



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



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Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt  
Southern Regional Assembly

# Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021 - 2027

Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement

**Southern Regional Assembly (SRA)**

2483020 – AA Screening Statement

**MARCH 2022**

## RSK GENERAL NOTES

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**Project No.:** 2483020

**Title:** Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021 - 2027. Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement

**Client:** Southern Regional Assembly

**Date:** March 2022

**Office:** RSK Biocensus – Stonehouse Office

**Status:** Final for consultation

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# Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
EC	European Commission
EMRA	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
HPSU	High Potential Start-up
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IP	Intellectual Property
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
MA	Managing Authorities
NDP	National Development Plan
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPF	National Planning Framework
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NWRA	Northern and Western Regional Assembly
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator
QI	Qualifying Interest
RD&I	Research, Development and Innovation
R&I	Research and Innovation
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Special Conservation Interest
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SPA	Special Protection Area
S-P-R	Source-Pathway-Receptor
SRA	Southern Regional Assembly
TU	Technological University
UK	United Kingdom

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1.1 The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA), in close co-operation with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA), is currently preparing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) co-financed Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027. This will sit alongside the two existing Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies 2020-2032 (RSEs), which were both adopted in 2020.
- 1.1.2 The RSEs for the Southern Region and the RSEs for the Eastern and Midland Region support the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) for Ireland, and specifically the economic policies and objectives of the Government, by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the two regions. This process has also been replicated in the Northern and Western Region of Ireland.
- 1.1.3 The ERDF currently includes provision for two Regional Programmes, comprising:
- The Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027 - covering the combined areas of the Southern Region and the Eastern and Midland Region.
  - The Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 – covering the Northern and Western Region.
- 1.1.4 RSK Ireland Ltd has been instructed by the SRA to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening of the Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027. This AA Screening Statement has been produced by RSK Biocensus, an RSK Group Company. A separate AA Screening Statement will be produced for Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027.
- 1.1.5 The purpose of this AA Screening Statement is to provide evidence on the potential for the Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027 (hereafter referred to as 'The Regional Programme') to give rise to Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on any European site. This will enable a screening decision to be made by the competent authority (in this instance the SRA) as to whether full Appropriate Assessment, including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), will be required (in accordance with European Union (EU) and National legislation, refer to Section 2 below).

## 1.2 Overlap with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 1.2.1 An SEA of the Regional Programme is also being carried out concurrently with the HRA process. The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate, at an early stage, the broader range of environmental consequences that may occur as a result of implementing the Regional Programme, and to give interested parties an opportunity to comment upon the perceived or actual environmental impacts of the proposed programme. There is a degree of overlap between the requirements of both the SEA and HRA, and in accordance with best practice an integrated process of sharing gathered data has been carried out.
- 1.2.2 It is also noted that there are issues relevant to the Habitats Directive that are not strictly related to HRA. These include Article 10 and 12 of the Directive, which relate to the

protection of species and the management of the landscape to encourage their movement and dispersal. In these cases, the issues have been brought forward to the biodiversity, flora and fauna section of the SEA, and have been addressed in that context as part of the wider environmental assessments informing development of the Regional Programme.

## 2.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 Legislative context for HRA

- 2.1.1 The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as the Natura 2000 Network (also known as 'European sites').
- 2.1.2 Natura 2000 sites form a network of areas designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable or endemic within the European Community. This includes Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) (designated under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds; the 'Birds Directive').
- 2.1.3 Article 6 of the Directive obliges member states to undertake an 'appropriate assessment' of any plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, that is likely to have a significant effect on any European site.
- 2.1.4 Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive establish the key requirement for AA as follows:

Article 6(3) states:

*'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the (Natura 2000) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'*

Article 6(4) states:

*'If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the (Natura 2000) 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 a social or economic nature, Member States 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.'*

- 2.1.5 The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the associated Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) are transposed into Irish legislation by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and the Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011. The legislative provisions for AA Screening for planning applications are set out in Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

## 2.2 HRA Guidance

2.2.1 This AA Screening Statement has been prepared in accordance with the following HRA guidance:

- 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 (European Commission, 2001).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission, 2018).
- OPR Practice Note PN01. Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021).
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Departmental Circular guidance documents.

## 2.3 Stages of the HRA Appropriate Assessment process

2.3.1 As set out in the guidance documents above, HRA/Appropriate Assessment is split into four distinct stages:

2.3.2 **Stage 1:** Screening is the first stage of the process and identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a plan or project (either alone or in combination). Consideration of likely significant effects should be based on the Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) risk assessment principle. Mitigation cannot be taken into consideration at this stage of the AA process. If the screening exercise concludes that likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, then Stage 2 of the process (see below) must be undertaken. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to demonstrate, on the basis of objective information, that there will be no significant effect; if the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for Stage 2 of the HRA process.

2.3.3 **Stage 2:** Appropriate Assessment looks at the implications of the effects of the proposals for the site's conservation objectives (alone and in combination). At this stage, it needs to be determined, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any possible impacts.

2.3.4 **Stage 3:** Should the avoidance or mitigation measures detailed at the Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2) be insufficient to cancel out adverse effects, Stage 3 of the process must be undertaken. Assessment of alternative solutions is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site. EU guidance on this stage of the process states that, '*other assessment criteria, such as economic criteria, cannot be seen as overruling ecological criteria*'. If alternative solutions exist that do not have adverse impacts on European sites, they should be adopted regardless of economic considerations.

This stage of the AA process should result in the identification of the least damaging options for the plan or project.

- 2.3.5 **Stage 4:** Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain. An assessment is made as to whether or not the development is necessary for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). If it is, this stage also involves detailed assessment of the compensatory measures needed to protect and maintain the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network. Where a European site include in their qualifying features 'priority' habitats or species (Special Areas of Conservation), as defined in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive, the demonstration of 'over-riding public interest' is not sufficient and it must be demonstrated that the plan or project is necessary for 'human health or public safety considerations'. Where plans or projects meet these criteria, they can be allowed, provided adequate compensatory measures are proposed.

## 2.4 Purpose of AA screening

- 2.4.1 This document constitutes Stage 1 of the HRA process (AA Screening). The purpose of AA screening is:

*'to assess, in view of the best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the sites, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the site.'*

- 2.4.2 Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3), that is:
- whether a plan or project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of the site; and
  - whether a plan or project, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European site in view of its Conservation Objectives.
- 2.4.3 Under the first test, plans that are directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site do not require AA. For this exception to apply, management is required to be interpreted narrowly as nature conservation management in the sense of Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive. This refers to specific measures to address the ecological requirements of annexed habitats and species (and their habitats) present on a site(s). The relationship should be shown to be direct and not a by-product of the plan, even if this might result in positive or beneficial effects for a site(s).
- 2.4.4 The purpose of the Regional Programme is not the nature conservation management of European sites; it is not therefore considered to be directly connected with, or necessary to the management of, European sites, so AA Screening is required.
- 2.4.5 The diagram below, taken from 'OPR Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management' (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021), sets out the steps and matters to be considered in the AA Screening process to address the second test of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## Steps and matters to be considered:



**1. Describe** the proposed development and local site characteristics.



**2. Identify** the relevant European sites and compile information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.

- (a) Identify all European sites that might be affected using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model.
- (b) Identify the Qualifying Interests of the site concerned and the conservation objectives.
- (c) Determine which of those Qualifying Interests/conservation objectives could be affected by the proposed development.



**3. Assess** the likely significant direct and indirect effects on the conservation objectives of the site(s) in relation to:

- (a) the project alone, *and*
- (b) In-combination with other plans and projects.



**4. Screening determination:** In the absence of mitigation measures, determine if the project alone or in-combination with other plans and projects could undermine the conservation objectives of the site(s) and give rise to likely significant effects.

## 3.0 THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME

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### 3.1 Background

3.1.1 In May 2018, the European Commission (EC) adopted a proposal for the next multi-annual financial framework for the period 2021-2027. Following this, in March 2021, the EC published a package of Regulations on Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027, which included the provision for ERDF Operational Programmes.

3.1.2 Two ERDF co-financed Regional Programmes have since been developed, with the SRA and the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) acting as Managing Authorities.

3.1.3 The two Regional Programmes comprise:

- The Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027 – covering the combined areas of the Southern Region and the Eastern and Midland Region.
- The Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 – covering the Northern and Western region.



3.1.4 The Eastern and Midland Region includes eleven Local Authority areas (see above), split into three sub-regions (Eastern, Midland and Dublin). The region's main population centre and economic engine is Dublin City and Metropolitan Area supported in turn by the three Regional Growth Centres of Drogheda, Dundalk, Athlone and the Key Towns of Swords, Bray, Maynooth, Navan, Naas, Wicklow, Mullingar, Longford, Tullamore, Portlaoise and Graigcullen/Carlow.



- 3.1.5 The Southern Region includes nine Local Authority areas (see above) and the three Strategic Planning Areas of the South-West, Mid-West and South-East. The Region has the three Cities and Metropolitan Areas of Cork, Limerick-Shannon and Waterford as the main centres of population and employment growth supported in turn by a network the Key Towns of Kilkenny, Ennis, Carlow, Tralee, Wexford, Clonmel, Killarney, Mallow, Nenagh, Thurles, Newcastle West, Clonakilty, Dungarvan and Gorey.
- 3.1.6 This AA Screening Statement covers the Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027 only. A separate AA Screening Statement will be produced for the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027.

## 3.2 The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

- 3.2.1 The Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme strategy for ERDF is directly linked to the two existing RSESs.
- 3.2.2 The RSES for the Southern Region was adopted in January 2020. It sets a 12-year strategic planning and economic development framework for future economic, spatial, and social development of the Southern Region in line with vision and objectives for national change in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan (NDP). It is prepared and implemented through the regional tier of Government to achieve balanced regional development. It will be implemented in partnership with Local Authorities and state agencies to deliver on this vision and build a cohesive and sustainable region.
- 3.2.3 The RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region was adopted in June 2019 with the same primary aims as outlined above. The RSES of both Regions will be implemented by way of a review by Local Authorities of all City and County development plans and Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs). Key state agencies and sectoral bodies also need to align their strategies and investment plans to support the achievement of National and Regional Strategic Outcomes set out in the NPF and RSES.

- 3.2.4 The ambition of the SRA and EMRA is to utilise the funding available in the ERDF co-financed Regional Programme to support the delivery of key regional objectives and priorities as set out in the two existing RSEs. Consequently, the formulation of the Regional Programme is grounded in the RSES implementation within the two Regions along with a Needs Analysis and the EU Commission's Country Specific Reports.
- 3.2.5 Both RSEs were subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) (RPS, 2019b and RPS, 2020b) and HRA (RPS, 2019a and RPS, 2020b). Given the close alignment of the RSEs to the Regional Programme, the HRA analysis previously carried out for the RSEs will be used to inform the current assessment of the Regional Programme.

### 3.3 Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional ERDF Programme – Themes and Objectives

- 3.3.1 In order to support future growth, the EU Regulations on Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027 sets out the following Policy Objectives:
- **Policy Objective 1: A Smarter Europe** - A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional Information Communication Technology (ICT) connectivity (PO 1).
  - **Policy Objective 2: A Greener, Low Carbon Europe** - A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility (PO 2).
  - **Policy Objective 3: Connected Europe** - A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility (PO 3).
  - **Policy Objective 4: Social inclusion** - A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (PO 4).
  - **Policy Objective 5: A Europe Closer to its Citizens** - Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives (PO 5).
- 3.3.2 The ERDF Regulation requires that More Developed regions allocate at least 85% of ERDF resources to PO1 and PO2 combined and at least 30% of ERDF resources to PO2. The ERDF Regulation also requires that at least 8% of the ERDF resources be allocated to sustainable urban development. Any Regional Programme alternatives under consideration need to meet these minimum requirements. It has therefore been decided to take forward Policy Objectives PO1, PO2 and PO5 into the Regional Programme and to focus on the following key strategic outcomes:
- **Developing Smarter More Competitive Regions** through Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) capacity building within the universities including the new Technological University in our region, accelerating the translation of cutting-edge research into commercial applications at a regional level, supporting innovation diffusion and strengthening regional innovation ecosystems in line with Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy and Regional Enterprise Plans.

- **Creating Greener More Energy Efficient Regions and a Just Transition** by focusing on scaling up investment in energy efficiency in line with the Climate Action Plan 2021.
- **Supporting Sustainable Urban Development in our Regions** using an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of our towns, empowering Local Authorities to gather data and lead actions on regeneration using a Town Centres First Framework.

3.3.3 The ERDF Regulation also sets out twenty-three Specific Objectives and the scope of support from the ERDF. Given the limited funding, it is not possible for the Regional Programme to address too many of the Specific Objectives. The Regional Programme will therefore concentrate funds on a limited number of policy aims, Specific Objectives and actions, with a well-articulated intervention logic at the outset.

3.3.4 Table 1 shows the emerging Policy Objectives and their associated Specific Objectives which are being considered in the Regional Programme.

*Table 1 Policy Objective/ Regional Programme Priority and Specific Objectives*

Policy Objective/ Regional Programme Priority	Specific Objective
<p><b>EU Policy Objective 1:</b> A Smarter Europe - A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity (PO 1).</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM1.</b> Smarter and More Competitive Regions</p>	<p><b>RSO1.1</b> Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.</p> <p><b>RSO1.3</b> Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.</p>
<p><b>EU Policy Objective 2: A Greener, Low Carbon Europe</b> - A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility (PO 2).</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM2.</b> Low-Carbon Energy Efficient Regions</p>	<p><b>RSO2.1</b> Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p><b>EU Policy Objective 5: A Europe Closer to its Citizens</b> - Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives (PO 5).</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM3.</b> Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development</p>	<p><b>RSO5.1</b> Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas.</p>

## 3.4 Consultation

- 3.4.1 The ERDF Programmes are developed under an EU Partnership model, with extensive consultation involving social partners and voluntary groups.
- 3.4.2 The consultation process commenced with a detailed needs assessment which was undertaken by Indecon Consultants, completed in July 2020 and which focused the analysis around future investment priorities in line with national and regional policy objectives and the Cohesion Policy Objectives of the EU. The needs analysis was subject to its own detailed stakeholder consultation process.
- 3.4.3 Regional and national public consultations then took place between July and September 2020 to elicit the views of stakeholders and the wider public, regarding the priorities for ERDF funding in 2021 – 2027, on a regional basis.
- 3.4.4 Further consultations then took place with Government Departments and State Agencies to identify potential policy alignments with ERDF and regional objectives between January and March 2021.
- 3.4.5 This included meetings between the Regional Assemblies and:
- Department of Transport.
  - Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
  - Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.
  - Department of Further and Higher Education.
  - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
  - Department of Rural and Community Development.
  - The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.
  - Relevant Local Authorities.
- 3.4.6 Following those rounds of meetings, a number of Government Departments and public bodies put forward proposed actions for consideration for ERDF funding.
- 3.4.7 A comprehensive screening process of those proposed actions was conducted by the Managing Authorities (MAs) in consultation with the EU Commission and Member State. From the screening process and following a further round of consultation meetings with the Government Departments and State Agencies between July and November 2021, a list of preferred actions for inclusion on the ERDF co-funded Programme was identified.

## 4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN SITES

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### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 As detailed in Section 2.1, European sites comprise SACs and SPAs, which together comprise the pan-European 'Natura 2000' network of protected areas.

### 4.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor

4.2.1 Likely significant effects on a European site will only exist where there is a source-pathway-receptor link. Therefore, identifying potential impact pathways to sensitive habitats and species associated with European sites is a vital component of the screening process. If there is no ecological pathway or functional link between the actions likely to result from the Policy Objectives and any European sites, there is no potential for impact and the Policy Objective can be 'screened out'.

4.2.2 Given the high-level and strategic nature of the Regional Programme, determining the source-pathway-receptor links, and therefore the potential for likely significant effects, can be difficult. No allocations, nor specific spatial elements (other than naming Key Towns within the Region), have been included in the Policy Objectives and/or Specific Objectives; the precautionary principle has therefore been applied when identifying potential source-pathway-receptors.

4.2.3 Taking into consideration the potential impacts identified in the HRAs of the RSEs (RPS, 2019a and RPS, 2020b), and the themes of the Policy Objectives chosen to be included in the Regional Programme (refer to Section 2), the following potential impact pathways (to qualifying habitats and/or species associated with the European sites) have been identified:

- Habitat or species loss.
- Destruction, fragmentation or degradation of habitats.
- Disturbance/displacement of species.
- Species mortality.
- Changes associated water quality and hydrology.
- Changes associated with air quality.
- Introduction and/ or transfer of non-native invasive species.

### 4.3 Zone of Influence

4.3.1 The zone of influence of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. Whilst for projects this can more easily be established on a case-by-case basis, for high-level plans, such as the Regional Programme, a broader precautionary approach is more appropriate.

4.3.2 Based on the themes within the Regional Programme, and the potential impact pathways outlined above, a zone of influence of 15km from the boundary of the region has been

identified. This distance is precautionary, and it is likely that the zone of influence for the majority of the projects which come forward as a result of the actions under the Policy Objectives set out in the Regional Programme will be more localised.

- 4.3.3 In accordance with current guidance, the AA Screening should also take account of transboundary effects. In this instance, sites within Northern Ireland (at the northern boundary of the region) will be included in the assessment where they fall within the 15km zone of influence described above. This will include SACs and SPAs which now form part of the United Kingdom (UK) National Site Network (as per the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). For the purposes of this report, the term 'European site' will refer to all SPAs and SACs within Ireland as well as those within Northern Ireland which form part of the UK National Site Network.

## 4.4 European sites within the zone of influence

- 4.4.1 Table 2 shows the number of European sites within or partially within the Southern, Eastern and Midland region, including the 15km zone of influence buffer. A list of the sites is presented in Appendix 1 and are shown on Figure 1.

*Table 2 Number of European sites within the Southern, Eastern and Midland Region (including 15km zone of influence buffer)*

European site	Number of sites	
SAC	Southern, Eastern and Midland Region (only)	253
	Additional sites within the 15km zone of influence buffer	14
SPA	Southern, Eastern and Midland Region (only)	99
	Additional sites within the 15km zone of influence buffer	3

### Conservation Objectives

- 4.4.2 Site-specific conservation objectives are prepared for all European sites. They aim to define the favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site. The maintenance of habitats and species within European sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.
- 4.4.3 Site-specific conservation objectives specify whether the objective is to maintain or to restore favourable conservation condition of the habitat or species, and they set out attributes and targets that define the objectives. For example, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:
- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
  - the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and

- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

4.4.4 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, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

4.4.5 Qualifying interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) are annexed habitats and species of community interest for which an SAC or SPA has been designated. The site-specific conservation objectives are set out to ensure that the QIs/SCIs of that site are maintained or restored to a favourable conservation condition/conservation status.

4.4.6 A full listing of the conservation objectives and QIs/SCIs that each European site is designated for, as well as the attributes and targets to maintain or restore the QIs/SCIs to a favourable conservation condition, are available from the NPWS website.

## **5.0 ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS**

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### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 The key test in AA Screening is to establish whether any likelihood of significant effects on European sites can be ruled out.
- 5.1.2 Taking into consideration the potential source-pathway-receptor links identified in Section 4.2, the assessment below determines if there are any potential likely significant effects of the Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives of the Regional Programme (detailed in Section 2.4) on the European sites identified in Section 4.3.

### **5.2 AA Screening of Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives**

- 5.2.1 Table 3 shows the screening assessment (alone; see Section 5.3 for the in-combination assessment) of the emerging Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives which are being considered in the Regional Programme.

Table 3 The Regional Programme Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives screening assessment

Objectives	Type of Actions	Screening Assessment
<p><b>EU Policy Objective 1: A Smarter Europe</b> - A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity (PO 1).  <b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM1.</b> Smarter and More Competitive Regions</p>		
<p><b>RSO1.1</b> Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies (ERDF).</p>	<p>The following types of action will be taken under this priority to develop and enhance research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies in the programme area.</p> <p><b>Capacity building within the regions new Technological University (TU).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish, strengthen and systemise regional research and innovation offices which support their academic staff and researchers and wider enterprise and community stakeholders.</li> <li>• develop researcher human capital in TUs, including staff development, recruitment, postgraduate training and supervision, networking, and collaborative knowledge-transfer and mobility schemes.</li> <li>• provide industry gateways with dedicated staff who work with industry to articulate company problems in a manner that can be addressed by the established expert base in each TU. Gateway staff will manage the interaction between enterprises and the Technological University, help enterprises source funding where necessary, and ensure projects are delivered successfully and in an industry friendly manner.</li> <li>• install or upgrade specialist capital equipment that supports delivery of collaborative projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Capacity building within both universities and our Technological Universities (TUs).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain Technology Transfer specialists to help companies and investors to access new knowledge and expertise, to drive innovation through collaboration, and to identify and license new technologies and IP. These specialists will continue to develop the Technology Transfer System in public research institutions and will provide new resources to place a focus on developing spin out company opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Accelerating the translation of cutting-edge research into commercial applications at a regional level.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a new "Smart Hub" model for regional innovation and entrepreneurial training. The model will integrate critical elements of a Research and Innovation (R&amp;I) ecosystem with entrepreneurial approaches, thus accelerating time to market from research concept to High Potential Start-ups (HPSUs), new product</li> </ul>	<p>The four overarching actions associated with this policy all relate to funding, investment and enhancing capacity within existing establishments.</p> <p>SRA have confirmed that none of the actions would lead to new developments (such as buildings/ transport infrastructure).</p> <p><b>The potential for likely significant effects (alone) resulting from source-pathway-receptor links can be ruled out and no further assessment is required of this Specific Objective.</b></p>

Objectives	Type of Actions	Screening Assessment
	<p>introduction, licences and innovations. The new regional Smart Hubs for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation will be established in key thematic areas aligned with the Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy and regional strategic priorities.</p> <p><b>Supporting innovation diffusion, enterprise innovation and entrepreneurship in the regions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop new immersive-based, needs-led innovation training programmes, closely aligned to S3 in the regions and capable of attracting high calibre individuals and inter-disciplinary teams who, through their immersion and observation of real needs in their immersive environment and the use of a design methodology, will be supported to generate product and process ideas, new Intellectual Property (IP) and in some cases, the creation of HPSUs from research. These programmes will build on existing international and national best practice connecting on multiple levels with the industry sector clusters in the regions.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>RSO1.3</b> Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments (ERDF).</p>	<p>The following types of action will be taken under this priority to enhance sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investment, in the regions and sub-regions of the programme area.</p> <p><b>Strengthening and developing functional regional ecosystems that support innovation diffusion, enterprise innovation and entrepreneurship in the regions.</b></p> <p>Provide appropriate infrastructure and key staff resources to deliver innovative solutions including support programmes to support entrepreneurship, start-ups and scaling companies. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delivery of small to medium scale regional projects (with minimum or no building requirements) or expansion of existing regional ecosystem projects</li> <li>scoping and preparing new large-scale regional projects, e.g., design and planning, project development, recruitment of key managers.</li> <li>delivery of large-scale regional capital investment projects that provide key strategic infrastructural solutions to support the regional ecosystem.</li> </ul> <p>Actions will be targeted at strategic regional locations where an identifiable deficit exists in key infrastructure which is necessary to develop functional regional ecosystems which can support this client base.</p> <p>Projects must be collaborative in nature, they must be innovative, viable and sustainable with metrics and Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) which provide additionality to the existing regional infrastructure.</p> <p>Projects will complement the solutions provided by the existing regional providers including higher education institutions, state agencies and private sector entities at a regional level.</p>	<p>This Specific Objective has the potential to lead to development, in particular in relation to job creation and delivery of regional capital investment projects and strategic infrastructure.</p> <p><b>The potential for likely significant effects (alone) resulting from source-pathway-receptor links cannot be ruled out at this stage of the assessment and therefore further Appropriate Assessment of this Specific Objective will be required.</b></p>

Objectives	Type of Actions	Screening Assessment
<p><b>EU Policy Objective 2: A Greener, Low Carbon Europe</b> - A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility (PO 2).</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM2.</b> Low-Carbon Energy Efficient Regions</p>		
<p><b>RSO2.1.</b> Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (ERDF).</p>	<p>The following types of action will be taken under this priority to promote energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the programme area.</p> <p><b>Improving the energy efficiency of residential homes.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the delivery of energy efficiency renovations free of charge to owner-occupied lower-income households who meet the defined eligibility criteria and who are vulnerable to energy poverty</li> <li>• retrofit homes with the aim to achieve, on average, at least a medium-depth level renovation</li> <li>• pilot the installation of heat pumps in existing premises, to replace older less efficient heating systems</li> <li>• gather evidence from the pilot to inform the appropriate process and approach to increasing the number of B2 upgrades and heat pump installations going forward</li> <li>• use learnings from similar actions in the 2014-2020 programming period</li> <li>• provide an evidence base to improve the targeting of energy efficiency schemes</li> <li>• examine the impact of retrofitting on alleviating energy poverty</li> </ul>	<p>This Specific Objective focuses of improving energy efficiency in existing housing stock. The schemes which would arise from this policy aim to deliver a range of energy efficiency measures free of charge to lower-income households.</p> <p>SRA have confirmed that this policy would not lead to development outside of footprint of existing dwellings or lead to other renewable energy schemes.</p> <p><b>The potential for likely significant effects (alone) resulting from source-pathway-receptor links can be ruled out and no further assessment is required of this Specific Objective.</b></p>
<p><b>EU Policy Objective 5: A Europe Closer to its Citizens</b> - Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives (PO 5)</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM3.</b> Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development</p>		
<p><b>RSO5.1.</b> Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas (ERDF).</p>	<p>The following types of action will be taken under this priority to foster integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas within the programme area.</p> <p><b>Planning Phase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prepare integrated urban regeneration action plans / masterplans (either using procured multi-disciplinary service or short-term contract within the Local Authority for required skills) which identify projects and initiatives tackling town centre regeneration, placemaking, vacancy and dereliction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Implementation Phase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver pilot and pathfinder projects for selected towns (priority for Key Towns or other settlements as justified by the Local Authority under selection criteria) tackling town centre regeneration, placemaking, vacancy and dereliction. This will involve capital investment and may include public realm improvement projects.</li> </ul>	<p>This Specific Objective has the potential to lead to development, in particular in the vicinity of the Key Towns identified within the Region.</p> <p><b>The potential for likely significant effects (alone) resulting from source-pathway-receptor links cannot be ruled out at this stage of the assessment and therefore further Appropriate Assessment of this Specific Objective will be required.</b></p>

Objectives	Type of Actions	Screening Assessment
	Actions will support an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of our towns, using a Town Centre First Health Check framework to gather data and lead actions on regeneration.	

## 5.3 In-combination effects

5.3.1 It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that the potential for in-combination effects with other plans or projects are considered. Given the high-level nature of the Regional Programme, and the lack of allocations or specific spatial elements, only similarly high-level and strategic plans/policies have been included in the in-combination assessment. The polices/plans/programmes/strategies considered to date are listed in Table 4.

*Table 4 Polices/plans/programmes/strategies to consider in the in-combination assessment*

Relevant polices/plans/programmes/strategies	
<b>European Union</b>	
EU Green Deal 2019	EU Country Report (Ireland) 2019 and 2020
Roadmap for Resource Efficient Europe 2011	EU Regional innovation Scoreboard
A Clean Planet for all A European Strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern competitive and climate neutral economy 2018	EU Lagging Regions - state of play and future challenges
Europe 2020 Economic Strategy. A Economy Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	
<b>National</b>	
Northern and Western RSES	Southern RSES
Eastern and Midland RSES	River Basin Management Plan 2018 -21
Indecon Needs Analysis	Housing for All 2021 a new Housing Plan for Ireland
National Smart Specialisation Plan (currently being reviewed)	Research and Innovation Strategy (currently being reviewed)
Regional Enterprise Plans (currently being reviewed)	Future Jobs Ireland
National Development Plan 2021 - 2030 (NDP)	National Climate Action Plan (2021)
Smarter Travel 'A New Transport Policy for Ireland'	National Climate Change Adaptation Framework
National Climate Mitigation Plan	National Planning Framework
Water Services Strategic Plan	National Water Resources Plan
National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan	The National Biodiversity Plan

Relevant polices/plans/programmes/strategies	
Regional Waste Management Plans	Construction 2020
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland	National Cycle Policy Framework
National Retrofit Plan	Rural Development Programme

5.3.2 The following Specific Objectives have been screened out of further in combination assessment:

- **PO1 SEM1 RSO1.1** Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.
- **PO2 SEM2 RSO2.1** Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

5.3.3 Taking into consideration the actions associated with the Specific Objectives (as detailed in Table 3), and the potential impact pathways identified in Section 4.2, no likely significant source-pathway-receptor links have been identified in combination with the polices/plans/programmes/ strategies set out in Table 4. Therefore, the potential for likely significant in combination effects associated with PO1 SEM1 RSO1.1 or PO2 SEM2 RSO2.1 can be ruled out and no further Appropriate Assessment (in relation to in combination effects) of these Specific Objectives will be required.

5.3.4 The following Specific Objectives have been screened in for further in combination assessment:

- **PO1 SEM1 RSO1.3** Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.
- **PO5 SEM3 RSO5.1** Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas.

5.3.5 As detailed in Table 3, both PO1 SEM1 RSO1.3 and PO5 SEM3 RSO5.1 have the potential to lead to development, and as such, the potential for likely significant effects (in combination) resulting from source-pathway-receptor links (identified in Section 4.2) cannot be ruled out at this stage of the assessment. Further Appropriate Assessment (in relation to in combination effects) of PO1 SEM1 RSO1.3 and PO5 SEM3 RSO5.1 will therefore be required.

## 6.0 SCREENING DETERMINATION

### 6.1 Screening Summary

- 6.1.1 HRA is an iterative process. This AA Screening has been undertaken at an early stage of the Regional Programme development to help identify any potential impacts on European sites before the detailed wording have been fully developed.
- 6.1.2 Given the strategic nature of the Regional Programme and the current stage of preparation, it has not been possible to rule out the potential for likely significant effects for all Policy Objectives. Table 5 summarises the Specific Objectives which have been screened in and out of the assessment.

Table 5 The Regional Programme Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives screening summary

Draft Objectives	Screening Conclusion
<p><b>Policy Objective 1:</b> A Smarter Europe – A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity (PO 1)</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM1.</b> Smarter and More Competitive Regions</p>	
<p><b>RSO1.1</b> Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.</p>	Screened out (alone and in combination)
<p><b>RSO1.3</b> Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.</p>	<b>Screened in (alone and in combination)</b>
<p><b>Policy Objective 2:</b> A Greener, Low Carbon Europe – A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility (PO 2)</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM2.</b> Low-Carbon Energy Efficient Regions</p>	
<p><b>RSO2.1</b> Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	Screened out (alone and in combination)
<p><b>Policy Objective 5:</b> A Europe Closer to its Citizens - Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives (PO 5)</p> <p><b>Regional Programme Priority: SEM3.</b> Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development</p>	
<p><b>RSO5.1</b> Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas.</p>	<b>Screened in (alone and in combination)</b>

### 6.2 Screening Conclusion

- 6.2.1 On completion of the AA Screening, the following conclusion has been drawn.
- 6.2.2 The potential for likely significant effects can be ruled out (alone and in combination) in relation to PO1 SEM1 RSO1.1 and PO2 SEM2 RSO2.1. No further HRA of these Specific Objectives is required.

6.2.3 The potential for likely significant effects cannot be ruled out at this stage of the assessment (either alone or in combination) in relation to PO1 SEM1 RSO1.3 and PO5 SEM3 RSO5.1. It is therefore recommended that an Appropriate Assessment is carried out for these Specific Objectives, and a Natura Impact Statement Report should be prepared.

# REFERENCES

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RPS (2019a) Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. Natura Impact Report. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

RPS (2019b) Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

RPS (2020a) Natura Impact Report. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

RPS (2020b) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

# FIGURES

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Figure 1 Location of European sites



- Legend:**
- SEMRA Regional Boundary
  - EMRA County Boundaries
  - SRA County Boundaries
  - 15km Buffer
  - Special Areas of Conservation (Ireland)
  - Special Protected Areas (Ireland)
  - Special Areas of Conservation (Northern Ireland)
  - Special Protected Areas (Northern Ireland)



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	17/01/2022	2483020	ET	SP	LC

**SEMRA HRA**

**RSK**  
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 1:  
Natura 2000 sites

0 10,000 20,000 30,000  
Metres  
SCALE: 1:1,305,759@ A3

REV 00

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2021  
World Imagery (Clarity): Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community  
World Street Map: Esri UK, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS  
Hybrid Reference Layer: Esri UK, Esri, Garmin, FAO, NOAA

# APPENDIX A – EUROPEAN SITES

Table A.1. SPAs and SACs within the Southern, Eastern and Midland Region and the 15km zone of influence buffer

SACs	SPAs
Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC	All Saints Bog SPA
All Saints Bog and Esker SAC	Baldoyle Bay SPA
Anglesey Road SAC	Ballyallia Lough SPA
Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	Ballycotton Bay SPA
Ardagullion Bog SAC	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA
Ardgraique Bog SAC	Ballymacoda Bay SPA
Ardmore Head SAC	Ballyteigue Burrow SPA
Ardrahan Grassland SAC	Bannow Bay SPA
Arragh More (Derryreen) Bog SAC	Beara Peninsula SPA
Askeaton Fen Complex SAC	Blackwater Callows SPA
Baldoyle Bay SAC	Blackwater Estuary SPA
Ballinduff Turlough SAC	Blasket Islands SPA
Ballinskelligs Bay and Inny Estuary SAC	Boyne Estuary SPA
Ballinturly Turlough SAC	Cahore Marshes SPA
Ballyallia Lake SAC	Carlingford Lough SPA
Ballycullinan Lake SAC	Carlingford Lough SPA
Ballycullinan, Old Domestic Building SAC	Castlemaine Harbour SPA
Ballyduff/Clonfinane Bog SAC	Cliffs of Moher SPA
Ballyhoura Mountains SAC	Clonakilty Bay SPA
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	Connemara Bog Complex SPA
Ballyman Glen SAC	Coole-Garryland SPA
Ballymore Fen SAC	Cork Harbour SPA
Ballynafagh Bog SAC	Corofin Wetlands SPA
Ballynafagh Lake SAC	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA
Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC	Cregganna Marsh SPA
Ballyogan Lough SAC	Dalkey Islands SPA
Ballyprior Grassland SAC	Deenish Island and Scariff Island SPA
Ballyseedy Wood SAC	Dingle Peninsula SPA
Ballyteige (Clare) SAC	Dovegrove Callows SPA
Ballyteige Burrow SAC	Dundalk Bay SPA
Ballyvaughan Turlough SAC	Dungarvan Harbour SPA
Bandon River SAC	Eirk Bog SPA
Bannow Bay SAC	Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA
Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	Garriskil Bog SPA
Barrigone SAC	Glen Lough SPA
Barroughter Bog SAC	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA
Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex SAC	Howth Head Coast SPA
Blackstairs Mountains SAC	Illaunonearaun SPA

SACs	SPAs
Blackwater Bank SAC	Inner Galway Bay SPA
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	Ireland's Eye SPA
Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	Iveragh Peninsula SPA
Blasket Islands SAC	Keeragh Islands SPA
Bolingbrook Hill SAC	Kerry Head SPA
Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC	Kilcolman Bog SPA
Bray Head SAC	Killarney National Park SPA
Brown Bog SAC	Lady's Island Lake SPA
Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC	Lambay Island SPA
Caha Mountains SAC	Loop Head SPA
Caherglassaun Turlough SAC	Lough Corrib SPA
Cahermore Turlough SAC	Lough Croan Turlough SPA
Cahore Polders and Dunes SAC	Lough Cutra SPA
Carlingford Mountain SAC	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA
Carlingford Shore SAC	Lough Derravaragh SPA
Carn Park Bog SAC	Lough Ennell SPA
Carnsore Point SAC	Lough Iron SPA
Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA
Carriggower Bog SAC	Lough Oughter SPA
Carrowbaun, Newhall and Ballylee Turloughs SAC	Lough Owel SPA
Carrowmore Dunes SAC	Lough Rea SPA
Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC	Lough Ree SPA
Castlemaine Harbour SAC	Lough Sheelin SPA
Castlesampson Esker SAC	Magharee Islands SPA
Castletaylor Complex SAC	Malahide Estuary SPA
Castletownshend SAC	Mid-Clare Coast SPA
Charleville Wood SAC	Middle Shannon Callows SPA
Clara Bog SAC	Mid-Waterford Coast SPA
Clare Glen SAC	Mongan Bog SPA
Cleanderry Wood SAC	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA
Clogher Head SAC	North Bull Island SPA
Clonakilty Bay SAC	Old Head of Kinsale SPA
Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog SAC	Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA
Cloonee And Inchiquin Loughs, Uragh Wood SAC	Puffin Island SPA
Clooneen Bog SAC	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA
Cloonmoylan Bog SAC	River Little Brosna Callows SPA
Comeragh Mountains SAC	River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA
Connemara Bog Complex SAC	River Nore SPA
Coole-Garryland Complex SAC	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA
Coolrain Bog SAC	River Suck Callows SPA
Corbo Bog SAC	Rockabill SPA
Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	Rogerstown Estuary SPA
Cregg House Stables, Crusheen SAC	Saltee Islands SPA
Crosswood Bog SAC	Seven Heads SPA
Cullahill Mountain SAC	

SACs	SPAs
Curraghchase Woods SAC	Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA
Danes Hole, Poulnalecka SAC	Skelligs SPA
Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	Skerries Islands SPA
Derragh Bog SAC	Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA
Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve SAC	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA
Derryleckagh SAC	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA
Dromore Woods and Loughs SAC	Sovereign Islands SPA
Drongawn Lough SAC	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA
Drummin Wood SAC	Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA
Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	Tacumshin Lake SPA
Dundalk Bay SAC	The Bull and The Cow Rocks SPA
East Burren Complex SAC	The Gearagh SPA
Eastern Mourne SAC	The Murrough SPA
Farranamanagh Lough SAC	The Raven SPA
Ferbane Bog SAC	Tralee Bay Complex SPA
Fin Lough (Offaly) SAC	Tramore Back Strand SPA
Fortwilliam Turlough SAC	Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA
Galmoy Fen SAC	Wicklow Head SPA
Galtee Mountains SAC	Wicklow Mountains SPA
Galway Bay Complex SAC	
Garriskil Bog SAC	
Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC	
Glanlough Woods SAC	
Glanmore Bog SAC	
Glen Bog SAC	
Glen of the Downs SAC	
Glenasmole Valley SAC	
Glendine Wood SAC	
Glendree Bog SAC	
Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	
Glenloughaun Esker SAC	
Glenomra Wood SAC	
Glenstal Wood SAC	
Gortacarnaun Wood SAC	
Great Island Channel SAC	
Helvick Head SAC	
Holdenstown Bog SAC	
Hook Head SAC	
Howth Head SAC	
Hugginstown Fen SAC	
Inagh River Estuary SAC	
Inisheer Island SAC	
Inishmaan Island SAC	
Ireland's Eye SAC	

SACs	SPAs
<p>Island Fen SAC  Keeper Hill SAC  Kenmare River SAC  Kerry Head Shoal SAC  Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC  Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC  Kilgarvan Ice House SAC  Kilkee Reefs SAC  Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC  Kilkishen House SAC  Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC  Killeglan Grassland SAC  Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC  Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills SAC  Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC  Kiltartan Cave (Coole) SAC  Kiltiernan Turlough SAC  Knockacoller Bog SAC  Knockanira House SAC  Knocksink Wood SAC  Lady's Island Lake SAC  Lambay Island SAC  Lisbigney Bog SAC  Lisduff Fen SAC  Lisduff Turlough SAC  Liskeenan Fen SAC  Long Bank SAC  Lough Bane and Lough Glass SAC  Lough Corrib SAC  Lough Coy SAC  Lough Croan Turlough SAC  Lough Cutra SAC  Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC  Lough Ennell SAC  Lough Fingall Complex SAC  Lough Forbes Complex SAC  Lough Funshinagh SAC  Lough Gash Turlough SAC  Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC  Lough Lene SAC  Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs SAC  Lough Owel SAC  Lough Rea SAC  Lough Ree SAC</p>	

SACs	SPAs
<p>Lough Yganavan and Lough Nambrackdarrig SAC  Loughatorick South Bog SAC  Lower River Shannon SAC  Lower River Suir SAC  Magharee Islands SAC  Magherabeg Dunes SAC  Malahide Estuary SAC  Maulagowna Bog SAC  Moanour Mountain SAC  Moanveanlagh Bog SAC  Moneen Mountain SAC  Moneybeg And Clareisland Bogs SAC  Mongan Bog SAC  Mouds Bog SAC  Mount Brandon SAC  Mount Hevey Bog SAC  Mount Jessop Bog SAC  Mountmellick SAC  Moyclare Bog SAC  Moyree River System SAC  Mucksna Wood SAC  Mullaghanish Bog SAC  Myross Wood SAC  Newgrove House SAC  Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC  Nier Valley Woodlands SAC  North Dublin Bay SAC  Old Domestic Building (Keevagh) SAC  Old Domestic Building, Askive Wood SAC  Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC  Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC  Old Domestic Buildings, Rylane SAC  Old Farm Buildings, Ballymacrogan SAC  Peterswell Turlough SAC  Philipston Marsh SAC  Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC  Pollagoona Bog SAC  Pollardstown Fen SAC  Pollnacknockaun Wood Nature Reserve SAC  Pouladatig Cave SAC  Poulnagordon Cave (Quin) SAC  Raheenmore Bog SAC  Ratty River Cave SAC  Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC  Red Bog, Kildare SAC</p>	

SACs	SPAs
<p>Redwood Bog SAC</p> <p>Reen Point Shingle SAC</p> <p>Ridge Road, SW of Rapemills SAC</p> <p>River Barrow and River Nore SAC</p> <p>River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC</p> <p>River Shannon Callows SAC</p> <p>Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC</p> <p>Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC</p> <p>Rogerstown Estuary SAC</p> <p>Rostrevor Wood SAC</p> <p>Rosturra Wood SAC</p> <p>Rye Water Valley/Cartron SAC</p> <p>Saltee Islands SAC</p> <p>Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC</p> <p>Scragh Bog SAC</p> <p>Screen Hills SAC</p> <p>Sharavogue Bog SAC</p> <p>Sheep's Head SAC</p> <p>Sheheree (Ardagh) Bog SAC</p> <p>Silvermine Mountains SAC</p> <p>Silvermines Mountains West SAC</p> <p>Slaney River Valley SAC</p> <p>Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC</p> <p>Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC</p> <p>Slieve Gullion SAC</p> <p>Slieve Mish Mountains SAC</p> <p>Sonnagh Bog SAC</p> <p>South Dublin Bay SAC</p> <p>Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC</p> <p>Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC</p> <p>St. Gobnet's Wood SAC</p> <p>Tacumshin Lake SAC</p> <p>Termon Lough SAC</p> <p>The Gearagh SAC</p> <p>The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC</p> <p>The Loughans SAC</p> <p>The Murrough Wetlands SAC</p> <p>Thomastown Quarry SAC</p> <p>Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC</p> <p>Toonagh Estate SAC</p> <p>Tory Hill SAC</p> <p>Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC</p> <p>Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC</p> <p>Tullaheer Lough And Bog SAC</p>	

SACs	SPAs
Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC Valencia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo SAC Wicklow Mountains SAC Wicklow Reef SAC Wooddown Bog SAC	



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Registered in England No. 04364279

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Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021 - 2027

Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement

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