



Cork County Council

Cork County Council Development Plan 2009 – Draft Variation No. 3, Changes to Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 of Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2009

Habitats Directive Screening Statement

**Prepared by Cork County Council,
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1 Introduction

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 Cork County Council is in the process of preparing Local Area Plans for the ten electoral areas of the County and has recently published these in draft form (November 2010) and proposed amendments to same (April 2011). Arising from these plans, a variation is proposed to be made to the County Development Plan (2009), in order to ensure that objectives of the Local Area Plans and the County Development Plan are consistent, and to reflect changes in policy which have emerged during the making of the Electoral Area Local Area Plans.

1.1.2 The draft variation also includes a 'Core Strategy' as required under Section 7 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) 2010.

1.1.3 In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans, on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (Natura 2000 sites¹), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting, amending or varying a landuse plan. This is to determine whether or not the implementation of plan policies could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant and animal species for which these sites are designated, and to avoid such impacts. This assessment process is called a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) and must be carried out for all stages of the plan making process.

1.1.4 The draft variation has been assessed in accordance with this requirement and the results of that assessment are presented in this report. The draft variation is set out in 'Proposed Variation to the Cork County Development Plan, Variation No. 3' published by Cork County Council in April 2011.

1.2 Legislative Background Habitats Directive Assessment

1.2.1 Habitats Directive Assessment, also referred to as Appropriate Assessment, is a process which involves the evaluation of the potential impacts of plans and projects on Natura 2000 sites and the habitats and species that they support and, where necessary, the development of mitigation measures to avoid any such impacts. It is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs the plan making process, involving analysis and review of draft policies, or amendments/variations, as they emerge during each stage of plan making. Within this process, regard must also be had to the potential for policies or amendments to policies, to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans or policies.

1.2.2 Articles 6(3) of the Directive sets out the requirement for the assessment of plans and projects affecting Natura 2000 sites as follows:

¹ Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction, or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Article 6 (2) of the Habitats Directive sets out the principle requirements in relation to the protection of these sites – *"Member states shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Directive"*.

6(3) Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site and subject to the provision of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

1.2.3 Article 6(4) of the Directive deals with derogation procedures, where it is decided to proceed with a plan/project despite a finding that negative impacts are likely.

6(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment, or further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

1.2.4 In relation to plan making, the process of assessment may result in the modification or removal of policies proposed to the plan or in the adoption of new policies. Where a variation is proposed, it may result in an amendment to the wording of the variation, or, if significant issues arise, a recommendation not to proceed with the variation. At the end of the process of making this variation, a final Natura Impact Report and Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement will be produced which will contain a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites are integrated into the plan as well as a statement regarding the potential for the variation to result in significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.

1.2.5 The European Union has provided guidance as to how to complete a Habitats Directive Assessment for land use plans which identifies four main stages in the process as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies what might be likely impacts arising from a plan on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Stage Two: Appropriate assessment

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an appropriate assessment and involves the consideration of the impact of the plan on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, having regard to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, it involves an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

Should the conclusion of the appropriate assessment be that there are likely to be impacts which will affect the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 site, then it is required to examine alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan that avoids such impacts. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

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

Should it be found there are no viable alternative solutions to avoid adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 site, and should it be agreed that the plan can proceed despite such impacts (which can only be for overriding reasons of public interest), then compensatory measures must be put in place in advance of the implementation of the plan/project. The fourth stage of the habitats directive assessment process involves the assessment of the proposed compensatory measures.

The assessment may stop at any of the above stages if significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

1.2.7 Development plans including County Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Town Plans and variations to these may only be adopted if the Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement is clear that significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites have been ruled out. Where significant impacts have not been ruled out, the plan may only proceed where it has been demonstrated that there are no reasonable alternative solutions, that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest to proceed with the plan, and that compensatory measures have been designed, assessed, and approved by the Minister and have been put in place in advance of the adoption of the plan. In every case in which a local authority envisages approving or proceeding with a plan or project on the grounds of overriding public interest, the Minister must be consulted.

1.2.8 This report presents the first phase of the Habitats Directive Assessment process, being the screening of the proposed variation. All of the proposed changes to general text and to the plan objectives have been reviewed to determine whether they give rise to a potential for significant impacts to occur on qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites. Some of the proposed changes, particularly those to chapter 6, have emerged as a result of the appropriate assessment process in relation to the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans, and will serve to provide stricter protection to Natura 2000 sites.

1.2.9 No significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites have been identified arising from this review process, though some changes to the wording of some of the text and objectives as proposed in the draft variation are recommended. This report and the draft variation will be referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, EPA and other relevant agencies for consideration. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has advised on the production of this report.

2 Methodology

2.1 Data Sources

2.1.1 The appropriate assessment of potential impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites in this study is based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support, and personal knowledge of many of the sites. References and data used are cited in the back of this report.

2.2 Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation was carried out with the NPWS in relation to the Appropriate Assessment of the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans. This process assisted the Planning Authority to identify the principle threats of concern for individual sites, which has been of practical use for the assessment of this variation. This report will go on public display and be referred to Government Departments and other statutory consultees for consideration during the consultation process. Submissions on same will be taken into consideration in the drafting of the final variation.

2.3 Approach

2.3.1 The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows the European Communities. 2002. *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 and Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.*

3 Screening of Proposed Variation (stage 1 of HDA Process)

3.1 Description of the Proposed Variation (No. 3) to the Cork County Development 2009.

3.1.1 The proposed variation (no. 3) of the County Development plan has been prepared in order to amend chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 of the current plan so as ensure that the County Development Plan is consistent with and reflects policy changes contained in the Electoral Area Local Area Plans for Bandon, Blarney, Bantry, Carrigaline, Fermoy, Kanturk, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton and Skibbereen as published in draft format in November 2010. These policy changes relate to

- the settlement network;
- protection of water quality;
- protection of sites designated for nature conservation;
- land use zoning definitions and a new approach to zoning; and
- the approach and guidance for development at local area plan level.

3.1.2 The proposed variation also includes a 'Core Strategy' as required under Section 7 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010. This is reflected in the revisions proposed to chapter 2 the County Development Plan, 2009 as set out below.

3.1.3 Chapter Two of the County Development Plan 2009 is being amended to include additional information to complete a 'Core Strategy, as prescribed by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010. It contains new information concerning the quantum, location and phasing of land zoned in the county, comparing this to the requirement for housing development as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines, 2010.

Population target for county to 2020 (from RPG 2010)	458,354
No. of new houses required to accommodate target population 2010-2020	55,505
Total area of land required to provide houses for target population (from RPG 2010)	1,500 Ha
Total housing yield from land provided for new development in County and Town Council Areas 2010-2020 (from Electoral Area LAP's)	Towns 33,677 Mixed use 30,300 Villages 8,507
Total no. of houses provided for in County and Town Council Areas 2010-2020 (from Electoral Area LAP's)	72,524

This development is proposed to take place on a phased basis as follows:

	Phase 1 2010-2015		Phase 1 & 2 2010-2020	
	Housing Requirement (Units)	Net Housing Yield to 2015	Housing Requirement (Units)	Gross Housing Yield
Metropolitan SPA	15,938	15,793	31,876	37,569
CASP Ring SPA	6,053	8,411	12,105	18,903
North SPA	2,587	4,763	5,174	6,457
West SPA	3,175	1,531	6,350	9,595
Total County	27,753	30,498	55,505	72,524

3.1.4 Chapter Three of Volume 1 – Settlements. This chapter is being amended to omit references to Tower as a main settlement as it has been reclassified as a Key Village within the Blarney EA. This change affects Table 3.1 and involves the deletion of paragraphs 3.2.54 and 3.2.55 and the associated diagram of Tower. Additional text is also being added to the section 3.5 dealing with the Networks of Settlements in Rural Areas to reference the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas issued in May 2009, particularly with regard to the role of Local Area Plans in providing provide guidance on the appropriate scale of development for the villages. The Local Area Plans have expanded the network of settlements to include the West Cork Island Communities and additional text is added in this regard also.

3.1.5 Chapter Four of Volume 1 – Rural, Coastal and Islands. Changes to this chapter comprise deletion of objective RCI 18-4(b) dealing with the review of the West Cork Islands Study and insertion of additional text and objectives to reflect the completion of the West Cork Islands Integrated Development Strategy, 2010 and supporting its implementation where appropriate. Objective RCI 8-11(b) which deals with the greenbelts around settlements has also been amended to bring it in line with the updated text in the Local Area Plans which has been changed to comply with recommendations arising out of the Habitats Directive Assessment.

3.1.6 Chapter Five of Volume 1 – Economy and Employment. Changes to this chapter comprise the addition of new material in relation to the definitions of industrial, enterprise and business land uses and the range of appropriate uses that can be accommodated in these areas; the “commercial” and “established” land use categories have been discontinued in the Local Area Plans and text on these is being omitted; new text has also been included in relation to the role of brown field sites, the definition of town centres and expanded town centres and the uses that can be accommodated in these areas; new material will be included on special policy areas which replaces the Special Use Areas of the current Plan. These text changes reflect that employed in the Local Area Plans.

3.1.7 Chapter Six of Volume 1 – Transport and Infrastructure. Changes to this chapter comprise updating the wording of objectives on dealing with water supply, wastewater and drainage to bring them into line with the new approach to infrastructure requirements outlined in the Local Area Plans on foot of the recommendations of the Habitats Directive Assessments for the Electoral Area Local Area Plans. Typically changes include references to the “appropriate and sustainable” provision of infrastructure, securing the objectives of the relevant River Basin Management Plan and the protection of all Natura 2000 sites and ensuring necessary infrastructure is provided in advance of the commencement of any discharges etc. In some areas there is a requirement to ensure there shall be no net increase in Phosphates within the freshwater system. Additional text is also being added to ensure that any new or increased water abstractions from within the Blackwater River, Upper Bandon River or Glenbeg Lough which is within Glanmore Bog Special Area of Conservation can only proceed subject to compliance with the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Within the catchment of the Munster Blackwater upstream of Mallow, a requirement for the preparation of a wastewater and storm water plan for towns and villages in the catchment is being included.

3.1.8 Chapter Eight of Volume 1 – Housing and Community Facilities. Changes to this chapter comprise the inclusion of new text and objectives in relation to open space. The distinction between active and passive open spaces has been discontinued and replaced with a new category of Open Space, Agriculture, Sports and Amenity areas. The density standards for villages have been discontinued in the context of the revised approach advocated by the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and new text has been added and objective HOU 3-1 amended in this regard.

3.1.9 Chapter Nine of Volume – Local Area Development. Changes to this chapter comprise the inclusion of revised text, maps and tables relating to each Electoral Area Local Area Plan, updating the list of settlements in each electoral area as a result of changes to the electoral area boundaries and the new strategy of the local area plans themselves. Supporting text dealing with the new approach to zoning in main settlements (existing built up area has replaced established areas) has also been included together with an updated section on Special Local Area Plans and other plans in place or proposed around the County.

3.1.10 **Volume 3 Maps – Metropolitan Cork Green Belt Maps:** This change reflects all consequential changes to the Cork Green Belt Maps resulting from changes proposed in the

Blarney, Carrigaline, Macroom and Midleton Draft Local Area Plans. The change includes a list of changes in table form and a set of maps showing the proposed changes.

3.2 Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone of the plan.

3.2.1 Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone of this Local Area Plan are set out in tables 3.1 and 3.2 below. The habitats and/or species for which these sites are designated are also listed in the table, as are the principle threats which could affect these. The threats listed have been identified through consultation with the NPWS and from written sources including the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, NPWS (2008), Ireland's Wetlands and their Waterbirds: Status and Distribution, 2005, the NPWS produced Natura 2000 Site Synopses and in some cases, from personal knowledge of sites.

Table 3.1 Natura 2000 sites occurring in Co. Cork.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore)	SAC	77	Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows.		Species: Wintering waterfowl.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Water polluting activities; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species; Infilling. Species: Disturbance to wintering birds.
Glengarriff Harbour & Woodland	SAC	90	Old sessile Oak Woodlands with Ilex and Blechnum; Alluvial forest with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior.	Kerry Slug; Lesser Horseshoe Bat; Otter; Common (Harbour) Seal	Habitats: Heath; Sheltered inlets and rocky shores; Rocky islets. Species: Stoat; Red Squirrel; Badger; Pine Marten; Sparrowhawk; Peregrine; long-eared Owl; Woodcock; Heron; Jay; Butterflies; Damselflies; Rare fungii.	Habitats: Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing; Drainage. Species: Kerry Slug: habitat loss through intensification of agricultural and forestry land uses; LH Bat: Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes. Otter: Disturbance to river banks. Common Seal: Loss of haul outs and breeding areas or disturbance in these areas.
Clonakilty Bay	SAC	91	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Annual vegetation of drift lines, Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes); Fixed		Habitats: Lagoon; Brackish grassland; Freshwater marsh; Alder scrub; Species: Waterfowl.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Activities which could cause water pollution including waste water discharges and water abstractions; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species including sea buckthorn and Spartina; Infilling; Recreational uses, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter. Over and under-grazing; Sand and

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
			coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (calluno-ulicetea)			gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss.
Caha Mountains	SAC	93	Blanket Bog and Active Blanket Bog; North atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Alpine and sub-alpine heath; Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the littorelletea uniflorae and or Isotonojuncetae	Killarney Fern; Kerry Slug	Habitats: Wet heath; Upland grassland; Dystrophic Lakes; Species: Peregrine Falcon; Hen Harrier; Chough; Ring Ouzel	Habitats: Overstocking; Peat extraction; Afforestation; Drainage; Burning and Infrastructural Developments (eg Windfarms); Recreational uses including hillwalking and quadbiking; Afforestation; Quarries; Nutrient enrichment of lakes arising from agriculture and housing development. Species: Killarney Fern not generally threatened; Kerry Slug: habitat loss through intensification of agricultural and forestry land uses.
Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs	SAC	97	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays; Reefs; Submerged sea caves		Habitats: Freshwater Marsh; Mixed woodland; Heath. Species: Raven; Peregrine; Chough; Rare sea urchins, sponges and other sea creatures.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Dumping of wastes; Water polluting activities;

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Roaringwater Bay & Islands	SAC	101	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays; Reefs; Vegetated sea cliffs of the atlantic and baltic coasts; European dry heath; Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.	Harbour Porpoise; Otter; Grey Seal	Habitats: Exposed rocky shores; sheltered, rock, sand and mud communities; largest maerl community in country; seagrass beds; Freshwater Marsh; Species: Hairy Birdsfoot Trefoil; Common Birdsfoot; Spotted Rockrose; Pale Hath Violet and Lanceolate Spleenwort; Deptford Pink; Little Robin; Sea Pea; Sea birds incl. Terns; Chough; Gulls and Peregrine Falcon.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Dumping of wastes; Water polluting activities; Erosion; Grazing; Recreational uses including dev. of golf courses; Dumping; Coastal protection works. Species: Harbour porpoise: Activities which cause noise or other disturbance to marine mammals; water pollution. Otter: Disturbance to river banks. Grey seal: Loss of haul outs and breeding areas or disturbance in these areas.
Sheep's Head to Toe Head	SAC	102	North Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heath.	Kerry Slug	Habitats: Blanket Bog; Fen/swamp vegetation; Lakes; Species: Spotted Rockrose; Pale Dog Violet; Royal Fern; Breeding seabirds; Chough;	Habitats: Reclamation, afforestation; burning; overstocking. Species: Kerry Slug: habitat loss through intensification of agricultural and forestry land uses.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
St. Gobnait's Wood	SAC	106	Old Sessile Oak Woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i>		Habitats: Wet grassland/marsh; scrub.	Habitats: Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing.
The Gearagh	SAC	108	Water Courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> ; Alluvial forest with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .	Otter	Habitats: Alluvial grassland; Cutaway bog. Species: Mudwort; Wintering waterbirds.	Habitats: Eutrophication caused by overgrazing, overfertilisation, afforestation; Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing. Drainage. Species: Otter: Disturbance to river banks.
Three Castle Head to Mizen Head	SAC	109	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heath.		Habitats: Lakes; Grasslands; Freshwater Marsh. Species: Spotted Rockrose; Pale Dog-violet; Irish Spurge; Chough; Breeding seabirds.	Habitats: Erosion; Afforestation; Burning; Over and under grazing; Bracken Invasion.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment	SAC	365	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> ; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetae</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; European dry heath; <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Calaminarian grasslands of <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i> ; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils; Blanket bog and *Active blanket bog; Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i>	Twaiite Shad; Killarney Fern; Slender Naiad; Kerry Slug; Marsh Fritillary; Lesser horseshoe Bat; Sea Lamprey; Salmon; River Lamprey; Freshwater Pearl mussel; Otter.	All of the habitats and species of biodiversity importance occurring in Cork are qualifying features for this site.	Habitats: Overgrazing; Afforestation; Burning; Peat cutting; Development of infrastructural projects (eg wind energy); Drainage; Activities giving rise to nutrient enrichment and siltation of watercourses; Recreational pressures. Species: As per habitats, any activity which could give rise to decline of water quality, or loss of habitats upon which listed species are dependant including the loss of roosting and feeding sites and commuting routes for bats; river drainage or channelisation.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
			and <i>Blechnum</i> ; Alpine and sub-alpine heath; North atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> .			
Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point	SAC	1040	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with ammophila arenaria (white dunes). Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) European dry heath.		Habitats: Rocky shoreline; sea cliffs; Lakes. Species: Hairy Bird's Foot Trefoil; Lanceolate Spleenwort; Pale Dog-violet; Green-winged Orchid; Bird's-foot Trefoil; Strawberry Tree; Chough; Wintering waterfowl incl. Whooper Swan; Breeding seabirds.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Water polluting activities; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species including Seabuckthorn and Spartina; Infilling; Recreational uses, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter. Over and under-grazing; Sand and gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Cleanderry Wood	SAC	1043	Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i>	Killarney Fern	Habitats: Heath; acid grassland and rocky outcrops.	Habitats: Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing. Species: Killarney Fern: not generally threatened.
Great Island Channel	SAC	1058	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows.		Habitats: Wet grassland. Species: Wintering waterfowl.	Habitats: Aquaculture, fishing, bait digging, removal of fauna, land reclamation, coastal protection works, spread of invasive species; coastal development, water pollution: Species: Disturbance.
Kilkeran Lake & Castlefreke Dunes	SAC	1061	Coastal lagoons; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along with shorelines with <i>ammophila</i> <i>areanaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes).		Habitats: Lakes; Fen. Species: Wintering waterfowl; Breeding waterfowl; High diversity of plant species.	Habitats: Drainage, natural silting, water pollution (nutrient enrichment - agricultural and domestic effluents caused by increase in urbanisation and commercial and industrial activities. Spread of invasive species including sea buckthorn and <i>Spartina</i> ; Infilling; Recreational uses, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter; Over and under-grazing; Sand and gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss.
Myross Wood	SAC	1070	n/a	Killarney Fern	Habitats: Mixed woodland.	Habitats: Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing. Species: Killarney Fern: not generally threatened.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Courtmacsherry Estuary	SAC	1230	Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Annual vegetation of drift lines; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonising muds and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with ammophila areanaria (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes).		Species: Wintering waterfowl.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Water pollution arising from agriculture; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species; Infilling; Spread of invasive species including sea buckthorn and Spartina; Infilling; Recreational uses, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter. Over and under-grazing; Sand and gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss. Species: Disturbance to wintering birds.
Castletownshend	SAC	1547	n/a	Killarney Fern.	Habitats: Semi-natural woodland and conifer woodland.	Species: Killarney Fern: not generally threatened, potential loss of habitat could be an issue at this site.
Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog	SAC	1873	Blanket Bog and Active Blanket Bog		Habitats: Rivers and streams; Lakes; Heath; Grassland and Stream flushes.	Habitats: Overstocking; Peat extraction; Afforestation; Drainage; Burning and Infrastructural Developments (eg Windfarms); Recreational uses including hillwalking and quadbiking; Afforestation; Quarries; Nutrient enrichment of lakes arising from agriculture and housing development.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Glanmore Bog	SAC	1879	Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Water courses of plain to montane levels with the ranunculion fluitantis and callitricho-batrachion vegetation; North atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bog and active bog.	Freshwater Pearl Mussel; Killarney Fern.	Habitats: Rivers. Species: Chough.	Habitats: Nutrient enrichment from agricultural practices including overgrazing and excessive fertilisation; Waste water discharges; Water abstraction; Overstocking; Peat extraction; Afforestation; Drainage; Burning and Infrastructural Developments (eg Windfarms); Recreational uses including hillwalking and quadbiking; Afforestation; Quarries; Nutrient enrichment of lakes arising from agriculture and housing development. Species: FWPM Nutrient enrichment and siltation arising from a range of activities. Species: Killarney Fern: Not generally threatened.
Mullaghanish Bog	SAC	1890	Blanket Bog and Active Blanket Bog		All of the habitats and species of biodiversity importance occurring in Cork are qualifying features for this site.	Habitats: Overstocking; Peat extraction; Afforestation; Drainage; Burning and Infrastructural Developments (eg Windfarms); Recreational uses including hillwalking and quadbiking; Afforestation.
Ballyhoura Mountains	SAC	2036	North Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heath; Blanket bog and active blanket bog.		Habitats: Streams; Rocky outcrops; Species: Hen Harrier; Peregrine Falcon.	Habitats: Overstocking; Peat extraction; Afforestation; Drainage; Burning and Infrastructural Developments (eg Windfarms); Recreational uses including hillwalking and quadbiking; Afforestation.
Carrigeenamronety Hill	SAC	2037	n/a	Killarney Fern	Habitats: Rocky outcrops; Heath.	Habitats and Species: Afforestation.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Kenmare River	SAC	2158	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays; Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Vegetated sea cliffs of the atlantic and baltic coasts; Atlantic salt meadows; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with ammophila arenaria (white dunes); Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); European dry heath; Calaminarian grassland of the Violetalia calaminariae; Submerged or partially submerged sea caves.	Whorl snail; Lesser horseshoe bat; Otter; Common (harbour) seal.	Most of the habitats and species of biodiversity importance are qualifying features for this site.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Activities which could cause water pollution including waste water discharges and water abstractions; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species; Infilling. Recreational pressures, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter. Sand and gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss; Over and under grazing. Species: Whorl Snail: Loss of riverside and canal-side habitat, exploitation of esker sites and drainage of wetlands, sheep grazing and over exploitation of dune sites; Lesser Horseshoe Bat: Loss of foraging areas, roosting sites and commuting routes; Otter: Disturbance to river banks. Common (harbour) seal: Common Seal: Loss of haul outs and breeding areas or disturbance in these areas.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Lower River Shannon	SAC	2165	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays; Estuaries; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Vegetated sea cliffs of the atlantic and baltic coasts; Coastal lagoons; Mudflats and saltflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows; Sandbanks (slightly covered by seawater at all times); Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-batrachion vegetation; <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; Alluvial forest with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .	River lamprey; Brook lamprey; Sea lamprey; Atlantic salmon; Freshwater pearl mussel; Bottle-nosed dolphin; Otter.	Very diverse range of habitats - mostly in Limerick part of this site. Habitats and species found in Cork part of site associated with freshwater rivers.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Activities which could cause water pollution including waste water discharges and water abstractions; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species; Recreational pressures, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter. Over and under-grazing; Sand and gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss. Species: Fish and invertebrates: All activities which could impact on water quality; Marine mammals: Activities which could cause disturbance.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)	SAC	2170	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-batrachion vegetation; Alluvial forest with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ; Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> ; <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods.	Freshwater pearl mussel; White clawed crayfish; Sea lamprey; Brook lamprey; River lamprey; Twaite shad; Atlantic salmon; Otter.	Habitats: Wet woodland; Dry woodland; Freshwater marsh; Wet grassland; Shingle Spit. Species: Toothwort; Summer Snowflake; Flowering Rush ; Common Calamint; Red Campion; Sand Leek; Wood Club-rush.	Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Activities which could cause water pollution including waste water discharges and water abstractions; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; River bank protection works; Spread of invasive species; Infilling; Development pressure within the river catchment causing habitat loss; Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing. Species: Fish and invertebrates: All activities which could impact on water quality; Otter: Disturbance to river banks.
Bandon River	SAC	2171	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation; Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (alno-padion, alnion incanae, salicion albae) .	Freshwater Pearl Mussel; Brook lamprey.	Habitats: Wet broad-leaved woodland; Species: Salmon; Kingfisher.	Habitats: Eutrophication; Overgrazing; Excessive fertilisation; Afforestation; Introduction of invasive alien species; Species: All activities which could impact on water quality.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Farranamanagh Lough	SAC	2189	Coastal lagoons; Perennial vegetation of the stony banks.		Habitats: Saltmarsh, Freshwater Marsh, Wet grassland; Species: Kerry Slug	Habitats: Drainage, natural silting, water pollution (nutrient enrichment - agricultural and domestic effluents caused by increase in urbanisation and commercial and industrial activities; recreational activities along the shoreline; Removal of beach materials; Sand / gravel extraction.
Dunbeacon Shingle	SAC	2280	Perennial vegetation of stony banks.		Habitats: Lake, Heath, Saltmarsh, Species: Waterfowl	Habitats: Removal of beach materials; Sand / gravel extraction.
Reen Point Shingle	SAC	2281	Perennial vegetation of stony banks.		Habitats: Saltmarsh, Lagoon, Freshwater Marsh, Heath	Habitats: Removal of beach materials; Sand / gravel extraction.
Old Head of Kinsale	SPA	4021	n/a	Guillemot and Kittiwake (nationally important numbers)	Habitats: Heath; Maritime grassland; Sea cliffs. Species: Fulmar; Shag; Herring Gull; Razorbill.	Species: Activities which could cause disturbance to birds; Construction of paths or track etc; Land reclamation and habitat removal.
Ballycotton Bay	SPA	4022	n/a	Turnstone (nationally important numbers)	Species: Teal; Ringed Plover; Golden Plover; Grey Plover; Lapwing; Black-tailed godwit; Bar-tailed godwit; Curlew; Common gull; Lesser black-backed gull; Wetland and waterbirds.	Species: Activities which could cause disturbance to birds; Construction of paths or track etc; Land reclamation and habitat removal.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
					Habitats: Mudflats and sandflats.	
Ballymacoda Bay	SPA	4023	n/a	Golden Plover; Grey plover; Dunlin; Black-tailed godwit; Bar-tailed godwit; Curlew; Lesser Black-backed gull; 20,000 wintering waterbirds .	Species: Wigeon; Teal; Ringed plover; Lapwing; Sanderling; Redshank; Turnstone; Black-headed gull; Common gull; Wetland and waterbirds. Habitats: Mudflats and sandflats; Tidal estuaries.	Species: Activities which could cause disturbance to birds; Construction of paths or track etc; Land reclamation and habitat removal.
Blackwater Estuary	SPA	4028	n/a	Black-tailed godwit; Curlew.	Shelduck; Wigeon; Teal; Golden plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Bar-tailed godwit; Redshank; Lesser black-backed gull; Wetland and Waterbirds .	Species: Activities which could cause disturbance to birds; Construction of paths or track etc; Land reclamation and habitat removal.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Cork Harbour	SPA	4030	n/a	Cormorant; Shelduck; Oystercatcher; Golden plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Black-tailed godwit; Curlew; Redshank; Common tern; 20,000 wintering waterbirds.	Species: Little grebe; Great crested grebe; Grey heron; Wigeon; Teal; Pintail; Shoveler; Red-breasted merganser; Grey plover; Black-headed gull; Common gull; Lesser Black-backed gull; Wetland and Waterbirds.	Species: Activities which could cause disturbance to birds; Construction of paths or track etc; Land reclamation and habitat removal.
Bull and the Cow	SPA	4066	n/a	Nationally important numbers of Storm Petrel; Gannet; Puffin	Species: Puffin; Gulls; Cormorant; Kittiwake;	Species: Activities which could interfere with food supplies of breeding birds;
Clonakilty	SPA	4081	n/a	Black-tailed godwit	Species: Shelduck; Dunlin; Curlew; Wetland and Waterbirds.	Species: Activities which could cause disturbance to birds; Construction of paths or track etc; Land reclamation and habitat removal.
River Blackwater Callows	SPA	4094	n/a	Whooper swan; Black-tailed godwit.	Species: Wigeon; Teal; Wetland and Waterbirds.	Species: Agricultural improvement; Drainage; Activities which could cause disturbance to wintering birds.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Kilcolman Bog	SPA	4095	n/a	Shoveler	Species: Whooper swan; Teal; Wetland and Waterbirds. Habitats: Fen; Freshwater Marsh; Bog; Wet grassland.	Species: Agricultural improvement; Drainage; Activities which could cause disturbance to wintering birds.
The Gearagh	SPA	4109	n/a	Wetland and Waterbirds	Species: Whooper Swan; Golden Plover; Duck spp; Goose spp; Swan spp; Alluvial Woodland and other habitats.	Species: Agricultural improvement; Drainage; Activities which could cause disturbance to wintering birds. Habitats: Eutrophication caused by overgrazing, overfertilisation, afforestation; Woodland clearance; Invasive species encroachment; Sub-optimal grazing.
Sovereign Islands	SPA	4124	n/a	Cormorant	Species: Herring Gulls; Greater Black-backed Gulls; Black Guillemot.	Species: Activities which could interfere with food supplies of breeding birds;
Beara Peninsula	SPA	4155	n/a	Chough	Species: Fulmar; Black Guillemot; Peregrine Falcon; Gulls; Shag; Razorbill. Habitats: Vegetated seacliffs; Improved, semi-improved and unimproved grassland.	Species: Agricultural abandonment.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Sheeps Head to Toe Head	SPA	4156	n/a	Peregrine Falcon; Chough	Species: Black Guillemot; Fulmar; Shag; Kittiwake; Gull spp; Shag. Habitats: Vegetated seacliffs; Improved, semi-improved and unimproved grassland; Sand dunes.	Species: Agricultural abandonment; Activities which could interfere with food supplies of breeding birds; Activities which could cause disturbance to breeding birds.
Stacks to Mullaghareirks	SPA	4161	n/a	Hen Harrier	Species: Short-eared owl; Merlin. Habitats: Upland habitats including Blanket Bog; Heath; Upland grassland; Rivers and Afforested Land.	Species: Afforestation; Pressure for development of infrastructural projects including wind farms; power lines and hydroelectric stations; Any activities which could cause disturbance to breeding birds or removal of breeding or foraging habitat upon which they are dependant.
Mullaghanish to Musheramore	SPA	4162	n/a	Hen Harrier	Species: Merlin. Habitats: Upland habitats including Blanket Bog; Heath; Upland grassland; Rivers and Afforested Land.	Species: Afforestation; Pressure for development of infrastructural projects including wind farms; power lines and hydroelectric stations; Any activities which could cause disturbance to breeding birds or removal of breeding or foraging habitat upon which they are dependant.
Galley Heat to Duneen Point	SPA	4190	n/a	Chough	Species: Fulmar; Gull spp; Shag; Cormorant; Peregrine Falcon. Habitats: Sea cliffs; Heath; Improved, semi-improved and unimproved grassland.	Species: Agricultural abandonment; Activities which could interfere with food supplies of breeding birds; Activities which could cause disturbance to breeding birds.

Site Name	Designation Type	Site Code	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Seven Heads	SPA	4191	n/a	Chough	<p>Species: Fulmar; Gull spp; Cormorant; Peregrine Falcon.</p> <p>Habitats: Sea cliffs; Heath; Improved, semi-improved and unimproved grassland.</p>	<p>Species: Agricultural abandonment; Activities which could interfere with food supplies of breeding birds; Activities which could cause disturbance to breeding birds.</p>
Courtmacsherry Estuary	SPA	4219	n/a	Golden Plover; Black-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Common Gull	<p>Species: Great Northern Diver; Shelduck; Wigeon; Red-breasted Merganser; Lapwing; Dunlin; Bar-tailed Godwit; Blackheaded Gull.</p> <p>Habitat: Coastal Habitats.</p>	<p>Habitats: Aquaculture; Fishing; Coastal development; Water pollution arising from agriculture; Bait digging; Land reclamation; Coastal protection works; Spread of invasive species; Infilling; Spread of invasive species including sea buckthorn and Spartina; Infilling; Recreational uses, including trampling, horse riding and vehicle use; Mechanised removal of tidal litter. Over and under-grazing; Sand and gravel extraction; Removal of other beach materials; Development pressure causing habitat loss. Species: Disturbance to wintering birds.</p>

Table 3.2 Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the County Boundary

Natura 2000 sites	Designation Type	Site Code	Location	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood	SAC	353	Kerry		Lesser Horseshoe Bat	None	Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes.
Kilgarvan Ice House	SAC	364	Kerry		Lesser Horseshoe Bat	None	Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes.
Galtee Mountains	SAC	646	Tipperary	Blanket bog (*active only); Alpine and Boreal heaths; European dry heaths; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe).		Small-white Orchid; Mountain Rock-cress; Alpine Saw-wort. Peregrine Falcon	Habitats and Species: Overgrazing, burning and afforestation.
Cloonee and Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood	SAC	1342	Kerry	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae).	Lesser Horseshoe Bat; Kerry Slug; Killarney Fern; Slender Naiiad.	Pennyroyal; Betony; Arctic Char; Woodland Bryophytes;	Habitats: Grazing, Eutrophication, Agricultural Intensification; Afforestation. Species: LH Bat Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes. KS: Kerry Slug: habitat loss through

Natura 2000 sites	Designation Type	Site Code	Location	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
							intensification of agricultural and forestry land uses Killarney Fern; Possible habitat loss.
Mucksna Wood	SAC	1371	Kerry	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles		Wide diversity of herbaceous and fern species in understory.	No threats identified.
Maulagowna Bog	SAC	1881	Kerry	Blanket bog (*active only)		Oligotrophic Lakes; Chough	Overgrazing.
Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood	SAC	2041	Kerry		Lesser Horseshoe Bat	None	Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes.
Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood	SAC	2098	Kerry		Lesser Horseshoe Bat	None	Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes.

Natura 2000 sites	Designation Type	Site Code	Location	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Ardmore Head	SAC	2123	Waterford	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts.	Dry Heath	Breeding seabirds including Chough	Overuse for recreational purposes.
Lower River Suir	SAC	2137	Tipperary/Waterford	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae); Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucoco-Puccinellietalia maritima); Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation; Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in British Isles; Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels; Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles;	Sea Lamprey; Brook Lamprey; River Lamprey; Twaite Shad; Salmon; Allis Shad; Freshwater Crayfish; Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Lobaria pulmonaria; Opposite-leaved pondweed; Freshwater Marsh; Mixed Woodlands; Bat Species; Pine Marten; Greenland White-fronted Goose and a range of wintering bird species;	Intensification of agriculture giving rise to risk of pollution of the river; Commercial and leisure fishing and other recreational activities; Industrial developments along the river giving rise to pollution risk.
Drongawn Lough	SAC	2187	Kerry	Coastal lagoons		Diverse invertebrate population with many lagoonal specialists.	

Natura 2000 sites	Designation Type	Site Code	Location	Habitats for which these are designated	Species for which these are designated	Other species and habitats of note occurring within the site	Potential Threats
Moanour Mountain	SAC	2257	Tipperary	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)		Dry Heath;	Overgarzing and burning.
Glanlough Woods	SAC	2315	Kerry		Lesser Horseshoe Bat		Loss of winter and summer roosts; loss of foraging habitat and commuting routes.
Killarney National Park	SPA	4038	Kerry	n/a	Peregrine Falcon	Merlin	
Helvick Head to Ballyquin	SPA	4192	Kerry	n/a	Pergrine Falcon, Chough	Comorant Herring Gull, Kittiwake	

3.2.2 The National Parks and Wildlife Service is in the process of preparing Conservation Management Plans for all Natura 2000 sites in the country. These plans will have a range of conservation objectives which relate to the protection and enhancement of habitats and populations of species for which these sites are designated. In relation to appropriate assessment, regard must be had to potential impacts arising from the plan on the conservation objectives for all Natura 2000 sites.

The primary objective which applies to all Special Protection Areas is as follows:

- To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which the SPA has been listed, at favourable conservation status.

The primary objectives which apply to cSACs are as follows:

- To maintain Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status;
- To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site;

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when its natural range, and the area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below.

The favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when 'population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or 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'.

3.3 Identification of policies whose implementation could give rise to significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites - Screening.

3.3.1 Impacts arising from the implementation of objectives of the draft plan which are likely to cause significant impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites include activities which give rise to:

- direct impacts on habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive and for which the site is designated;
- reduction in the area of any habitats within the site;
- direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality) in the Natura 2000 site.
- serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. increased noise, illumination, human activity);
- direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of species for which the Natura 2000 site is designated;
- activities which interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans or projects.

3.3.2 All of the text changes/objectives changes proposed in the draft variation were reviewed as part of the screening process with a view to identifying those which could give rise to possible impacts on Natura 2000 sites. Consideration was given to direct and indirect impacts which may arise from activities which could be encouraged by objectives contained in the draft plan. Such activities could include new residential, commercial, infrastructural, recreational or other development which may give rise to direct impacts on habitats or species (loss of habitat,

disturbance to species); as well as activities which could have indirect impacts (e.g. activities which could affect water quality or hydrology which could in turn affect the status/health of populations of water dependant habitats or species). The results of this screening process are set out below.

Table 2.3 Potential impacts of the amendments to wording of text and objectives contained in draft Variation.

Chapter	Proposed Change	Potential to cause adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Additional Comments
Chap 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o inclusion of population target to 2020 and provision of detailed information in relation to the amount of zoned land which will be provided to reach this target in the four strategic planning areas in the County and proposed phasing of development over lifetime of plan and to 2020 as summarised in section 1 above. 	<p>Increased population has the potential to increase pressure on natural resources particularly water quality and levels upon which many Natura 2000 sites are dependant. This particularly the case where the increased population is to be located close to such sites. However, the proposed variation and the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans include objectives and policies which provide for the strict protection of water resources and Natura 2000 sites. The Local Area Plans provide for additional measures to ensure the protection of same arising from the appropriate assessment process. These include the removal of all development zonings from Natura 2000 sites, the maintenance of buffers between areas zoned for development and Natura 2000 sites (see electoral area Local Area Plans), and the requirement for detailed assessment of future possible project proposals where outline proposals are contained in the plans. On this basis, and subject to the integration of all mitigation measures recommended through the AA process into the Electoral Area Local Area Plans and the CDP, significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.</p>	None
Chap 3 Settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o remove Tower from list of main settlements in development plan; o include a reference to Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable residential Development in Urban Areas issued in May 2009; o include new text and objective to recognise the role of the West Cork Island Communities in the network of settlements in rural areas. 	No significant impacts.	None
Chap 4 Rural, Coastal and Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o delete objective RCI 18-4 (b), add additional text and objectives to reflect the completion of the West Cork Islands Integrated Strategy, 	No significant impacts.	Suggest amendment to proposed wording of new objective RCI 18-7 as follows:

Chapter	Proposed Change	Potential to cause adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Additional Comments
	<p>2010 and support its implementation where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ revise objective RCI 8-11 (b) to reflect changes required to comply with recommendations emerging from the Habitats Directive Assessment of the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans. ○ insert new objective RCI 18-7 to articulate support for West Cork Islands Strategy 		<p>It is an objective to encourage and support where appropriate the implementation of objectives and actions outlined in the West Cork Islands Integrated Development Strategy, 2010, where these are compatible with other objectives and policies of the County Development Plan, the Regional Planning Guidelines and any Natura 2000 designation with the protection of Natura 2000 sites on and around the Islands.</p>
<p>Chap 5 Economy and Employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide new definitions of industrial, enterprise and business locations and the range of appropriate uses that can be accommodated in these areas; ○ provide new definitions of town centres, expanded town centres and the uses that can be accommodated in these areas; ○ new material to be included on special policy areas and opportunity sites; and ○ material on commercial development and established uses to be removed. 	<p>No significant impacts.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Chap 6 Transport and Infrastructure</p>	<p>Update existing objectives dealing with infrastructure provision to bring into line with the new approach to infrastructure requirements outlined in the Local Area Plans to address potential environmental impacts identified from the Habitats Directive Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans.</p>	<p>No significant impacts. These changes emanate from the Habitats Directive Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans and provide for the strict protection of water resources..</p>	<p>Variation Ref No. INF 06.05.01 Suggest amendment to proposed wording of paragraph 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 as follows:</p> <p>6.5.1 In this Plan, the aim is to prioritise the provision of appropriate and sustainable water services infrastructure to complement the overall strategy for economic and population growth and secures the objectives of the River Basin Management Plans and the protection of all Natura 2000 sites. The intention will be to match water services infrastructure capacity in the main towns to the population targets identified for them in this Plan, so that a shortfall in the capacity of the infrastructure serving the towns does not inhibit their population growth or restrict the overall achievement of the County's economic potential. Outside the towns, the overall objective of this Plan is to secure the development of the villages and rural areas at a scale that complements the planned population growth for the towns and takes account of the scale and character of the village itself, and specific local priorities will be established in the local area plans. It is also an objective of the plan that all necessary water services infrastructure shall be provided and operational in advance of the commencement of any discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving waters does not fall below legally required levels. Where such discharges occur within the catchment of the Munster Blackwater</p>

Chapter	Proposed Change	Potential to cause adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Additional Comments
			<p>upstream from Mallow, the Upper Bandon River or the Owenagappul River, there shall be no net increase in Phosphates within the freshwater system. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be required for all developments discharging within or upstream from Natura 2000 sites with water dependant habitats or species.</p> <p>6.5.2 New or increased water abstractions proposed from the Blackwater River, Upper Bandon River and Owenagappul River, must be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and may only proceed where it can be shown that such abstractions will not have negative impacts on these rivers or on the species and habitats they support. In addition, during the lifetime of this plan a wastewater and storm water plan will be produced for towns and villages in the catchment of the Munster Blackwater upstream of Mallow to identify and implement the measures necessary to protect this river and its dependant habitats and species.</p> <p>Variation Ref No. INF 06.05.02.</p> <p>Suggest amendments to wording of INF 5-1 (b) and (c) as follows:</p> <p>(b) It is an objective of this plan to ensure that all necessary water services infrastructure shall be provided and operational in advance of the commencement of any discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving waters does not fall below legally required levels. Where such discharges occur within the catchment of the Munster Blackwater above Mallow, the Upper Bandon River and the Ownenagappul River, there shall be no net increase in Phosphates within the freshwater system.</p> <p>(c) It is an objective of this Plan to ensure that any proposed new or increased water abstractions from the Blackwater River, Bandon River and the Owenagappul River are subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and may only proceed where it can be shown that such abstractions will not have negative impacts on these Rivers or on the species and habitats they support.</p> <p>Suggest amendment to INF 5-8 (b) as follows:</p> <p>b) Where any new or increased water abstractions are proposed from the Blackwater River, Upper Bandon River and and the Owenagappul River, these must be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and may only proceed where it can be shown that such abstractions will not have negative impacts on these Rivers or on the species and habitats they</p>

Chapter	Proposed Change	Potential to cause adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Additional Comments
			support.
Chap 8 Housing and Community Facilities	Introduces a revised approach to the appropriate scale and density of development in smaller villages and introduces new text and objectives in relation to open space.	None	<p>Variation Ref: HOU 08.14.01. Suggest amendment to 8.14.18 as follows:</p> <p><i>Open Space Uses</i> 8.14.18. The main suitable uses in areas designated as Open Spaces are sports areas including playgrounds, sports centres, sports pitches, other areas for outdoor activities, outdoor recreation training centres, parks, landscaped areas, agricultural areas (including allotments) private landscaped gardens and woodlands. Some areas zoned as open space are sites of local, national or international biodiversity value and may be designated for nature conservation.</p>
Chap 9 Local Area Development	Revise text, maps and tables relating to each Electoral Area Local Area Plan, adding supporting text dealing with the new approach to zoning in main settlements and updates the plan with regard to number of Special Local Area Plans and other plans in place or proposed around the County.	The impacts of alterations to settlement boundaries have been assessed in relation to potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites as part of the AA of each of the draft Electoral Area Local Area Plans. No significant impacts have been identified. Where development is now proposed in some of these areas, adjacent to Natura 2000 sites, the wording of the relevant objectives has been reviewed and changes to the wording has been recommended where appropriate (MCOB 21, MCOB 22, MCOB 27, MCOB 42 and MCOB 43). Significant negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.	None

5. Finding of No Significant Effects Report

Plan Name	Draft Variation, No. 3, to Cork County Development Plan, 2009, Changes to Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 of Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2009
Name and Location of Natura 2000 sites	<p>Special Areas of Conservation: Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077; Glengarriff Harbour & Woodland SAC 000090; Clonakilty Bay SAC 000091; Caha Mountains SAC 000093; Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC 000097; Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC 000101; Sheep's Head to Toe Head SAC 000102; St. Gobnait's Wood SAC 000106; The Gearagh SAC 000108; Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC 000109; Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365; Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC 001040; Cleanderry Wood SAC 001043; Great Island Channel SAC 001058; Kilkieran Lake & Castlefreke Dunes SAC 001061; Myross Wood SAC 001070; Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC 001230; Castletownshend SAC 001547; Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC 001873; Glanmore Bog SAC 001879; Mullaghanish Bog SAC 001890; Ballyhoura Mountains SAC 002036; Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC 002037; Kenmare River SAC 002158; Lower River Shannon SAC 002165; Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170; Bandon River SAC 002171; Farranamanagh Lough SAC 002189; Dunbeacon Shingle SAC 002280; Reen Point Shingle SAC 002281;</p> <p>Special Protection Areas: Old Head of Kinsale SPA 004021; Ballycotton Bay SPA 004022; Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023; Blackwater Estuary SPA 004028; Cork Harbour SPA 004030; Bull and the Cow SPA 004066; Clonakilty SPA 004081; River Blackwater Callows SPA 004094; Kilcolman Bog SPA 004095; The Gearagh SPA 004109; Sovereign Islands SPA 004124; Beara Peninsula SPA 004155; Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA 004156; Stacks to Mullaghareirks SPA 004161; Mullaghanish to Musheramore SPA 4162; Galley Heat to Duneen Point SPA 4190; Seven Heads SPA4191; Courtmacsherry Estuary SPA 4219</p>
Description of the proposed variation	<p>The draft variation is proposed to ensure that objectives and policy of the County Development Plan reflect changes in policy which have emerged during the making of the ten Electoral Area Local Area Plans which has been underway over the past year.</p> <p>The draft variation also includes a 'Core Strategy' as required under Section 7 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) 2010.</p>
Is the proposed variation directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites identified above	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)	Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires an Appropriate Assessment of 'any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects'. Other plans which could contribute to cumulative impacts on Natura 2000 sites include the South Western Area Regional Planning Guidelines, 2009 and the ten Electoral Area Local Area Plans for Bantry, Blarney, Bandon, Carrigaline, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Fermoy, Kanturk and Skibbereen.
Assessment of Significant Effects	
Describe how the plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect Natura 2000 sites)	<p>A significant proportion of the area affected by the draft variation is within the potential impact zone of the Natura 2000 sites listed above. The following are the key issues which are considered to be of importance in maintaining the integrity of these sites and which could be affected by this variation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protection of water quality and levels; ○ Protection of habitats from direct impacts giving rise to habitat loss, deterioration and fragmentation; ○ Protection of species from disturbance.
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	This variation sets out the strategy for future development within the County, providing for an increased population to 458,454 in 2020 from a population of 361,877 (2006). A higher population has the potential to increase pressure on natural resources particularly water quality/quantity upon which many Natura 2000 sites are dependant. However, this variation includes objectives and policies which provide for stricter protection of water resources and Natura 2000 sites. Additional measures that are proposed to be incorporated into the Local Area Plans, include the removal of all development zonings from Natura 2000 sites, the creation of

	buffers between areas zoned for development and Natura 2000 sites . On this basis, and subject to implementation of all the precautionary measures set out in this plan and in the Electoral Area Local Area Plans, and the implementation of objectives ENV 1-5, ENV 1-6, ENV 1-7 and ENV 1-8, no significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are likely.
List of agencies consulted:	This draft screening report has been referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for consideration. It will be available to all interested parties for consideration during the public consultation process.
Response to consultation	To be recorded at the end of the public consultation process.
Data Collected To Carry Out The Assessment	
Who carried out the assessment	Planning Policy Unit, Cork County Council
Sources of data	National Parks and Wildlife Service Site Synopses and other data relating to Natura 2000 sites.
Level of assessment completed	Screening
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed	This report

6. Next Steps

This report documents the potential for impact of draft Variation 3 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2009 on Natura 2000 sites. The assessment process is iterative and recommendations for change emerging from this report will be incorporated into the Variation as it is being finalised. A final Natura Impact Report and Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement will be produced at the end of the consultation process.

7. References and Data Used

Crowe, Olivia. 2005. Ireland's Wetlands and their Waterbirds: Status and Distribution. BirdWatch Ireland.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2008. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government, National Parks and Wildlife Service. Various Years. Natura 2000 Site Synopses.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 2009. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities.

European Communities. 2000. Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Luxemburg.

European Communities. 2002. 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. Luxemburg.

South Western River Basin District. 2009. Water Matters Our Plan, South Western River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).