410]	Mediterranean salt meadows ( <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> )	Most of the pressures on Mediterranean salt meadows are associated with agriculture, including overgrazing, under-grazing and land reclamation.	A09, A10, A33, A36	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, modification of hydrological flow or physical alternation of water bodies for agriculture (excluding development and operation of dams), agriculture activities not referred to above	Marine and groundwater dependent. Medium sensitivity to hydrological change. Changes in salinity and tidal regime. Coastal development and reclamation.
[2110]	Embryonic shifting dunes ( <i>Embryonic shifting dunes</i> )	The majority of pressures on this habitat are associated with recreation and coastal defences, which can interfere with sediment dynamics.	C01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, L01, L02	Extraction of minerals (e.g., rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2120]	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with white dunes ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> )	Most of the pressures on marram dunes are caused by the interference on sediment dynamics due to recreation and coastal defences.	E01, E03, F01, F06, F07, F08, I02, L01	Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g., bridges, viaducts, tunnels), shipping lanes, ferry lanes and anchorage infrastructure (e.g., canalisation, dredging), conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions), development and maintenance of beach areas for tourism and recreation incl. beach nourishment and beach cleaning, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[2130]	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ( <i>grey dunes</i> )	Pressures on fixed dunes are associated with recreation and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.	A02, A09, A10, F07, F08, I02, L02	Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, sports, tourism and leisure activities, modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions for development, use and protection of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas (including sea defence or coast protection works and infrastructures), other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Overgrazing, and erosion. Changes in management.
[4010]	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Overgrazing, burning, wind farm development and erosion are the main pressures associated with this habitat, along with nitrogen deposition from agricultural activities that generate air pollution.	A09, A11, A27, B01, D01, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[4030]	European dry heaths	A number of significant pressures were recorded for this habitat in the current reporting period, particularly overgrazing by sheep and burning for agriculture with afforestation and wind farms also being recognised as pressures.	A09, A11, B01, D01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Moderately sensitive to hydrological change. Changes in management. Changes in nutrient status.
[4060]	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Overgrazing by livestock, tourism (hill walking) and agricultural activities that cause air pollution are considered significant pressures for this habitat.	A09, A27, F07, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, sports, tourism and leisure activities, temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Changes in management. Changes in nutrient or base status. Moderately sensitive to hydrological change.

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[6230]	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	The main pressures on this habitat are due to bracken encroachment and succession.	I04, L02	Problematic native species, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Changes in management such as grazing regime. Changes in nutrient or base status. Changes to vegetation composition. Introduction of alien species.
[7130]	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	The main pressures on blanket bogs are overgrazing, burning, afforestation, peat extraction, and agricultural activities causing nitrogen deposition. Erosion, drainage and wind farm construction are also pressures relating to this habitat.	A09, A11, A27, B01, C05, D01, K02, L01, N01, N02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, burning for agriculture, agricultural activities generating air pollution, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure, drainage, abiotic natural processes (e.g., erosion, silting up, drying out, submersion, salinization), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change	Surface water interactions. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7140]	Transition mires and quaking bogs	The main pressures facing transition mires in Ireland are afforestation, water pollution, drainage and hydrological changes with grazing/agricultural management also being a pressure.	A06, A09, B01, C05, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation (excluding drainage), peat extraction, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Surface water interactions. Groundwater isolated system with sensitivities related to the bog basin. Drainage and land use management are the key things.
[7230]	Alkaline fens	The main pressures facing this habitat are land abandonment (and associated succession), overgrazing, drainage and pollution.	A06, A09, A26, J01, K01, K02, K04, L02, N02, N03	Abandonment of grassland management (e.g., cessation of grazing or of mowing), intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating diffuse pollution to surface or ground waters, mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial), abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water, drainage, modification of hydrological flow, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices), temperature changes (e.g., rise of temperature & extremes) due to climate change, increases or changes in precipitation due to climate change	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Inappropriate management.
[8110]	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels ( <i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i> )	The main pressures on siliceous scree come from overgrazing, under-grazing and succession.	A09, A10, L02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, extensive grazing or under grazing by livestock, natural succession resulting in species composition change (other than by direct changes of agricultural or forestry practices)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[8210]	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	The majority of pressures related to this habitat are associated with overgrazing and the non-native invasive species New Zealand willowherb ( <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> ).	A09, A27, I02	Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock, agricultural activities generating air pollution, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern)	Erosion, overgrazing and recreation.
[91E0]	Alluvial forests with Alder and Ash ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> )	Many of the pressures facing this habitat include invasive species, particularly sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), Indian balsam ( <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ) and currant species ( <i>Ribes nigrum</i> and <i>R. rubrum</i> ) as well as some native species such as brambles ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and common nettle, along with over felling.	B09, I02, I04, I05	Clear-cutting, removal of all trees, other invasive alien species (other than species of union concern), problematic native species, plant and animal diseases, pathogens and pests	Surface and groundwater dependent. Highly sensitive to hydrological changes. Changes in management.

Screening for AA Report for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

List of all Special Conservation Interest of SPAs that have undergone Assessment including Summaries of Current Threats and Sensitivity to Effects

Species Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Threats and Pressures Codes	Known Threats and Pressures
A003	Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	C03, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A009	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	C03, F02	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources
A013	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A017	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>	C03, F02, F03, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A018	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A043	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F03, G01, H07	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other forms of pollution
A048	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	F01, F02, G01, H03, M01	Marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A054	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	C03, F01, F03, G01, H01, H03, H07, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A069	Red-Breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A130	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A137	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A140	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A02, A04, B01, C01, C03, F01, G01, H03, J01, K03, M02	Modification of cultivation practices, grazing, forest planting on open ground, mining and quarrying, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, fire and fire suppression, interspecific faunal relations, changes in biotic conditions
A141	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A142	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	A02, C03, F01, G01, H03	Modification of cultivation practices, renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution
A143	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A144	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, changes in abiotic conditions
A149	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A157	Bar-Tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A162	Common Redthick	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	C03, F01, F02, G01, H03, J02, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A169	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	C03, F01, G01, H03, J03, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A177	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the npws
A179	Black-Headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A182	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	A04, C03, F02, H03, J03, M01	Grazing, renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications, changes in abiotic conditions
A183	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A184	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	C03, F02, H03, J03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution, other ecosystem modifications
A187	Great Black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Xxp/Xxt	No threats and pressures identified by the npws
A188	Black-Legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	C03, F02, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, marine water pollution
A192	Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	C03, D01, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A193	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	C03, D01, D03, G01, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species
A194	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	C03, D01, G01, I01, M01	Renewable abiotic energy use, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, invasive non-native species, changes in abiotic conditions
A200	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	C03, H03	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution
A204	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	C03, H03, I01	Renewable abiotic energy use, marine water pollution, invasive non-native species
A229	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	A11, D01, G01, H01, I01, J02	Agriculture activities not referred to above, roads, paths and railroads, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish), invasive non-native species, human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
A674	Light-Bellied Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	A02, A11, C03, D02, F01, G01, G05, H03, H07, I01, J03	Modification of cultivation practices, agriculture activities not referred to above, renewable abiotic energy use, utility and service lines, marine and freshwater aquaculture, outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities, other human intrusions and disturbances, marine water pollution, other forms of pollution, invasive non-native species, other ecosystem modifications