



County Sligo Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

November 2023

County Sligo Climate Action Plan

Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

Document Stage	Document Version	Prepared by
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Doherty Environmental Consultants (DEC) Ltd have been appointed by Sligo County Council to prepare a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment of the draft County Sligo Climate Action Plan (CAP). This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to inform the competent authority's assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (as amended). The function of this Screening Report is to identify the potential for the draft CAP to result in likely significant effects to European Sites and to provide information so that the competent authority can determine whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

1.1 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Mr. Pat Doherty BSc., MSc, MCIEEM, of DEC Ltd. Mr. Doherty is a consultant ecologist with over 20 years' experience in completing ecological impact assessments and environmental impact assessments. Pat has been involved in the completion of assessment reports for proposed developments and land use activities under the EIA Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive since 2003 and 2006 respectively. He has extensive experience completing such reporting for projects located in a variety of environments and has a thorough understanding of the biodiversity issues that may arise from proposed land use activities. Pat was responsible for completing one of the first Appropriate Assessment reports for large scale infrastructure developments in Ireland when he prepared the Appropriate Assessment for the N25 New Ross Bypass in 2006/07. Since then Pat has completed multiple examinations of both plans and projects in Ireland. He has completed Natura Impact Statements for national scale plans such as Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan and National Seafood Development Plan and regional and county scale plans including County Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Tourism Strategies and Climate Action Plans. Pat has completed multiple Natura Impact Statements for a range of development types that include large scale infrastructure developments in sectors such as transport and energy as well as industrial, commercial and residential developments.

Pat has completed focused certified professional development training in Appropriate Assessment as well as in a range of ecological survey techniques and assessment processes. Training has been completed for National Vegetation Classification (NVC) and Irish

Vegetation Classification (IVC) surveying, bryophyte survey for habitat assessment and identification, professional bat survey and assessment training, mammal surveying and specific training for bird and bat survey techniques. Ongoing training has been completed by approved training providers such as CIEEM, British Trust for Ornithology, the Botanic Gardens and the Field Studies Council.

1.2 EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE ARTICLE 6(3) ASSESSMENT

Legislative protection for habitats and species is provided within the European Union by the Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive has been implemented in Ireland and throughout Europe through the establishment of a network of designated conservation areas known as the Natura 2000 (N2K) network. The N2K network includes sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), under the EU Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the EU Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (as amended). SACs are designated in areas that support habitats listed on Annex I and/or species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. SPAs are designated in areas that support: 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of bird species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive; 1% or more of the population of a migratory species; and more than 20,000 waterfowl.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated. Measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the proposed project on European sites (i.e. “mitigation measures”) or best practice measures have not been taken into account in this screening stage appraisal.

1.2.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

According to section 177U(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the competent authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not,
- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).

This report contains information to support a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to provide information that assists the competent authority when assessing and addressing all issues regarding the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project and to allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive together list habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats Directive requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that are not directly connected to or necessary for the management of a European Site, to assess whether the plan or project alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by, inter alia, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Section 177U(4) of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act states:

"The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site. "

1.3 SCREENING METHODOLOGY

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.2 above and aims to establish whether or not the proposed plan, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. In

this context “likely” means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that **cannot** be ruled out based on objective information and “significant” means an effect that would undermine the conservation objectives of the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), 2021).

The nature of the likely interactions between the proposed development and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon the:

- the ecological characteristics of the species or habitat, including their structure, function, conservation status and sensitivity to change; *and/or*
- the character, magnitude, duration, consequences and probability of the impacts arising from land use activities associated with the plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with respective National and European guidance documents: *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2010)* and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC; Office of the Planning Regulator – OPR Practice Note PN01: Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (2021)*, and recent European and National case law. The following guidance documents were also of relevance during the preparation of this Screening Report:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010). DEHLG.*
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC. European Commission (EC) (2021).*
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018).*

The EC (2021) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites that could be influenced by the project;
3. Where European Sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect European Sites identified under Point 2 above; and
4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY SLIGO CAP

2.1 BACKGROUND TO COUNTY SLIGO CCAP

Through the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, Ireland is now on a legally binding path to net-Zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade. The Act provides the framework for Ireland to meet its international and EU climate commitments and to become a leader in addressing climate change.

As required by the 2021 Act, Sligo County Council is preparing their first Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA-CAP) which must be adopted by the Elected Members before 23rd February 2024. This will continue the work undertaken over the first Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 which was non statutory.

2.1.1 Local Authority Climate Action Plans

Local Authorities will have a particularly important role in the delivery of both climate mitigation and adaptation. This is reflected in the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021, which requires each Local Authority to prepare

a CAP specifying the mitigation and the adaptation measures to be adopted by the Local Authority.

Local authorities are key drivers in advancing climate policy at the local level and the Sligo CAP aims to strengthen the alignment between national climate policy and local circumstances with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures, to assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective for Sligo County Council.

Sligo County Council will use its CAP in planning how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience from across its own assets and infrastructure, whilst also taking on a broader role to influence, facilitate and co-ordinate the climate actions of communities and other stakeholders and what it will do to advocate for climate action in Sligo. In order to ensure that the CAP is centred around a strong understanding of the role and remit of Sligo County Council on climate action, the Plan is being developed through the following framework.

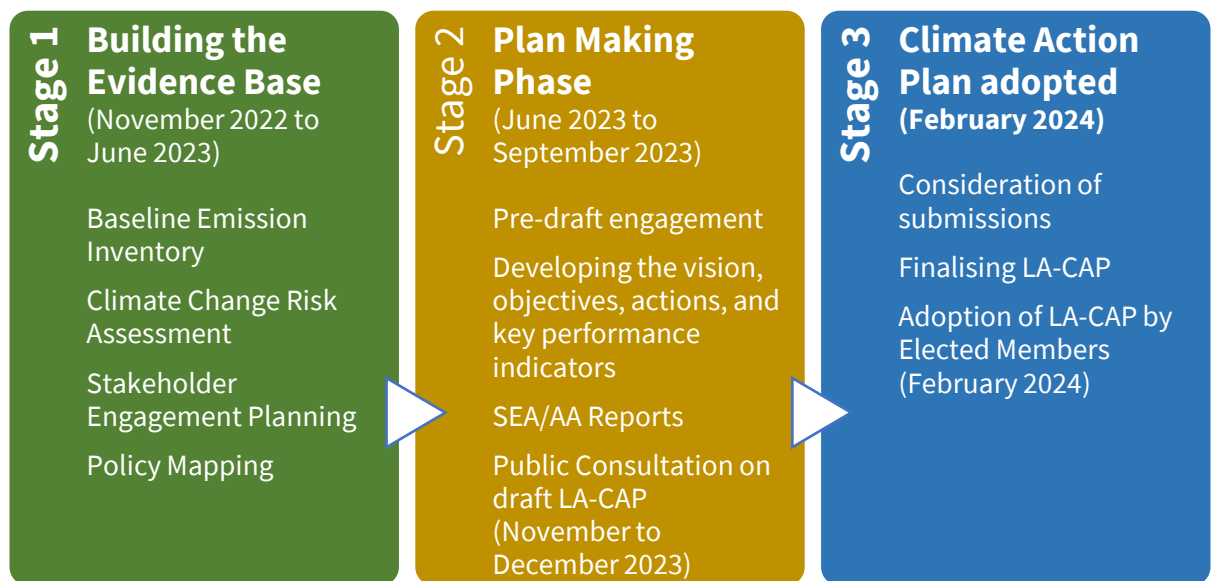
- Fully accountable: Targeted actions for areas where Sligo County Council has full accountability for climate action within their own operations.
- Influence: Actions for where Sligo County Council can influence businesses, communities, and individuals in the delivery of local climate action through the functions and services they provide.
- Coordination: Actions for where Sligo County Council can coordinate and facilitate local and community action bringing together stakeholders in partnership to achieve climate action related projects.
- Advocate: Actions aligned to Sligo County Councils role as advocate on climate action through raising awareness, communicating, informing, and engaging in open dialogue on the topic.

While the Climate Action Plan will be ambitious to reflect the leadership role of Sligo County Council on climate action, the Plan will not include actions whereby their implementation and achievement fall outside their role, remit, and governance.

2.1.2 Development of the LA-CAP

The development of the Climate Action Plan will follow a number of stages as explained in the Figure 1.1. below.

Figure 2-1 Stages in the development of the Climate Action Plan



2.2 SCALE, NATURE AND LOCATION OF THE COUNTY SLIGO CCAP

The plan will cover all of the functional area of County Sligo. Figure 1.2 shows the location of County Sligo, and the Atlantic Seaboard North Climate Action Regional office extent (CARO).

Supported by a robust evidence base, the Framework of Climate Actions configures the arrangement of actions within a defined structure, ensuring alignment between potential on the ground actions and the vision that the plan aspires to deliver. The framework comprises:

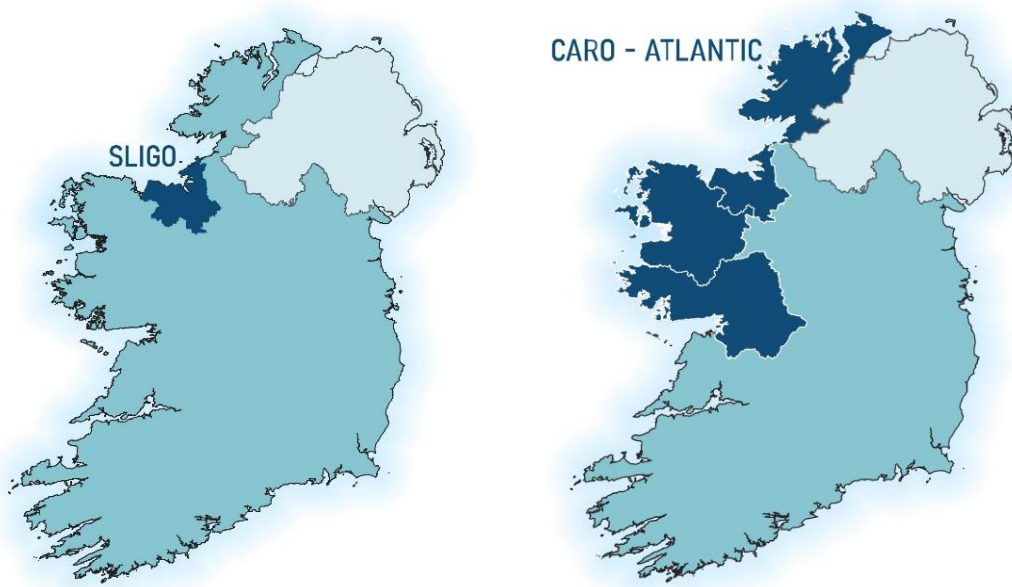
- An overarching Vision that reflects the shared perspective of a climate resilient and climate neutral future.

- A plan Mission that speaks practically to the grounded purpose of the local authority in delivering effective climate action.
- Strategic Goals that set the context for the climate actions and establish a structured or thematic arrangement of actions.
- High level Objectives that support the delivery of the strategic goals whilst framing the appropriate emphasis of the actions.
- Actions that are specific, action-focused, time-bound and measurable reflecting a scaling up of ambitious local level climate action.

The framework forms the basis for implementation and the reporting mechanisms required over the duration of the five-year plan period. In tailoring actions as part of the place-based approach to climate action reflective of local conditions and responsive to local impacts, the SMART approach to the development of actions is encouraged whereby actions identified are Specific, Measurable, Assigned, Realistic, Time-bound.

The Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment and requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting. Actions arising from the plan will demonstrate compliance with the environmental protection measures in the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied, and SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report that accompanies same. The draft Sligo County Development Plan 2023-2029 and SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report will replace the current CDP once adopted by Sligo County Council.

Figure 2-2 County Sligo and the Atlantic Seaboard North CARO



3.0 EUROPEAN SITES

3.1 OVERVIEW OF EUROPEAN SITES

County Sligo is situated in the west coast of Ireland, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, County Mayo to the west and south and the Counties of Leitrim and Roscommon to the south.

The County has a diverse topography varying from wide and open expanses of peatland and moorland, limestone pavement, extensive forested areas, estuarial mudflats, high Atlantic cliffs, inland lakes and waterways and fertile plains.

The Plan area is rich in biodiversity, containing many important, and protected, habitats and species such as, coastal habitats from cliffs to estuaries, reefs, machairs, mudflats, sandy beaches, and terrestrial habitats such as lakes, turloughs, fens, wetlands, woodlands, bats, wildfowl (duck and geese), waders, salmon, lamprey and otters. However, it also contains

many other habitats which are not protected such as scrub, parks, streams, hedgerows, tree lines, roadside verges, housing estate open spaces and gardens.

There are a total of 30 European Sites; 20 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 10 Special Protection Areas (SPA), occurring within Sligo. Collectively referred to as the Natura 2000 network, SACs and SPAs are designated in consideration of Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species and classified in consideration of Birds Directive Annex I bird species. The 30 European Sites make up a sizeable percentage of the land cover within the county. This area reflects the international and national significance of Sligo's wealth of natural heritage. Few Natura 2000 sites are exclusively designated or classified in consideration of terrestrial or aquatic qualifying interests; many consist of a combination of terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats and species. In the natural environment also there is considerable overlap between terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora, with each co-existing and co-reliant in many cases.

As well as within Co. Sligo there are a high number of European Site bordering the county. In order to identify these sites the spatial boundary data for the European site network, as published by the NPWS in July 2023 was used. All European Sites which were deemed to be within the zone of influence of the potential implications of the draft CAP are considered further in Section 3.2 below and are listed in Table A1.1 in Appendix 1.

3.2 ZONE OF INFLUENCE OF THE PLAN & IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN SITES

The approach to defining the zone of influence of the County Sligo CAP follows the approach used during for the draft Sligo County Development Plan 2024 - 2030. The land use effects of the CAP, be they direct or indirect effects, will be primarily restricted to County Sligo only. However a wider zone of influence is used for impacts relating to surface waters that are hydrologically connected to the Plan area and that support freshwater-dependent habitats; habitats for SACs or SPAs; habitats for Annex 2 qualifying species; and habitat for SPA special conservation interest bird species.

In line with the approach to defining the zone of influence as set out above, the screening of the draft CAP identified 35 SACs within County Sligo and within a 15km buffer of the county boundary; 9 SACs hydrologically connected to the Plan Area of County Sligo; 15 SPAs within County Sligo and within a 15km buffer of the county boundary; and 5 SPAs hydrologically connected to the Plan Area of County Sligo.

As such a total of 66 sites comprised for 46 SACs and 20 SPAs fall within the zone of influence of the draft CAP. These 66 European Sites are listed in Appendix 1.

3.3 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

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

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define 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. Site-specific conservation objectives have been published by the NPWS for 356 SACs and 37 SPAs in the Republic of Ireland. Given the number of European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the Plan and the level of detail outlined in the site-specific conservation objectives for each European Sites it is not practical to reproduce the site-specific conservation objectives for each site within this screening report. Instead the generic conservation objectives for European Sites, which represent the overarching aims of site-specific conservation objectives, that is to maintain and restore the favourable conservation condition of qualifying habitats and species are presented below.

The 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.

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.

4.0 ELEMENTS OF THE DRAFT COUNTY SLIGO CAP WITH POTENTIAL TO RESULT IN LAND USE EFFECTS

The County Sligo draft CAP sets out a range of measures that aim to future proof the county, its lands and communities, as well as the council as an organisational body, against the impact of climate change. For the purposes of this screening exercise the actions set out in the draft CAP can be divided into those that have the potential to result in land use and those that do not, the latter being principally concerned with organisational structures, co-operation and research.

Example of actions with potential land use consequences include those that require climate change adaptation measures for existing key infrastructure such as roads and flood defences; the provision of infrastructure to enable modal shifts in transport from private vehicle to active travel and public transport; the implementation of nature-based actions with local authority lands; and the facilitation of community decarbonisation and future proofing initiatives.

The potential ecological effects land use activities associated with these actions could include:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to surface water;
- Habitat degradation resulting from emissions to groundwater;

- Habitat degradation resulting from the spread of non-native invasive species during works within enterprise zones; and
- Disturbance and/or displacement of qualifying species from within or outside European Sites.

4.1 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS WITH OTHER PLANS & PROJECTS

As part of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) assessment the potential for the Plan to combine with other plans or projects to result in cumulative negative effects to European Sites must be considered. Given the broad level of detail associated with the Plan's actions and the potential for land use effects to arise as result of the implementation of actions with consequential land use interventions, the potential for the Plan to combine within other Plans to result in cumulative effects cannot be ruled out.

5.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

This Screening for the forthcoming draft County Sligo CAP has found that it cannot be ruled out at the screening stage that the land use actions set out at the screening stage, will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to the conservation objective of European Sites.

Due to the potential risk of such effects occurring following the implementation of the County Sligo CAP, it has been concluded that the forthcoming draft CAP will have the potential to result in significant effects to European Sites. As such, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required to inform an Appropriate Assessment of the County Sligo CAP 2023 - 2029.

REFERENCES

DEHLG (2010) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities. Rev Feb 2010. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

European Commission (2021) Assessment of Plans and Projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General)

European Commission (2019) Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 2/43/EEC. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

APPENDIX 1: EUROPEAN SITES SCREENED IN

Table A1.1 below provides a list of the European Sites occurring within the zone of influence of the draft CAP and screened in for further examination as part of an Natura Impact Statement of the draft Plan. The list of European Sites screened in follows that identified for the Sligo County Development Plan.

Table A1.1: SACs & SPA Identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the draft CAP

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
SACs within County Sligo and within a 15km Buffer Zone of the County		
622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	Humid dune slacks [2190], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], Estuaries [1130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120]
1656	Bricklieve Mountains & Keishcorran SAC	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510], Turloughs [3180], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120], Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) [1065], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210]
627	Cummeen Strand/Drum cliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Estuaries [1130], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220]
492	Doocastle Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
497	Flughany Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
458	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC	Humid dune slacks [2190], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Embryonic shifting dunes [2110], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Narrow- mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) [1365], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Estuaries [1130], Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]
1669	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC	Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [1421]
1673	Lough Arrow SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]
1976	Lough Gill SAC	White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco- Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0], Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]
633	Lough Hoe Bog SAC	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], White- clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Geyer`s whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
634	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC	Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130]
2006	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Marsh saxifrage (Saxifraga hirculus) [1528], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Depressions on peat Rhynchosporion [7150], Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], European dry heaths [4030], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]
623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	Geyer's whorl snail (Vertigo geyeri) [1013], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix [4010], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco- Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) [8110], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii) [8120], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430], European dry heaths [4030], Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas- and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Alkaline fens [7230], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mulla ghmore SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Machairs * in Ireland [21A0], Marsh Fritillary (Euphydryas aurinia) [1065], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria - white dunes [2120], Humid dune slacks [2190], Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Petalwort (Petalophyllum ralfsii) [1395], Alkaline fens [7230], Reefs [1170]
636	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140]
2298	River Moy SAC	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) [6510], White-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes) [1092], Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) [1106], Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Alkaline fens [7230], Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1095], Brook lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1096], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Otter (Lutra lutra) [1355]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
1680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) [1014], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330], Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
637	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC	Turloughs [3180]
638	Union Wood SAC	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]
1898	Unshin River SAC	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculum fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210]
595	Callow Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150]
2354	Tullaghanrock Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110]
1899	Cloonakillina Lough SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Activeraised bogs [7110] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
428	Lough Melvin SAC	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey- silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto- Nanojuncetea</i> [3130]
1403	Arroo Mountain SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>) [8120], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8210]
614	Cloonshanvill e Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Bog woodland [91D0]
1919	Glenade Lough SAC	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation [3150], Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) [1833], White-clawed crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) [1092]
592	Bellanagare Bog SAC	Active raised bogs [7110], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
516	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head SAC	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation - grey dunes [2130], Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> - white dunes [2120], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas - and submountain areas in Continental Europe [6230], Slender green feather-moss (<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>) [6216], Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation [8220], European dry heaths [4030], Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>) [7220], Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>) [8110], Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) [3110], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]
2032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	European dry heaths [4030], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010], Blanket bogs * if active bog [7130], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]
191	St. John's Point SAC	Reefs [1170], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Alkaline fens [7230], Semi- natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) * important orchid sites [6210], Submerged or partially submerged sea caves [8330], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Limestone pavements [8240], Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) [1065]
2303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	Turloughs [3180]
1571	Urlaur Lakes SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]
604	Derrinea Bog SAC	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> [7150], Active raised bogs [7110]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
2338	Drumalough Bog SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Active raised bogs [7110], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
SPAs within County Sligo and within a 15km Buffer Zone of the County		
4135	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]
4133	Aughris Head SPA	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188]
4234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045]
4129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]
4035	Cummeen Strand SPA	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674]
4013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]
4068	Inishmurray SPA	Barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>) [A045], Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018], Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194], Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]
4036	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA	Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
4050	Lough Arrow SPA	Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
4048	Lough Gara SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038]
4151	Donegal Bay SPA	Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
4105	Bellanagare Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]
4228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA	Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182], Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
4115	Inishduff SPA	Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018]
4187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [A103], Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) [A346]
Hydrologically Connected SACs		
607	Errit Lough SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140]
1626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommo n) SAC	Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>) [1013], Alkaline fens [7230]
612	Mullygollan Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]
463	Balla Turlough SAC	Turloughs [3180]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
1818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Active raised bogs [7110], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]
440	Lough Ree SAC	Limestone pavements [8240], Bog woodland [91D0], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120], Alkaline fens [7230], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation [3150], Semi- natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) * important orchid sites [6210], Active raised bogs [7110]
216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) [6510], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]
2241	Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0], <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0], Limestone pavements [8240], Alkaline fens [7230], Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae [7210]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
2165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Coastal lagoons [1150], Estuaries [1130], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410], Reefs [1170], Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) [1029], <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095], River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099], Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260], <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410], Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0], Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106], Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330], Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>) [1349], Brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1096], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355]
Hydrologically Connected SPAs		
4101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]
4064	Lough Ree SPA	Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004], Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]
4096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>) [A122], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying features of interest
4058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193], Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) [A067]
4077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050], Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056], Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052], Wetland and Waterbirds [A999], Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038], Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140], Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) [A164], Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141], Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143], Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137], Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062], Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048], Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017], Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160], Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149], Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A674], Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054], Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162], Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142], Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179], Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156], Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]