



Special EU Programmes Board (SEUPB)

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Screening Report

PEACE PLUS Programme 2021-2027

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Purpose of this Report.....	1
1.2	Structure of this Report	2
2	THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME	3
2.1	Background and General Principles.....	3
2.2	Themes.....	3
2.3	Target Groups	6
2.4	Legacy	6
2.5	Community Involvement - Programme Implementation	7
2.6	Geographic Coverage	7
2.7	Characterisation of PEACE PLUS Territories	8
3	APPROACH TO THE HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT.....	10
3.1	Best Practice Guidance.....	10
3.2	The HRA Process.....	10
3.3	Stage 1 - Screening for AA.....	10
3.4	Links with Strategic Environmental Assessment.....	11
4	NATURA 2000 SITES IN THE PROGRAMME AREA.....	12
4.1	Geographic Scope.....	12
4.2	Qualifying Features of Natura 2000 Sites and Conservation Objectives	12
4.3	Northern Ireland.....	12
4.4	The Border Counties (Ireland).....	22
5	POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME	37
5.1	Overview and Baseline.....	37
5.2	Potential Significant Effects of PEACE PLUS	37
6	SCREENING CONCLUSION	47
7	REFERENCES	48

TABLES

Table 2.1: Themes and their Investment Areas	5
Table 4.1: Habitat Types in Northern Ireland SACs and SPAs.....	14
Table 4.2: Overall Status of Annex I Habitats in Northern Ireland	15
Table 4.3: Overall Status of Annex II, IV and V Species in Northern Ireland	18
Table 4.4: Annex I and Regularly Occurring Migratory Bird Species in Northern Ireland	20
Table 4.5: Predominant Habitat Types of Ireland's Border Counties SACs	24
Table 4.6: Annex I Habitats in Ireland.....	25
Table 4.7: Annex II Species in Ireland	29
Table 4.8: Annex I Bird Species in Ireland.....	32
Table 5.1: Screening Assessment of Theme 1 Investment Areas.....	38
Table 5.2: Screening Assessment of Theme 2 Investment Areas.....	39
Table 5.3: Screening Assessment of Theme 3 Investment Areas.....	41
Table 5.4: Screening Assessment of Theme 4 Investment Areas.....	42
Table 5.5: Screening Assessment of Theme 5 Investment Areas.....	44
Table 5.6: Screening Assessment of Theme 6 Investment Areas.....	46

FIGURES

Figure 2.1: Geographic Coverage.....	8
Figure 3.1: Stages in the HRA Process	10
Figure 4.1a: Natura 2000 Sites.....	35
Figure 4.1b: Ramsar Sites.....	36

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A - NORTHERN IRELAND DATA	49
APPENDIX B – BORDER COUNTIES DATA.....	50

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 RSK Environment Ltd (hereafter RSK) has been instructed by the Special EU Programmes Board (SEUPB) to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening for the PEACE PLUS Programme (PPP) 2021- 2027. The PEACE PLUS Programme is a new EU cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.
- 1.1.2 The process of HRA was introduced under Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). The Directive was transposed into Northern Ireland domestic law through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) and into Irish domestic law through the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011). These Regulations also transpose Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive).
- 1.1.3 The obligation to undertake a HRA derives specifically from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and involves a number of steps and tests that need to be applied in sequential order. Article 6(3) is concerned with the strict protection of sites, while Article 6(4) is the procedure for allowing derogation from this strict protection in certain restricted circumstances. Each step in the four-stage assessment process precedes and provides a basis for other steps. The results at each step must be documented and recorded carefully so there is full traceability and transparency of the decisions made.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of HRA is to protect sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs; under the Habitats Directive) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs; under the Birds Directive) – collectively known as Natura 2000 sites – including maintaining the integrity of the internationally important species and habitats for which they were designated. A HRA is not a prohibition on new activities but involves a case-by-case examination of the implications for each Natura 2000 site, its qualifying features and its conservation objectives. In general terms, implicit in Article 6(3) is an obligation to put concern for potential effects on Natura 2000 sites at the forefront of every decision made in relation to plans and projects at all stages, including decisions to provide funding or other support. In Northern Ireland, Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance), are also assessed within HRA as a matter of Government policy. Ramsar sites have therefore been included in the assessment.
- 1.1.5 Screening is the process of establishing whether, in relation to a particular plan or project, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. The purpose of this screening statement is therefore to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether PEACE PLUS, alone and in combination with other plans, could have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The need to apply the precautionary principle in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of HRA has been confirmed by European Court of Justice case law. Therefore, where

significant effects are likely, uncertain or unknown at screening stage, an AA will be required.

- 1.1.6 The HRA process in Ireland should be conducted in consultation with the relevant competent authority which in Ireland is National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and in Northern Ireland is the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). This report will be submitted to relevant staff within NPWS and NIEA to inform their screening opinion.

1.2 Structure of this Report

- 1.2.1 The areas considered in this scoping report, and their location in the report, are as follows:

- Summary of the PEACE PLUS Programme – Section 2;
- Spatial and temporal scope – Section 2.6;
- Background and explanation of the AA process – Section 3;
- Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites within Northern Ireland and Ireland's border counties, including a compilation of information on habitat and species overall status – Section 4;
- Initial assessment of likely effects (direct, indirect and cumulative) undertaken on the basis of available information as a desk study – Section 5;
- Screening conclusions – Section 6.

- 1.2.2 The programme runs from 2021 to 2027 and this is therefore adopted as the primary temporal scope. However, with certain aspects of the environment such as climate, ecology and landscape, any positive or negative impacts associated with PEACE PLUS may take effect over a much longer time period than that of the programme itself. For this reason, a longer-term view will be taken on potential impacts where appropriate.

2 THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME

2.1 Background and General Principles

- 2.1.1 The cohesion policy (or regional policy) of the European Union provides a framework for financing a range of projects and investments designed to encourage economic growth in EU Member States, their regions, and third countries. The policy is reviewed by the EU Institutions once every seven years. The next round of programmes will cover the period 2021 – 2027.
- 2.1.2 As a North-South Implementation Body the SEUPB is sponsored by the Department of Finance (DOF) in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) in Ireland. The SEUPB has a statutory role in the management of EU funding programmes in the programme area, and in relation to the European Union's 2014-2020 programming period, the relevant Programmes are the following European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programmes: PEACE IV in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo) and the INTERREG VA Programme which includes the same area plus the west of Scotland.
- 2.1.3 For the next programme period of 2021 to 2027, SEUPB is developing a single successor programme, known as PEACE PLUS. 'PLUS' represents the inclusion of wider economic, social and environmental activities within the scope of the Programme.
- 2.1.4 SEUPB has the statutory responsibility to advise the Member States on the development of the PEACE PLUS Programme (DOF in Northern Ireland and the DPER in Ireland). Therefore, SEUPB has commenced programme development work on the future cross border programme between Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (PEACE PLUS).
- 2.1.5 The PEACE PLUS programme will build on both predecessor programmes. Provision has been made for a budget of approximately €1bn, including proposals from the EU budget, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and the U.K. Government.

2.2 Themes

- 2.2.1 The overall objective of the PEACE PLUS Programme will be to build prosperity and peace within the programme area to ensure that the programme leaves a lasting legacy. The programme will have two interlinked core objectives, firstly to respond to the opportunities and address the needs arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration. Secondly, it will promote the social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life. This is based on the draft ETC regulation which states "*Within the context of the unique and specific circumstances on the island of Ireland, and with a view to supporting North-South cooperation under the Good Friday Agreement, a new 'PEACE PLUS' cross-border programme should continue and build on the work of previous programmes between the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Taking into account its practical importance, it is necessary to ensure that, where the programme is acting in support of peace and reconciliation, the ERDF [European Regional Development Fund] should also*

contribute to promoting social, economic and regional stability in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.”

2.2.2 The PEACE PLUS Programme is being developed in the framework of the seven Policy Objectives as set out in the draft EU regulations:

- **Policy Objective 1: A MORE COMPETITIVE AND SMARTER EUROPE** by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity.
- **Policy Objective 2: 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.
- **Policy Objective 3: A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE** by enhancing mobility.
- **Policy Objective 4: A MORE SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE EUROPE** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- **Policy Objective 5: A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories.
- **Interreg Specific Objective 1: A BETTER COOPERATION GOVERNANCE.**
- **Interreg Specific Objective 2: A SAFER AND MORE SECURE EUROPE.**

2.2.3 The following information on themes is summarised from the SEUPB position paper issued in December 2020-February 2021. **It is important to note that the AA and programme development are being completed in parallel and hence whilst the following text reflects the current position, this is subject to change as the programme evolves prior adoption.**

2.2.4 The proposed design is the culmination of the Stakeholder Engagement process, which commenced in the summer of 2019, this includes:

- The framework for EU Programmes set out in the draft post 2020 EU Regulations;
- Government policy;
- The discussions with all Government Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland;
- The Bilateral work undertaken by Government Departments and engagement in cross departmental working;
- The socio-economic study prepared by Economists from the Departments of Finance (DOF and DPER) and other research;
- The EU Border Orientation Report supplied to Member States; and,
- The vast engagement with Stakeholder organisations (statutory, voluntary and Councils) and the engagement events with the public and the surveys submitted.

2.2.5 The programme development process has involved engagement with a Programme Development Steering Group made up of key community representatives and was also evidenced through the most extensive Stakeholder Engagement process that the SEUPB has been involved in since its formation with 16 public events taking place and over 1,000 people in attendance. This process resulted in a significant stakeholder response with views to SEUPB.

2.2.6 This has led to the development of six thematic themes to deliver on the core objectives set out above, these are:

- I. Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities
- II. Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation
- III. Empowering and Investing in Our Young People
- IV. Healthy and Inclusive Communities
- V. Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future
- VI. Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

2.2.7 Investment Areas expected to be supported under these themes are provided in Table 2.1 below (information from SEUPB).

Table 2.1: Themes and their Investment Areas

Theme	Proposed Investment Areas (from SEUPB)
Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities	Investment Area 1: Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans . Investment Area 2: Empowering Communities Investment Area 3: Building Positive Relations Investment Area 4: Re-Imaging Communities
Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation	Investment Area 1: SME Development and Transition Investment Area 2: Innovation Challenge Fund Investment Area 3: Programme area Skills Development Investment Area 4: Smart Towns and Villages
Empowering and Investing in our Young People	Investment Area 1: Shared Learning Together Programme Investment Area 2: PEACE Plus Youth Programme Investment Area 3: Youth Mental Health And WellBeing
Healthy and Inclusive Communities	Investment Area 1: Collaborative Health and Social Care Investment Area 2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion Investment Area 3: Victim and Survivors
Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future	Investment Area 1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery & Resilience Investment Area 2: Marine and Coastal Management Investment Area 3: Water Quality and Catchment Management Investment Area 4: Water Quality Improvement Programme Investment Area 5: Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme Investment Area 6: Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connectivity
Building and Embedding Partnerships and Collaboration	Investment Area 1: Strategic Planning and Engagement Investment Area 2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

- 2.2.8 The selection of these thematic areas ensures that the programme is developed in a way that provides linkages between the social, peace building and economic related objectives alongside interventions relating to the environment. Themes across the programme must be interlinked; this is a prerequisite of the EU funding.
- 2.2.9 Further information on each theme is available in the Consultation Information Document of the PEACE PLUS Programme.

2.3 Target Groups

- 2.3.1 Target groups for the programme include (but are not limited to):
- Community Groups;
 - Local Authorities;
 - Business / SMEs;
 - Young People; and
 - Environmental organisations.

2.4 Legacy

- 2.4.1 Communities will be encouraged to take pride in their culture, customs and heritage through initiatives funded by the programme.
- 2.4.2 By contributing to **Building Peaceful and Thriving communities**, the programme will continue to empower communities to work together, cementing relationships through initiatives which sustain peace and leave a legacy of friendship and understanding. Engaging those most marginalised in society to become involved in improving their physical and social environment
- 2.4.3 **Investment in our young people** through for example encouraging social entrepreneurship will create new opportunities, the programme will also focus on enhancing community leadership and ensuring that a new generation of leaders are appropriately skilled to deal with the challenges of sustaining peace and good relations.
- 2.4.4 **A renewed focus on rural and border communities** in particular through initiatives which renew infrastructure for community use and benefit will enhance the social fabric of our communities.
- 2.4.5 **The delivery of iconic spaces** through the programme will help to create new and vibrant public realms in our cities, towns and villages and will leave a lasting and shared legacy within the programme area.
- 2.4.6 Additionally, the challenges around climate change cross-cut across all thematic areas of the Programme, this will be a key priority for the programme to address within the programme area. SEUPB will consider how the programme will assist in helping the EU to deliver on its European Green Deal through actions and collaboration within the Programme.
- 2.4.7 The legacy will contribute to sustaining a peaceful and shared society, something which the predecessor PEACE and INTERREG Programmes have contributed to since 1995. However, now more than ever, the programme will have the need for legacy to be at the

core of the programme to respond to the long term challenges that the programme area faces.

2.5 Community Involvement - Programme Implementation

- 2.5.1 Each thematic area of the Programme includes a strong community led and implemented set of actions, all with the same objective, a more prosperous and 'healthy' society. SEUPB has developed the programme on the basis of actions and initiatives which support, develop, enable and engage communities throughout the programme area. SEUPB will create a Programme which fosters the community, and the requirement for community meaningful engagement will be part of the assessment process.
- 2.5.2 SEUPB has championed from the outset the need for the programme themes and indeed structure to encompass civil society at all levels in terms of the development and implementation of actions and initiatives to address societal and community challenges. One of the most important aspects when designing the programme was the need to ensure that there were specific areas focused on rural and border areas, who have been left behind, suffering population decline and are going to be hit hardest by Brexit. Regeneration is across all aspects of the programme, infrastructure, digital solutions and community capacity building.
- 2.5.3 Projects that must be delivered by statutory agencies will be developed with the close involvement of communities from inception to sustainability. The SEUPB have listened and taken account of all policies and priorities and established a programme that best addresses those requirements.

2.6 Geographic Coverage

- 2.6.1 The geographic area covered by the PEACE PLUS Programme (shown in Figure 2.1 below) comprises:
- The whole of Northern Ireland;
 - The border counties of Ireland, comprising Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo; and
 - The maritime areas of both jurisdictions.
- 2.6.2 The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) is a geocode standard for referencing the subdivisions of member states of the European Union. The NUTS standard is instrumental in delivering the European Union's Structural Funds; a hierarchy of three levels – NUTS 1, 2 and 3 – is established by Eurostat.
- 2.6.3 NI is classed as both a NUTS 1 and 2 region; it is subsequently divided into five NUTS 3 regions. These NUTS3 regions comprising of Belfast (UKN01), Outer Belfast (UKN02), East of NI (UKN03), North of NI (UKN04) and West and South of NI (UKN05). (ONS, 2020)
- 2.6.4 Ireland's border region is comprised of six counties, five of which come under NUTS2 Code: IE04 and NUTS3 Code: IE041. Those are Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo. The other, Louth, comes under NUTS2 Code: IE06 and NUTS3 Code: IE062.
- 2.6.5 Belfast is the only designated metropolitan area within the programme area. There are two 'predominantly urban' NUTS 3 regions, both within Northern Ireland: Belfast and Outer

Belfast. There are two ‘intermediate’ NUTS 3 regions, also both within Northern Ireland; East of Northern Ireland and North of Northern Ireland. West and South of Northern Ireland and Border Region (IE) are predominantly rural.

- 2.6.6 However, the cross-border area is not strictly limited to the administrative borders of the programme, i.e. the designated programme area, but can have flexible geography depending on the topic concerned and interactions and interdependencies that happen around those topics. This is referred to as a functional area. The location of the project or the location of the partners is not a defining matter. What matters is that the projects benefit the cross-border area.

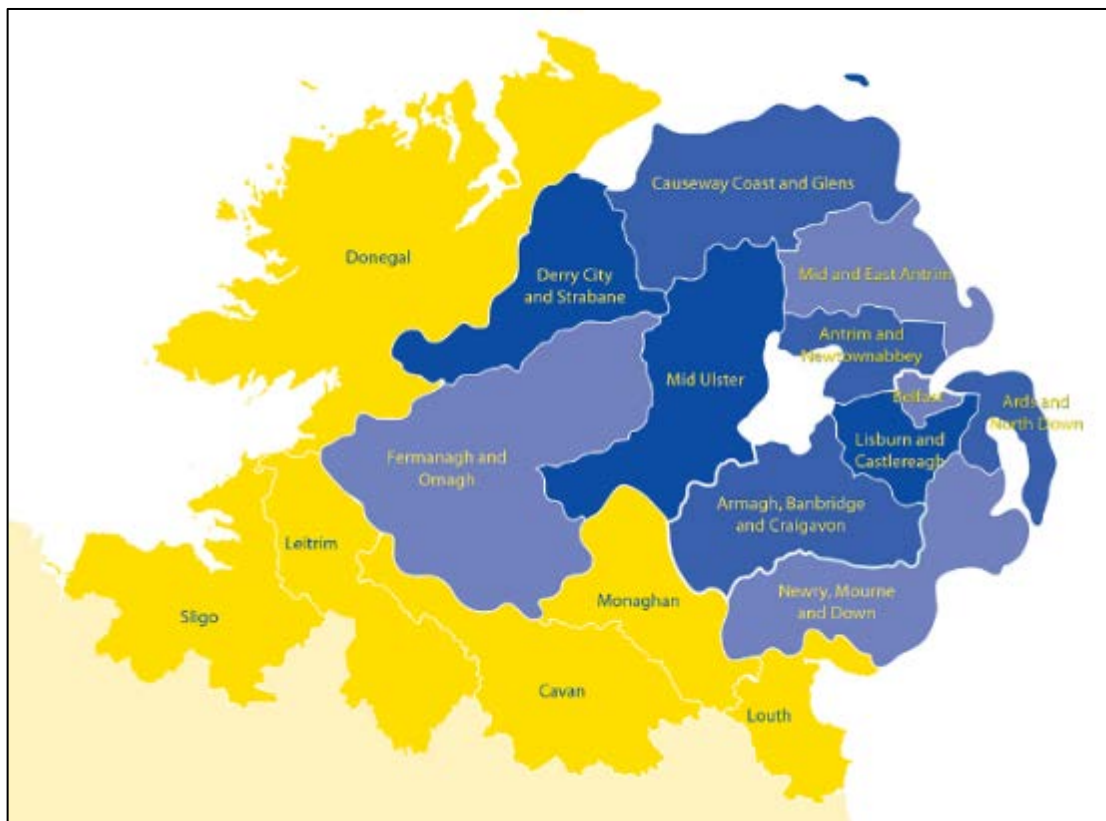


Figure 2.1: Geographic Coverage

2.7 Characterisation of PEACE PLUS Territories

Northern Ireland

- 2.7.1 Northern Ireland is a region of the United Kingdom (UK) that shares a land border with Ireland. In the most recent mid-year population estimate (2019) issued by NISRA its population was 1.89 million, with an increasing trend of approximately 0.6% per year over the past five years (NISRA, 2020).
- 2.7.2 The population of Northern Ireland was therefore approximately 2.8% of the total population of the UK for the same period (66.65M).
- 2.7.3 The NISRA statistical bulletin indicates that Belfast is by some distance the most populous local government district of Northern Ireland at 343,500 representing approximately 18% of the total population. It is also the cultural and economic centre of Northern Ireland.

- 2.7.4 After Belfast, the next most populous districts are; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (216,200) and Newry, Mourne and Down (181,400).

Border Counties of Ireland

- 2.7.5 The Border Counties of Ireland is made up from the geographical area of counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. It encompasses an area of 12,156 km². from the Atlantic Ocean to the west to the Irish Sea in the east. One of the key strengths of the Programme area is its areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. These, along with its strong cultural and heritage assets, make it an area very suitable for a strong tourism base.
- 2.7.6 According to the Irish Central Statistics Office (CSO) Population and Migration estimates, 2019, the population of the border region is approximately 406,700 representing approximately 8% of the national population of 4.91M in the same year.

3 APPROACH TO THE HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

3.1 Best Practice Guidance

3.1.1 Our HRA approach takes into account the procedures provided under the following guidance documents:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities; and
- DEHLG (2010) Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.

3.1.2 We may also refer to the following EU guidance documents:

- EC (2001), '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'.

3.2 The HRA Process

3.2.1 The guidance produced by DEHLG (2009) sets out a four-stage process for carrying out a HRA. These stages are shown in Figure 3.1 below.



Figure 3.1: Stages in the HRA Process

3.3 Stage 1 - Screening for AA

3.3.1 Screening is the process that addresses and records the reasoning and conclusions in relation to the first two tests of Article 6(3):

- 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 Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

3.3.2 If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain, or if the screening process becomes overly complicated, then the process must proceed to Stage 2 (AA). Screening should be undertaken without the inclusion of mitigation, unless potential impacts can clearly be avoided through the modification or redesign of the plan or project,

in which case the screening process is repeated on the altered plan. The guidance states that the requirement is not to prove what the impacts and effects will be, but rather to establish beyond reasonable scientific doubt that adverse effects on site integrity will not result.

- 3.3.3 This stage will involve identification of Natura 2000 sites and their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, as well as reviewing the likely measures to be included in PEACE PLUS and their potential for significant environmental effect. A preliminary impact assessment will be carried out to screen the programme's measures for the likelihood of significant effects. This process will also identify whether PEACE PLUS is likely to have in-combination effects with other plans and programmes on Natura 2000 sites.
- 3.3.4 This screening statement is the main output of Stage 1 of the HRA process; the results of which are presented in later chapters of this report. The statement will be issued to SEUPB and each of NIEA and NPWS as the respective competent authorities in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

3.4 Links with Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4.1 There are clear links and analogies between HRA of plans and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). They are parallel but separate processes that commonly overlap but also differ in some key respects. SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision making, with a view to promoting sustainable development. The process of SEA was introduced under European Directive 2001/42/EC12 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive) and came into force in 2001.
- 3.4.2 HRA is narrower in focus and requires more rigorous tests, with the conservation and protection of Natura 2000 sites at its core. Nonetheless both SEA and HRA contribute to the integration of environmental considerations in the adoption of a plan and promote sustainable development.
- 3.4.3 The three main inter-relationships between HRA and SEA are:
- HRA is a tool that assists in addressing environmental issues as part of the SEA in relation to Natura 2000 sites;
 - HRA assists the SEA process in the systematic and explicit appraisal of alternatives in relation to Natura 2000 sites; and
 - Undertaking HRA in parallel with SEA provides for an efficient use of resources and expertise. Both processes benefit each other's findings.
- 3.4.4 This HRA is being carried out alongside the SEA of the PEACE PLUS programme.

4 NATURA 2000 SITES IN THE PROGRAMME AREA

4.1 Geographic Scope

- 4.1.1 The PEACE PLUS Programme relates to the whole of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Hence, should PEACE PLUS result in any impact on Natura 2000 sites then this could occur across the programme area, which is shown in Figure 4.1. Discussion of the Natura 2000 site baseline is therefore provided at the same scale.

4.2 Qualifying Features of Natura 2000 Sites and Conservation Objectives

- 4.2.1 A HRA should focus exclusively on the qualifying interests of the Natura site affected (i.e. the reasons for which the site was designated) and must consider any impacts on the conservation objectives of the site. Qualifying features of interest for SACs include internationally important habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive (including priority types which are in danger of disappearance), and internationally important species, as listed on Annex II. For SPAs, qualifying features are those bird species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive.
- 4.2.2 The conservation objectives for SACs are determined under Article 4 of the Habitats Directive and are intended to ensure that the Annex I habitats and/or Annex II species present onsite (the qualifying interests) are maintained in a favourable condition. The conservation objectives for SPAs are determined from the conservation interests of these sites.

4.3 Northern Ireland

- 4.3.1 Northern Ireland has a large area of land of nature conservation value, much of which is protected through Natura 2000 designations. These include SPAs designated under the EC Birds Directive and SACs designated under the EC Habitats Directive. There are 57 SACs with an area of 85,900 ha and 16 SPAs with an area of 114,600 ha. Northern Ireland also has 20 Ramsar sites with an area of 77,700 ha designated as internationally important under the Convention on Wetlands, much of the area of which is coincident with other designations. A list of the designated sites is provided in Appendix B.
- 4.3.2 Northern Ireland has a number of Marine Protected Areas consisting of Marine SACs, Marine SPAs, Ramsar sites, Coastal ASSIs and Marine Conservation Zones. The total marine protected sites increased from 269 km² in 2009/10 to 2,566 km² in 2019/20. The area of Marine Protected Sites under favourable condition was recorded as 115 km² in 2019/20, an increase from the 83.6 km² recorded in 2015/16 (DAERA and NIEA, 2020).
- 4.3.3 Lands designated as SACs cover less than 4% of the terrestrial area of Northern Ireland. This is significantly less than the European average of 18.15% making it all the more important that they are correctly protected and managed.
- 4.3.4 Ninety-three species are listed on Annex I to the Birds Directive, of which around thirty are regularly recorded in Northern Ireland, however, many occur solely as summering migrant

population or scarce visitors. The presence of important populations of Annex I bird species, or non-Annex I migratory birds, is a primary consideration in the designation of SPAs.

- 4.3.5 Conservation management plans are being produced for the SAC network funded through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)'s Environment Fund, and by NIEA. Two large EU-funded Interreg projects – Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity and Collaborative Action for the Natura Network were launched in 2017. Together these aim to produce 25 conservation action plans for designated sites, restore over 4,500 ha of blanket bog and support the conservation and recovery of threatened species including Curlew, Hen Harrier, Irish Damselfly, Marsh Fritillary and White-clawed Crayfish (DAERA, 2020).
- 4.3.6 Table 4.1 indicate habitat types that appear within the SACs and SPAs and Appendix B provides a full breakdown of habitats within individual SACs and SPAs. The most common habitat types within SACs were bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens, broad-leaved deciduous woodland, humid grassland, mesophile grassland and heath and scrub. The most common habitat types within SPAs were bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation, fens, tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, sand flats and lagoons.
- 4.3.7 The fourth UK Habitats Directive Report considered the Conservation Status of all terrestrial and marine habitats listed under Annex I of the Directive that were present within the UK during the reporting period. For the UK this included:
- 69 terrestrial habitats within the UK Atlantic biogeographic region; and
 - 8 marine habitats within the UK Marine Atlantic region.
- 4.3.8 Out of these it was found that 49 were present in Northern Ireland and these are detailed in Table 4.3. Table 4.3 contains a list of Annex I habitats and Table 4.4 contains list of Annex II, IV and V species in Northern Ireland and indicates their overall conservation status. For further detail on habitats and species in Northern Ireland please see Appendix B. Table 4.4 lists the bird species for which SPAs have been designated.
- 4.3.9 The overall conservation status of Annex I habitats in Northern Ireland are commonly assessed as 'unfavourable inadequate' or 'unfavourable bad'. There was a lack of data for the conservation status of species in Northern Ireland.
- 4.3.10 Threats and pressures that impact upon Northern Ireland's SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites include agricultural (including grazing) intensification, fire and fire suppression, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth, pollution to surface waters (limnic¹ & terrestrial, marine & brackish), pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources), outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), 2019a).

¹ Bodies of water with low salt concentration such as lakes and ponds.

Table 4.1: Habitat Types in Northern Ireland SACs and SPAs

Habitat Types	No of SACs	No of SPAs
Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	1	0
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	41	7
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	36	3
Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	4	1
Coniferous woodland	3	2
Dry grassland, Steppes	13	0
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	24	4
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	32	4
Improved grassland	8	3
Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	4	1
Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	22	6
Marine and coastal habitats (general)	2	0
Marine areas, Sea inlets	6	4
Mixed woodland	0	2
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	4	0
Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	3	0
Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	3	6
Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	2	6
Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	5	7
TOTAL	213	56

Table 4.2: Overall Status of Annex I Habitats in Northern Ireland

Code	Name	Overall Conservation Status
Marine, coastal and halophytic habitats		
H1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Not available
H1130	Estuaries	Not available
H1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Not available
H1150	Coastal lagoons	Not available
H1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	Not available
H1170	Reefs	No change
H1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Unknown/uncertainty
H1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Unfavourable bad
H1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Unfavourable inadequate
H1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Unfavourable bad
H1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	Unfavourable bad
Coastal sand dunes and continental dunes		
H2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	Unfavourable inadequate
H2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')	Unknown/uncertainty
H2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	Unfavourable inadequate
H2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	Unfavourable inadequate
H2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	Unfavourable inadequate

Code	Name	Overall Conservation Status
H2190	Humid dune slacks	Unfavourable bad
Freshwater habitats		
H3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	Not available
H3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	Not available
H3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation	Not available
H3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Not available
H3180	Turloughs	Unfavourable bad
H3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	Not available
Temperate heath and scrub		
H4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Unfavourable bad
H4030	European dry heaths	Unfavourable bad
H4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Unfavourable bad
Natural and semi-natural grassland formations		
H6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	Unfavourable bad
H6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)	Unfavourable inadequate
H6230	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)	Overall favourable
H6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	Favourable
H6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Overall unknown

Code	Name	Overall Conservation Status
Raised bogs and mires and fens		
H7110	Active raised bogs	Stable
H7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	Stable
H7130	Blanket bogs	Unfavourable
H7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	Unfavourable bad
H7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	Unfavourable bad
H7210	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae	Unfavourable bad
H7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	Overall unknown
H7230	Alkaline fens	Unfavourable bad
Rocky habitats and caves		
H8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladanii</i>)	Overall Unknown
H8120	Calcareous and calschist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>)	Overall Unknown
H8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Overall Unknown
H8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Overall Unknown
H8240	Limestone pavements	Unfavourable inadequate
H8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	No change
Forests		
H9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Unfavourable bad
H91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	Overall bad

Code	Name	Overall Conservation Status
H91D0	Bog woodland	Overall bad
H91E0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	Overall bad

Source: (JNCC, 2019b)

Table 4.3: Overall Status of Annex II, IV and V Species in Northern Ireland

Code	Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Overall Conservation Status
Invertebrate species: molluscs			
S1013	Geyer's whorl snail	<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	Not available
S1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	Not available
S1029	Freshwater pearl mussel	<i>Margaritifera</i>	Not available
Invertebrate species: arthropods			
S1092	White-clawed crayfish	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Not available
S1065	Marsh fritillary butterfly	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	Not available
Vertebrate species: fish			
S1095	Sea lamprey	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Not available
S1099	River lamprey	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Not available
S1096	Brook lamprey	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Not available
S1106	Atlantic salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Not available
S5076	Pollan	<i>Coregonus pollan</i>	Favourable
Vertebrate species: amphibians & reptiles			

Code	Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Overall Conservation Status
S1213	Common frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Overall stable
Vertebrate species: mammals (terrestrial)			
S1334	Mountain hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	Not available
S1355	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Not available
S1357	Pine marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	Not available
S1314	Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Not available
S1330	Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Not available
S1322	Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Not available
S1331	Leisler's bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Not available
S1317	Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Not available
S1309	Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Not available
S5009	Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Not available
S1326	Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Not available
Lower plant species			
S1395	Petalwort	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	Unfavourable bad
S6216	Slender green feather- moss	<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>	Insufficient data
S1400	Large white-moss (Annex V)	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>	Unknown
S1377	Maerl (Annex V)	<i>Phymatolithon calcareum</i>	Stable
Higher plant species			

Code	Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Overall Conservation Status
S1528	Marsh saxifrage	<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	Unfavourable inadequate
S6985	Killarney fern	<i>Vandenboschia speciose / Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Unfavourable inadequate

Source (JNCC, 2019c)

Table 4.4: Annex I and Regularly Occurring Migratory Bird Species in Northern Ireland

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Number of SPAs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
A005	Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	1 (Belfast Lough Open Water)
A013	Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>)	1 (Copeland Islands)
A017	Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	1 (Sheep Island)
A037	Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	1 (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg)
A038	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	3 (Lough Foyle, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg and Upper Lough Erne)
A059	Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	1 (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg)
A061	Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	1 (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg)
A067	Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	1 (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg)
A082	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	2 (Antrim Hills and Slieve Beagh - Mullaghfad – Lisnaskea)
A098	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	1 (Antrim Hills)
A103	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	1 (Rathlin Island)
A137	Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	1 (Outer Ards)
A140	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	2 (Outer Ards and Pettigoe Plateau)
A143	Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	1 (Strangford Lough)

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Number of SPAs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	2 (Belfast Lough and Lough Foyle)
A162	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	2 (Belfast Lough and Strangford Lough)
A169	Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	1 (Outer Ards)
A176	Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>)	1 (Larne Lough)
A188	Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)	1 (Rathlin Island)
A191	Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>)	3 (Carlingford Lough, Larne Lough and Strangford Lough)
A192	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	1 (Larne Lough)
A193	Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	5 (Belfast Lough, Carlingford Lough, Larne Lough, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg and Strangford Lough)
A194	Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	4 (Belfast Lough, Copeland Islands, Outer Ards and Strangford Lough)
A199	Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>)	1 (Rathlin Island)
A200	Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)	1 (Rathlin Island)
A616	Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>)	1 (Belfast Lough)
A674	Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)	6 (Carlingford Lough, Killough Bay, Larne Lough Lough Foyle, Outer Ardsan and Strangford Lough)

Source: (JNCC, 2019d)

4.4 The Border Counties (Ireland)

- 4.4.1 The basis for designation of Natura 2000 sites in Ireland is the same as that described for Northern Ireland being driven by the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.
- 4.4.2 Ireland has 439 SACs covering approximately 1.35M ha of which 80 are located largely or entirely within the border counties. Ireland has 165 SPAs covering approximately 597,000 ha of which 41 are located within the border counties.
- 4.4.3 Table 4.5 identifies the predominant habitat types that cover the SACs in the border counties. Coastal, peatland lakes and mountains are the most common habitat types. Table 4.6 contains a list of Annex I habitats and Table 4.7 contains list of Annex II species in Ireland and indicate their overall conservation status. Table 4.8 lists the Annex I bird species in Ireland. A list detailing SACs and SPAs within the border counties can be found in Appendix C.
- 4.4.4 Under the OSPAR Convention to Protect the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, Ireland has also committed to establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) to protect biodiversity: nineteen of its SACs are MPAs for marine habitats (NPWS, 2020).
- 4.4.5 Ireland also has 45 Ramsar sites, and 9 of these are located wholly or partly within the border counties, the majority of which are also designated as Natura 2000 sites. These include:
- Dundalk Bay (Louth)
 - Lough Oughter (Cavan)
 - Killala Bay/Moy Estuary (Sligo)
 - Lough Gara (Sligo/Roscommon)
 - Easky Bog (Sligo/Mayo)
 - Pettigo Plateau (Donegal)
 - Meenachullion Bog (Donegal)
 - Lough Barra Bog (Donegal)
 - Trawbreaga Bay (Donegal)
- 4.4.6 The conservation status of 85% of EU protected habitats in Ireland is unfavourable, while 46% are demonstrating ongoing declines in conservation status with peatlands, grassland and some marine habitats a particular concern (NPWS, 2019).
- 4.4.7 Agriculture (and to a lesser extent forestry) has been identified as a key contributor to the declines in conservation status. *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland* (NPWS, 2019) reports that over 70% of habitats are being impacted by agricultural practices, including:
- Inappropriate grazing regimes (over or undergrazing);
 - Land abandonment (abandonment of grassland management);
 - Activities generating diffuse pollution to surface and groundwaters;
 - Activities generating air pollution; and
 - Agricultural activities generating marine pollution.

- 4.4.8 Non-agricultural pressures include primarily alien and problematic species, development, construction, urbanisation and industrialisation and associated pollution and recreation.
- 4.4.9 Blanket bog, alpine heath and wet heath were cited as being particularly vulnerable to air pollution. Certain forestry practices (e.g. clear-felling) have also been implicated in the decline of some aquatic species such as the freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*).
- 4.4.10 In general, pressures on Annex species in Ireland are less severe. There are 68 Habitats Directive-listed species in Ireland, of which 8 are described as vagrants. Of the remaining 60 species, 57% are in favourable condition and 30% are in unfavourable condition. While 72% demonstrate stable or improving trends, 15% demonstrate a trend of ongoing decline (NPWS, 2019).
- 4.4.11 Many species remain in favourable status, with population increases and range expansions for several bat species, otter and pine marten. Species rated as inadequate or bad include marsh fritillary (though this species has shown population increases), the whorl snails, freshwater pearl mussel and lesser horseshoe.

Table 4.5: Predominant Habitat Types of Ireland's Border Counties SACs

	Peatland	Mountain	Grassland	Eskers	Machairs	Turloughs	Callows	Limestone Pavement	Cave/Quarry	Woodland	Rivers	Estuaries	Lakes	Coastal	Total
Donegal	11	3				1				2	2		9	20	48
Leitrim		4			1								1		6
Louth		1									2			3	6
Monaghan													1		1
Sligo	3	2			1	1				1	1	1	2	4	16
Cavan	1	3									1		1		6
Total	15	13	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	3	6	1	14	27	83

Table 4.6: Annex I Habitats in Ireland

EU Habitat Code	EU Habitat Name	Classed as a Priority habitat in Ireland	Overall Status of Habitat in Ireland	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
Grasslands				
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>	No	Inadequate	3
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)(*important orchid sites)	Yes	Bad	33
6230	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	Yes	Bad	9
6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	No	Bad	14
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	No	Bad	3
6510	Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>)	No	Bad	10
Peatlands				
7110	Active raised bogs	Yes	Bad	51
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	No	Bad	53
7130	Blanket bog (*active only)	Yes	Bad	50
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	No	Bad	16
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	No	Bad	63
7210	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	Yes	Inadequate	17
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)	Yes	Inadequate	19
Heath and scrub				
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	No	Bad	39
4030	European dry heaths	No	Bad	48

EU Habitat Code	EU Habitat Name	Classed as a Priority habitat in Ireland	Overall Status of Habitat in Ireland	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	No	Bad	33
Rocky habitats				
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)	No	Inadequate	3
8120	Calcareous and calschist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolii</i>)	No	Inadequate	3
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	No	Inadequate	12
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	No	Inadequate	15
8240	Limestone pavements	Yes	Inadequate	23
8310	Caves not open to the public	No	Favourable	9
8330	Submerged or partly submerged sea caves	No	Favourable	10
Sclerophilus scrub				
5130	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	No	Favourable	22
Freshwater habitats				
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	No	Inadequate	32
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	No	Bad	9
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	No	Bad	18
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation	No	Inadequate	9
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	No	Inadequate	10
3180	Turloughs	Yes	Inadequate	45

EU Habitat Code	EU Habitat Name	Classed as a Priority habitat in Ireland	Overall Status of Habitat in Ireland	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation	No	Inadequate	21
3270	Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodion rubri</i> p.p. and <i>Bidention</i> p.p. vegetation	No	Favourable	1
Dunes				
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	No	Inadequate	33
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes)	No	Inadequate	46
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Yes	Bad	43
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Yes	Favourable	5
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	Yes	Inadequate	11
2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>)	No	Inadequate	11
2190	Humid dune slacks	No	Inadequate	15
21a0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	Yes	Inadequate	19
Forests				
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles	No	Bad	40
91D0	Bog woodland	Yes	Favourable	11
91e0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	Yes	Bad	25
91J0	<i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	Yes	Bad	5
Coastal habitats				
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	No	Favourable	2
1130	Estuaries	No	Inadequate	19

EU Habitat Code	EU Habitat Name	Classed as a Priority habitat in Ireland	Overall Status of Habitat in Ireland	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	No	Inadequate	42
1150	Coastal lagoons	Yes	Bad	25
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	No	Bad	22
1170	Reefs	No	Inadequate	41
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	No	Inadequate	24
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	No	Inadequate	36
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	No	Inadequate	28
1310	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	No	Favourable	23
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	No	Inadequate	38
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	No	Inadequate	33
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	No	Bad	2

Table 4.7: Annex II Species in Ireland

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species	Overall Condition of Species	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
Invertebrates				
1013	Geyer's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>)	No	Bad	14
1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>)	No	Inadequate	13
1016	Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)	No	Inadequate	7
1024	Kerry slug (<i>Geomalacus maculosus</i>)	No	Favourable	7
1029	Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	No	Bad	19
1065	Marsh Fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>)	No	Inadequate	14
1092	White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>)	No	Bad	15
Fish				
1095	Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	No	Bad	12
1096	Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)	No	Favourable	10
1099	River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	No	Unknown	10
1103	Twaite shad (<i>Alosa fallax</i>)	No	Bad	5
5076	Pollan (<i>Coregonus autumnalis</i>)	No	Bad	3
1106	Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	No	Inadequate	26
5046	Killarney Shad (<i>Alosa killarnensis</i>)	No	Favourable	0
Amphibians				
6284	Natterjack Toad (<i>Epidalea calamita</i>)	No	Bad	0
1213	Common Frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>)	No	Favourable	0

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species	Overall Condition of Species	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
1223	Leatherback Turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)	No	Unknown	0
Mammals				
1303	Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	No	Inadequate	41
1309	Common Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
5009	Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1317	Nathusius' Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>)	No	Unknown	0
1322	Natterer's Bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1314	Daubenton's Bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1330	Whiskered Bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1326	Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1331	Leisler's Bat (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1334	Mountain Hare (<i>Lepidus timidus hibernicus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1349	Bottle-nosed dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	No	Favourable	1
1351	Harbour porpoise (<i>Phocaena phocaena</i>)	No	Favourable	2
1355	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	No	Favourable	45
1357	Pine Marten (<i>Martes martes</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1364	Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus gyrfus</i>)	No	Favourable	10
1365	Harbour seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>)	No	Favourable	13
1345	Humpback Whale (<i>Megaptera novaengliae</i>)	No	Unknown	0
1349	Bottlenose Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	No	Favourable	0

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species	Overall Condition of Species	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
1350	Short-beaked Common Dolphin (<i>Delphinus Delphi</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1351	Harbour Porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2027	Killer Whale (<i>Orcina orca</i>)	No	Unknown	0
2029	Long-finned Pilot Whale (<i>Globicephala melas</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2030	Risso's Dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2031	Atlantic White-sided Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2032	White-beaked Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2034	Striped Dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2035	Cuvier's Beaked Whale (<i>Ziphius curvirostris</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2038	Sowerby's Beaked Whale (<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2618	Minke Whale (<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>)	No	Favourable	0
2621	Fin Whale (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
5020	Blue Whale (<i>Baleanoptera musculus</i>)	No	Unknown	0
2624	Sperm Whale (<i>Physeter microcephalus</i>)	No	Favourable	0
5033	Northern Bottlenose Whale (<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>)	No	Unknown	0
2619	Sei Whale (<i>Balenaoptera borealis</i>)	No	Unknown	0
Plants				
1393	Slender green feather-moss (<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>)	No	Favourable	8
1395	Petalwort (<i>Petallophyllum ralfsii</i>)	No	Favourable	20
1421	Killarney fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)	No	Favourable	18

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species	Overall Condition of Species	Number of SACs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
1528	Marsh saxifrage (<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>)	No	Favourable	5
1400	White cushion moss (<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>)	No	Favourable	0
1409	Sphagnum species	No	Inadequate	0
1413	Lycopodium group	No	Inadequate	0
1378	Cladonia subgenus Cladina	No	Inadequate	0
1376	Maërl	No	Bad	0
1833	Slender naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)	No	Inadequate	24

Table 4.8: Annex I Bird Species in Ireland

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species in Ireland	Conservation Status in Ireland	Residential Status in Ireland	Number of SPAs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
Divers and Grebes					
A001	Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)	Yes	Amber	Wintering	5
A002	Black-throated Diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>)	No	Amber	Wintering	0
A003	Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	No	Amber	Wintering	4
Seabirds					
A014	Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	11
A015	Leach's Petrel (<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>)	Yes	Red	Breeding	1
Waterfowl					

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species in Ireland	Conservation Status in Ireland	Residential Status in Ireland	Number of SPAs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
A037	Bewick's Swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>)	No	Red	Wintering	3
A038	Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>)	Yes	Amber	Wintering	22
A395	Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	Yes	Amber	Wintering	21
A396	Barnacle Goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	Yes	Amber	Wintering	22
A059	Pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)	No	Red	Wintering	0
A065	Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)	No	Red	Breeding	13
A067	Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	No	Red	Wintering	0
Birds of Prey and Owls					
A082	Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	8
A098	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	6
A103	Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	No	Green	Breeding	10
Crakes and Rails					
A122	Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>)	Yes	Red	Breeding	10
Waders					
A140	Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	Yes	Red	Wintering	36
A160	Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	No	Red		0
A466	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>)	Yes	Red	Breeding	6
Hérons and Egrets					
A170	Red-necked Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)	No	Red	Breeding	0
Gulls, Terns and Skuas					

EU Species Code	EU Species Name	Classed as a Priority Species in Ireland	Conservation Status in Ireland	Residential Status in Ireland	Number of SPAs for which this is a Qualifying Feature
A176	Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>)	No	Amber	Breeding	0
A177	Little Gull (<i>Larus minutus</i>)	No	Amber	Passage	0
A191	Sandwich Tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	9
A192	Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	4
A193	Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	13
A194	Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	16
A195	Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	8
Passerines					
A224	Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)	No	Red	Breeding	0
A229	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	No	Amber	Breeding	2
A282	Ring ouzel (<i>Turdus torquatus</i>)	No	Red	Breeding	0
A346	Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>)	Yes	Amber	Breeding	18

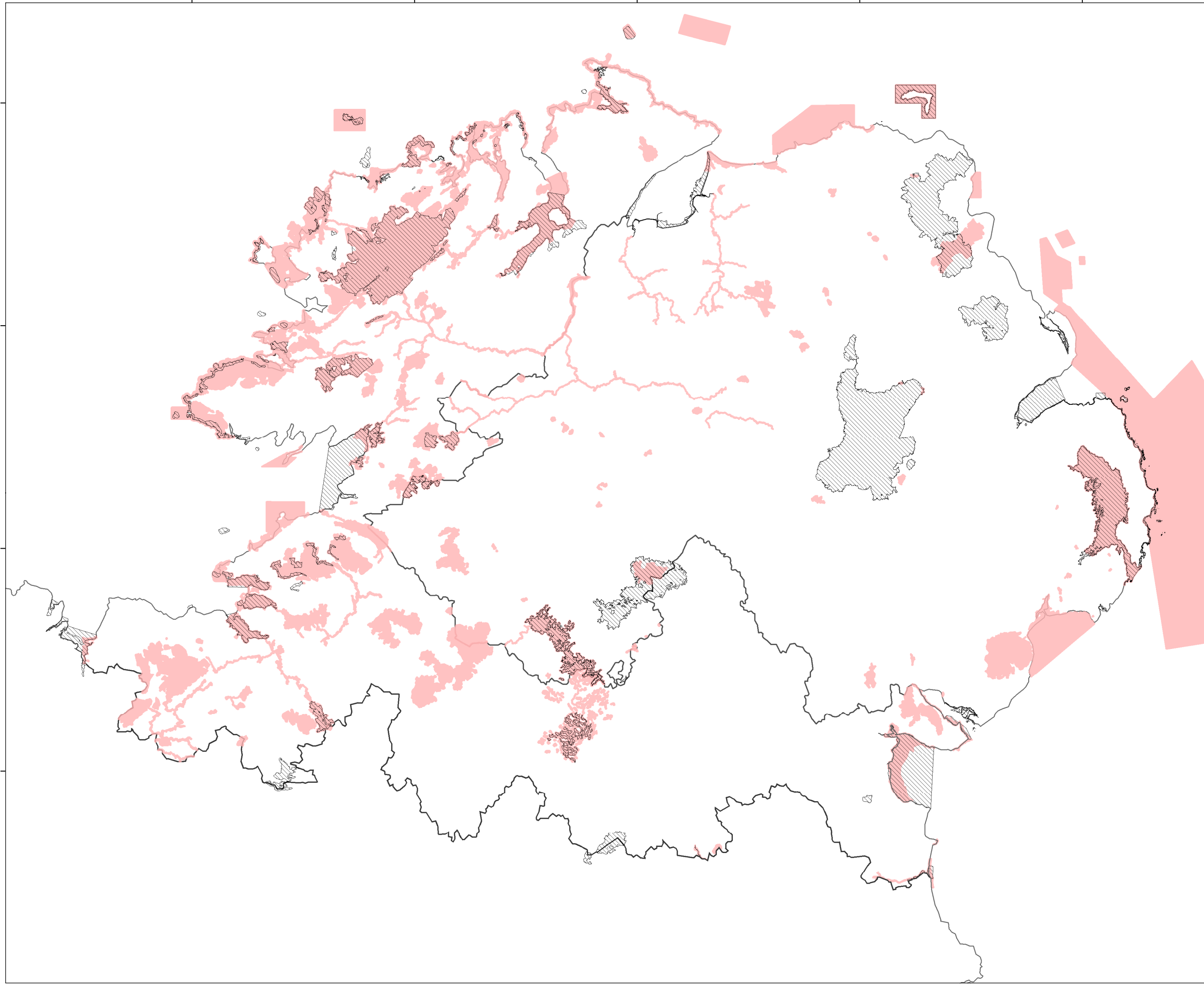
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450000

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300000



-  Special Protection Area
-  Special Area of Conservation

Coordinate System: TM65 Irish Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: TM65
 Units: Meter

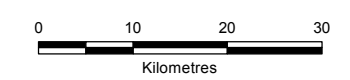


Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	21/09/2020	First Draft	PT	NR	AA

HRA Screening of the PEACE PLUS Programme 2021 - 2027



TITLE: Figure 4.1a
 Natura 2000 Sites
 Map 1 of 1



SCALE: 1:800,000 @ A3



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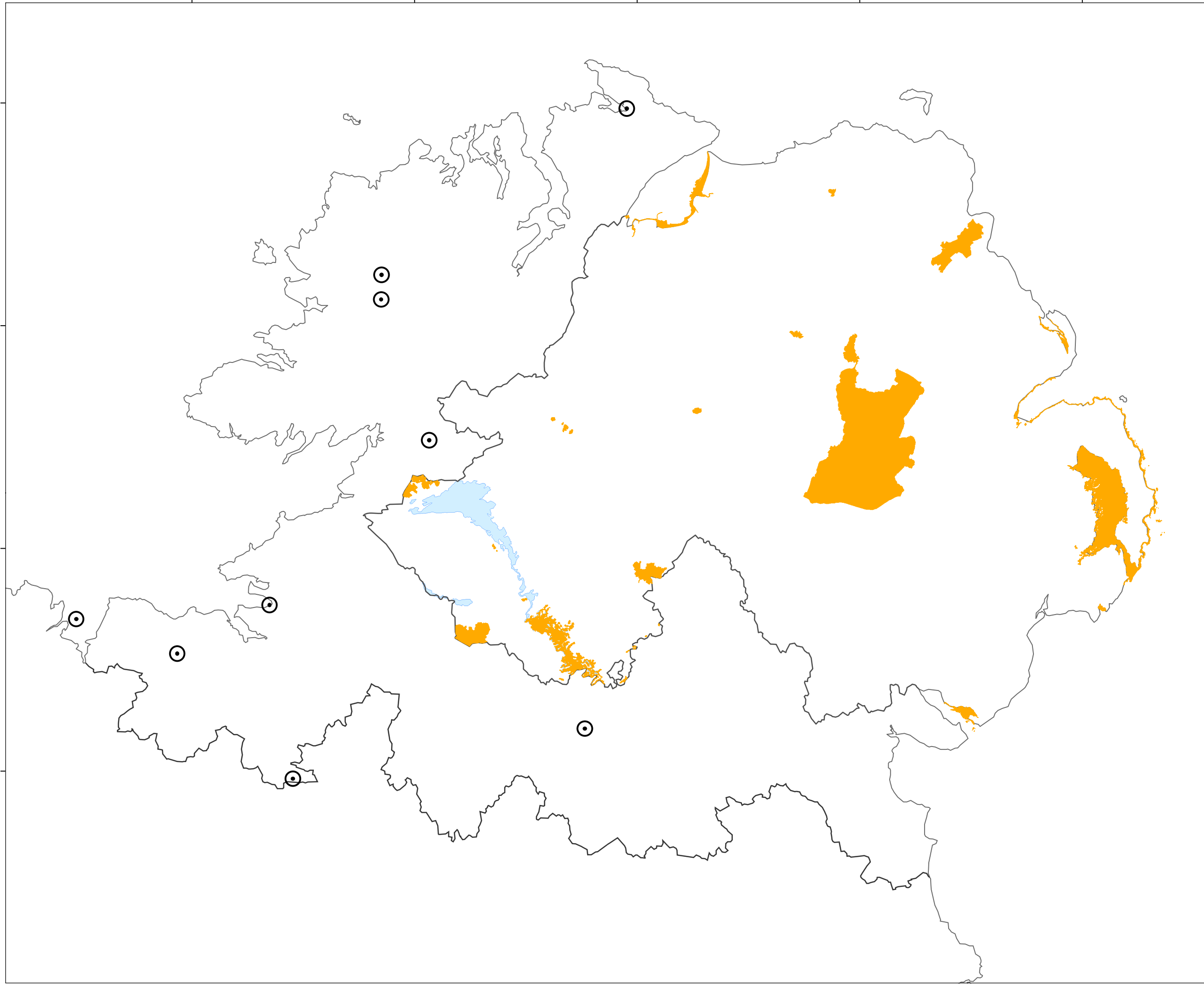
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Northern Ireland

Ramsar

Border Counties of Ireland

Ramsar

Coordinate System: TM65 Irish Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: TM65
 Units: Meter



Rev	Date	Description	Drm	Chk	App
00	03/11/2020	First Draft	PT	NR	AA

HRA Screening of the PEACE PLUS Programme 2021 - 2027



TITLE: Figure 4.1b
 Ramsar sites



SCALE: 1:800,000 @ A3



REV 00

5 POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME

5.1 Overview and Baseline

5.1.1 From analysis of the baseline data and discussions with environmental stakeholders, the key issues relating to the Natura 2000 sites within the programme areas are thought to be:

Northern Ireland

- Number of Habitat Directive habitats and species in unfavourable condition;
- Lack of data on the overall conservation status of a number of Habitat Directive species;
- Threats and pressures from agricultural (including grazing) intensification, fire and fire suppression, fishing and harvesting aquatic resources, forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth, pollution to surface waters and groundwater, outdoor sports and leisure activities and recreational activities.

Ireland

- Unfavourable condition of a number of Habitat Directive habitats and some species;
- Continuing declining trend in a number of Habitats Directive habitats and some species;
- Threats and pressure from agriculture, forestry, alien and problematic species, development, construction, urbanisation and industrialisation and associated pollution and recreation;
- Potential impacts of climate change; and
- Increasing problems of pests, diseases and invasive species.

5.2 Potential Significant Effects of PEACE PLUS

5.2.1 The primary objectives of PEACE PLUS are to build prosperity and peace within the region, to ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy. The Programme will have two interlinked core objectives, firstly to take the opportunities and address the needs arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration and secondly to promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life.

5.2.2 The programme may support new infrastructure development and capital works, these are likely to be relatively small-scale in nature, for example, for those relating to restoration and improvement of public spaces.

5.2.3 A further screening assessment by thematic area is supplied below. The anticipated investment areas referred under each theme are as supplied by SEUPB to inform this Screening Report but are not finalised and may be subject to change. The full text of the objectives and investment priorities for each theme are available in the public consultation document of the PEACE PLUS programme which is appended as Appendix A.

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

5.2.4 This themes involves four investment areas. These are described, together with their potential for significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites and ecological baseline in the following table. All investment area descriptions are summarised from the corresponding sections in the Consultation Information Document of the PEACE PLUS programme.

Table 5.1: Screening Assessment of Theme 1 Investment Areas

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans</p> <p>To enable and empower local community partnerships, led by the Local Authorities, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis, which will result in shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.</p> <p>PEACE PLUS Action Plans will be produced for each of the 17 local authority areas. These will be designed to complement the community planning arrangements currently adopted across the Programme area.</p>	<p>Actions stimulated under this investment action will be focused on community-based measures and fuller integration of peace building initiatives into existing local authority plans and policies.</p> <p>There is limited interaction, directly or indirectly with the conservation or management of designated sites. This investment area is therefore not anticipated to present a likelihood of significant effect on Natura 2000 designated sites.</p>
<p>Empowering Communities</p> <p>This investment actions includes three strands:</p> <p>Strand 1: The Empowering Communities to Embed Peace Small Grants Programme will support the delivery of people to people projects by local community organisations.</p> <p>Strand 2: The Institutional Capacity Development Programme will ensure issues related to Trust and Leadership are supported through collaborative actions between key voluntary, statutory and political institutions across multiple levels.</p> <p>Strand 3: The Community-Based Safety Interventions Programme will support projects with the potential to improve peace and reconciliation within local communities.</p>	<p>The targeting of the small grants programme is still to be established. This may include some small-scale capital works, but this is yet to be determined.</p> <p>Any such works are by their nature likely to be limited in scope for an adverse impact on designated sites and would be expected to be more focused on the urban public realm rather than more rural locations. Local planning controls will also remain in force where applicable.</p> <p>At the programme area level, it is concluded that an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 sites is unlikely to be caused.</p> <p>The 2nd and 3rd strands relate to the strengthening of existing institutions and are not anticipated to affect the protection and management of designated sites either directly or indirectly.</p>

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Building Positive Relations</p> <p>This investment area will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.</p> <p>To promote positive relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Re-imagining Communities</p> <p>This programme is a transformative re-imagining programme, which will create new significant shared spaces for use by all communities; or increase the shared usage of existing facilities. It will result in an increased number of individuals and groups utilising shared spaces and accessing shared services.</p>	<p>The programme aims to fund community projects under this investment area. The specific projects are yet to be identified but the expectation from the proposed programme descriptions are that these would be predominantly urban and focused on renewal and improvement of existing public shared spaces.</p> <p>There is no suggestion that such projects would be located within or directly affect designated Natura 2000 sites.</p>

Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation

5.2.5 This theme also involves four investment areas. These are described, together with their potential for significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites and ecological baseline in the following table.

Table 5.2: Screening Assessment of Theme 2 Investment Areas

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>SME development and transition</p> <p>This objective will build upon existing investment to support SMEs to: operate at scale through cross border collaboration; engage in commercially led innovation; effectively transition to engage in the low carbon, circular economy; deliver productivity improvements or transition to the latest digitisation tools; and strengthen capacity for maximum engagement in a post Brexit, post COVID-19 economic landscape.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Innovation Challenge Fund</p> <p>This will support high level, commercially focused research, development and innovation within key Programme area growth sectors, resulting in increased productivity, higher export levels and sustainable employment. It will deliver major change innovation projects, which result in lasting local and national economic and social benefit.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Programme area Skills Development</p> <p>This will support area-based approaches, designed to address key skills gaps, which will result in increased productivity and employment and higher levels of cross border labour mobility. The Programme will enable cross community and cross border collaboration between education and training-based collaborations which will reduce duplication and maximise the capacity to address existing and emerging skills gaps. It will encompass the opportunity for up skilling, reskilling, training and job placement opportunities.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Smart Towns and Villages</p> <p>This will provide greater access to and awareness of telecommunications. An area-based approach will be adopted to the creation of Smart Towns and Villages. This proven model utilises a social innovation led approach to maximise the potential of Information Communications Technology (ICT) to deliver improved social and economic outcomes in target areas; particularly those of a rural nature. The Programme will also incorporate measures for the transformation of vacant spaces and facilities within town and village centres for communal recreational and social usage.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>

Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in our Young People

5.2.6 This theme involves three investment areas. These are described, together with their potential for significant effects on the identified Natura sites and ecological baseline in the following table.

Table 5.3: Screening Assessment of Theme 3 Investment Areas

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Shared Learning Together Programme</p> <p>The Learning Together Programme will enable the further development of existing shared education relationships, while ensuring the involvement of schools and young organisations yet to participate in the Programme. It will facilitate the education together of those of different religious beliefs, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Catholic children and young persons; including those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not; which is secured by the working together and co-operation of two or more relevant education providers.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>PEACE Plus Youth Programme</p> <p>The PEACE PLUS Youth Programme is a targeted capacity building Programme for young people aged 14-24 years, who are disadvantaged, excluded or marginalised, have deep social and emotional needs and are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, violence or paramilitary activity. The Programme is outcomes focused across a number of key areas including good relations, personal development, citizenship and employability.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>The Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme will support non statutory provision activity involving cross community and cross border multi-agency collaborative approaches, which will lead to improved understanding of youth mental health issues and the sharing of best practice to improve related interventions. In addition to mental health, supported projects will also focus on the social, emotional and environmental wellbeing of young people and building their capacity. The Programme will make a considerable contribution to peace and reconciliation through the development of</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>

enhanced emotional resilience in our young people.	
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Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities

5.2.7 This theme involves three investment areas. These are described, together with their potential for significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites and ecological baseline in the following table.

Table 5.4: Screening Assessment of Theme 4 Investment Areas

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Collaborative Health & Social Care Programme</p> <p>This will build upon existing and new cross community and cross border collaborative approaches to health and social care delivery models (within specified treatment areas), to deliver an increased number of episodes of care. It will support the development of innovative community based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the potential of information communications technology to transform healthcare services and reduce inequalities. The Programme will support further advancements within this area and seek to address the longer-term impact of COVID-19 upon healthcare provision across the Programme area. This will improve the health and well-being of people living in the Programme area, by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs. It will result in a more resilient health and social care sector, which contributes to improved population health and wellbeing and reduced health inequalities.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion</p> <p>This investment objective will support social, economic and environmental projects which contribute to sustainable regeneration, social inclusion and the creation of healthy and thriving communities in rural areas. By adopting a strengths-based approach, the programme will</p>	<p>By the nature of this objective, some actions are likely to be stimulated in areas which could potentially affect or be subject to Natura 2000 designations.</p>

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>contribute to the creation of a more balanced society, in which our rural communities thrive.</p>	<p>The detailed actions specified for this investment area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for improvements in cross-border and area community services, • Support for cross community family support services, • Development and delivery of rural enterprise support, • Improvement of green infrastructure to promote active lifestyles and tourism in rural and cross-border areas, • Support for agricultural diversification and development of social farms. <p>The investment objectives are generally complementary rather than contradictory to the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites. At the programme area level, it is considered unlikely that any of the specified measures would adversely affect Natura 2000 designated sites.</p>
<p>Victim and Survivors</p> <p>The PEACE IV Programme currently supports an integrated, outcomes based, community led support programme for victims and survivors. This has improved the lives of many victims and survivors in the Programme area and beyond, including cross community and cross border interventions. The Victim and Survivors Programme provides an opportunity to learn from and build upon this work, to provide additional support to victims and survivors. The proposed areas are as follows: Further development of the health and wellbeing case worker network model; Advocacy support programmes (Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement); Sector training and development; Research including new co-designed and action based approaches; and Further development of the resilience programmes.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>

Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future

5.2.8 This theme involves six investment areas. These are described, together with their potential for significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites and ecological baseline in the following table.

Table 5.5: Screening Assessment of Theme 5 Investment Areas

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience</p> <p>Investment will be directed towards further delivery of conservation actions proven to redress biodiversity loss and preserve these important environmental, social and economic assets.</p>	<p>Some of the specific measures to be funded under this investment area are still being developed but overall, it is anticipated that this objective will be consistent with improved protection and management of Natura 2000 designated sites.</p>
<p>Marine and Coastal Management</p> <p>The Marine and Coastal Management Programme will enable a cross border approach to the protection of the marine and coastal environment from natural and anthropological threats; safeguarding this irreplaceable natural asset and resulting in economic, social and cultural benefits to the Programme area.</p>	<p>As with the above, this investment area is still to be fully defined but would be expected to generally support the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites in the programme area.</p>
<p>Water Quality and Catchment Management</p> <p>The Water Quality and Catchment Management Programme enable a cross border collaborative approach to the management and improvement of water quality in selected cross border water bodies. In line with the Water Framework Directive, this will be demonstrated by an improved classification over time. The Programme will promote sustainable water management. It will improve freshwater quality in cross border river basins and result in an increased percentage of cross border freshwater bodies in cross border river basins with good or high quality.</p>	<p>Poor surface water quality is identified as a key issue in both Northern Ireland and Ireland, and a factor influencing the condition of Natura 2000 designated sites.</p> <p>This investment area is therefore expected to support the improved protection and management of designated areas.</p>
<p>Water Quality Improvement Programme</p> <p>The Water Quality Improvement Programme will result in an improvement in the water quality of three specific transitional water bodies: Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Donegal Bay through cross border collaboration. In addition, raw drinking water</p>	<p>This investment area is anticipated to support the improved protection and management of Natura 2000 designated sites (Upper Lough Erne</p>

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>quality will be improved through the reduction of pollutants, including those of an agricultural nature.</p>	<p>SAC/SPA, Lough Melvin SAC and Donegal Bay SAC/SPA).</p>
<p>Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme</p> <p>The Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme Programme will build the knowledge, skills and capacity required to develop a policy framework and encourage investment in the geothermal technology sector. Associated cross border collaboration to achieve the replacement of fossil fuels by indigenous renewable energy in the heat sector, will result in a reduced reliance on fossil fuels and enhanced energy security. It will deliver economic, social and environmental benefits across the Programme area.</p>	<p>Geothermal demonstration projects are likely to be small-scale with limited potential to impact on protected sites. Site selection criteria and local planning controls will provide a means of ensuring that demonstration projects are sensitive to the local environment and any identified negative effects are mitigated. No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connections</p> <p>The Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connectivity Programme will increase connectivity in the form of sustainable public transport. It will involve significant investment in sustainable rail stock. The improvement of the rail service linking the two capital cities and the smaller adjacent urban centres of Portadown, Newry, Dundalk and Drogheda can exploit this dynamic to its full potential, providing spin-off agglomeration and wider economic and environmental benefits, including contributing to the long-term development of a zero emissions rail network. Investment in transport will be a catalyst for regeneration and economic growth, in particular on the economic corridor between Belfast and Dublin, including the border counties in both Northern Ireland and Ireland.</p>	<p>Whilst transport infrastructure can adversely affect Natura 2000 sites, this is not identified as a key factor at the programme level. It is also relevant that this investment priority is focused on more efficient use of existing infrastructure than creation of new rail routes.</p> <p>Overall, the potential for significant effect on Natura 2000 sites is considered to be limited. Increased uptake of public transport in preference to private car use would be expected to be generally positive.</p>

Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

5.2.9 This theme involves two investment areas. These are described, together with their potential for significant effects on the identified Natura 2000 sites and ecological baseline in the following table.

Table 5.6: Screening Assessment of Theme 6 Investment Areas

Investment Areas	Potential for Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Sites
<p>Strategic Planning and Engagement</p> <p>This investment area will focus on enabling joint development and management of strategies; cooperation capacity building; and identification of solutions to reduce obstacles to cross-border cooperation.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>
<p>Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens</p> <p>The Trust Building Measures between Citizens Programme will put in place mechanisms to finance smaller projects that make a strong contribution to the social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis.</p>	<p>No direct or indirect effects on Natura 2000 sites are anticipated as a result of this investment area.</p>

6 SCREENING CONCLUSION

6.1.1 This screening process, undertaken in accordance with the Habitats Directive and national legislation and guidance, has established that:

- The PEACE PLUS programme is not directly connected to or necessary for the management of the Natura 2000 sites; and
- That the PEACE PLUS programme is not anticipated to cause significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites (in view of their conservation objectives).

6.1.2 It is therefore concluded that the PEACE Plus programme should screen out of further consideration through the HRA process. This screening statement has been issued to NIEA and NPWS as the respective competent bodies to confirm this position.

7 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A - NORTHERN IRELAND DATA

Table of Predominant Habitat Types of SAC and SPA in Northern Ireland

	SAC/ SPA	Alpine and sub- Alpine grassland	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	Coniferous woodland	Dry grassland, Steppes	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	Improved grassland	Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	Marine and coastal habitats (general)	Marine areas, Sea inlets	Mixed woodland	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	TOTAL
Aughnadarragh Lough	SAC		✓	✓			✓					✓									4
Ballykilbeg	SAC		✓	✓			✓														3
Ballynahone Bog	SAC		✓	✓																	2
Banagher Glen	SAC			✓			✓		✓												4
Bann Estuary	SAC		✓	✓	✓				✓									✓		✓	6
Binevenagh	SAC						✓		✓		✓										3
Black Bog	SAC		✓																		1
Breen Wood	SAC			✓					✓												3
Carn-Glenshane Pass	SAC		✓						✓												3
Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River	SAC		✓	✓					✓			✓				✓					6
Cranny Bogs	SAC		✓	✓					✓												3
Cuilcagh Mountain	SAC		✓					✓			✓										3
Curran Bog	SAC		✓	✓					✓												3
Dead Island Bog	SAC		✓	✓			✓														3
Deroran Bog	SAC		✓	✓					✓												3
Derryleckagh	SAC		✓	✓					✓												3
Eastern Mournes	SAC	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓										6
Fairy Water Bogs	SAC		✓	✓					✓												3
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs	SAC		✓	✓					✓												5
Garron Plateau	SAC		✓					✓			✓										4
Garry Bog	SAC		✓																		1
Hollymount	SAC		✓	✓					✓												3
Largaliny	SAC		✓	✓				✓				✓									5
Lecale Fens	SAC		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓												6
Lough Melvin	SAC		✓	✓					✓			✓									3
Magheraveely Mari Loughs	SAC		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		✓				9
Magilligan	SAC				✓															✓	2
Main Valley Bogs	SAC		✓	✓			✓														3
Monawilkin	SAC		✓	✓				✓				✓									6
Moneygal Bog	SAC		✓			✓			✓												3
Moninea Bog	SAC		✓	✓																	2
Montiagh Moss	SAC		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓									6
Murlough	SAC				✓		✓	✓	✓					✓					✓	✓	4
North Antrim Coast	SAC				✓		✓	✓	✓									✓	✓	✓	6
North Channel	SAC													✓							1
Owenkillew River	SAC		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓			✓						7
Peatlands Park	SAC		✓	✓								✓									3
Pettigoe Plateau	SAC		✓					✓													3
Rathlin Island	SAC													✓					✓		2
Rea's Wood and Farr's Bay	SAC		✓	✓																	2
Red Bay	SAC												✓								1
River Faughan and Tributaries	SAC			✓				✓	✓			✓									5
River Foyle and Tributaries	SAC		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓								✓	9
River Roe and Tributaries	SAC			✓				✓	✓			✓			✓						6
Rostrevor Wood	SAC			✓																	2
Skerries and Causeway	SAC												✓		✓						2
Slieve Beagh	SAC		✓					✓				✓									3
Slieve Gullion	SAC		✓					✓				✓									4
Strangford Lough	SAC							✓	✓					✓				✓		✓	5
Teal Lough	SAC		✓					✓	✓			✓									4
The Maidens	SAC													✓							1
Tonnagh Beg Bog	SAC		✓	✓																	2
Tully Bog	SAC		✓	✓																	3
Turmennan	SAC																				0
Upper Ballinderry River	SAC		✓	✓			✓					✓									4
Upper Lough Erne	SAC		✓	✓				✓	✓			✓									4
West Fermanagh Scarplands	SAC		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓										8
Wolf Island Bog	SAC		✓	✓																	2
TOTAL		1	41	36	4	3	13	24	32	8	4	22	2	6	0	4	3	3	2	5	213
Antrim Hills	SPA		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									9
Belfast Lough	SPA																			✓	1
Belfast Lough Open Water	SPA													✓							1
Carlingford Lough	SPA																	✓	✓	✓	3
Copeland Islands	SPA		✓							✓									✓	✓	3
Killough Bay	SPA				✓													✓	✓	✓	4
Larne Lough	SPA																	✓	✓	✓	2
Lough Foyle	SPA																	✓		✓	2
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	SPA		✓					✓				✓			✓						4
Outer Ards	SPA													✓				✓	✓	✓	4
Pettigoe Plateau	SPA		✓					✓				✓									3
Rathlin Island	SPA													✓					✓		2
Sheep Island	SPA																		✓		1
Slieve Beagh - Mullaghfad - Lisna	SPA		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓									7
Strangford Lough	SPA		✓						✓			✓			✓					✓	6
Upper Lough Erne	SPA		✓	✓					✓			✓						✓		✓	4
TOTAL		0	7	3	1	2	0	4	4	3	1	6	0	4	2	0	0	6	6	7	56

Overall Status of Annex II, IV and V Species in Northern Ireland

Code	Common Name	Species Scientific Name	Overall Status	Future Prospects	Population Coverage	
Invertebrate species: molluscs						
S1013	Geyer's whorl snail	Vertigo geyeri	Not available	Unknown/uncertain	Species recorded at Cuilcagh Mountain and Monawilkin SACs in Co Fermanagh. V. angustior recently recorded from 1 SAC - North Antrim Coast. Not seen at Bann Estuary for around 20 years.	
S1014	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	Vertigo angustior	Not available	Not available		
S1029	Freshwater pearl mussel	Margaritifera margaritifera	Not available	Negative		
Invertebrate species: arthropods						
S1092	White-clawed crayfish	Austropotamobius pallipes	Not available	Unknown/uncertain	There are - in total - 6 lakes within the Magheraveely Marl Lakes SAC, four of which have recorded White-clawed Crayfish since 1994 Marsh Frillfly is currently listed as an SAC selection feature on 5 SACs: Murlough; Aghnadarragh Lough; Ballykilbeg; Montiaghs Moss; Magilligan.	
S1065	Marsh fritillary butterfly	Euphydryas aurinia	Not available	Stable		
Vertebrate species: fish						
S1095	Sea lamprey	Petromyzon marinus	Not available	Not available	Insufficient or no data available Insufficient or no data available Insufficient or no data available Location data is derived from the Loughs Agency which covers the Foyle and Carlingford catchments, where all the SACs for Salmon are located. Not available	
S1099	River lamprey	Lampetra fluviatilis	Not available	Not available		
S1096	Brook lamprey	Lampetra planeri	Not available	Not available		
S1106	Atlantic salmon	Salmo salar	Not available	Uncertain		
S5076	Pollan	Coregonus pollan	Favourable	Unknown		
Vertebrate species: amphibians & reptiles						
S1213	Common frog	Rana temporaria	Overall stable	Not available	Not available	
Vertebrate species: mammals (terrestrial)						
S1334	Mountain hare	Lepus timidus	Not available	Overall stable	Not available Otter surveys carried out between 2006 and 2017 on the 6 SACs in which Otter is a selection feature indicate a stable population within the designated sites with only minor, if any, change within individual sites; 3 SACs showing an increase in occurrence, 2 showing a decrease in occurrence and 1 Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available Not available	
S1355	Otter	Lutra lutra	Not available	Not available		
S1357	Pine marten	Martes martes	Not available	Stable		
S1314	Daubenton's bat	Myotis daubentonii	Not available	Unknown		
S1330	Whiskered bat	Myotis mystacinus	Not available	Unknown		
S1322	Natterer's bat	Myotis nattereri	Not available	Unknown		
S1331	Leisler's bat	Nyctalus leisleri	Not available	Unknown		
S1317	Nathusius' pipistrelle	Pipistrellus nathusii	Not available	Unknown		
S1309	Common pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Not available	Unknown		
S5009	Soprano pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus	Not available	Unknown		
S1326	Brown long-eared bat	Plecotus auritus	Not available	Unknown		
Lower plant species						
S1395	Petalwort	Petalophyllum ralfsii	Unfavourable Bad	Improving		The only site for the species is Magilligan SAC in Co Londonderry, where it occurs in one 1x1km square. The most recent thallus count was one individual.
S6216	Slender green feather- moss	Hamatocaulis vernicosus	insufficient data	Not available		The species is not recorded on any SACs; however, it has been noted at Knock Dhu and Sallagh Braes ASSI in County Antrim.
S1400	Large white-moss	Leucobryum glaucum	Unknown	Not available		Not available
S1377	Maerl	Phymatolithon calcareum	Stable	Not available		Not available
Higher plant species						
S1528	Marsh saxifrage	Saxifraga hirculus	Unfavourable Inadequate.	Not available	The only known site for the species in NI is the Garron Plateau SAC. In 2017 there were 142 individuals, with 82 ramets and 60 flowerheads recorded.	
S6985	Killarney fern	Vandenboschia speciosa	Unfavourable Inadequate	Not available	One site within SAC network; 2 plants.	

Table of Annex 1 Habitats in Northern Ireland

Code	Name	Overall Status	Future Prospects	Habitat Coverage
Marine, coastal and halophytic habitats				
H1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Not available	Stable	Not available
H1130	Estuaries	Not available	Stable	Not available
H1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Not available	Overall Stable	Not available
H1150	Coastal lagoons	Not available	Unlikely to change	Not available
H1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	Not available	Overall stable	Not available
H1170	Reefs	No change	Overall stable	Not available
H1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	Unknown/ Uncertainty	Uncertain	Habitat over three SACs - 13ha for Strangford Lough; less than 1 ha each for Rathlin Island and North Antrim Coast.
H1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Unfavourable bad	Uncertain	Habitat is present at one SAC - Strangford Lough
H1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Unfavourable inadequate	Uncertain	Habitat is present at two SACs - North Antrim Coast and Rathlin Island
H1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Unfavourable bad	Unfavourable bad	The bulk of the habitat in NI is present at Strangford Lough SAC
H1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</i>)	Unfavourable bad	Unfavourable bad	SACs for the habitat in NI are Strangford Lough, Murlough, North Antrim Coast and Bann Estuary SACs.
Coastal sand dunes and continental dunes				
H2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	Unfavourable inadequate	Unfavourable inadequate	Habitat is present at three SACs - Bann Estuary, Magilligan and Murlough.
H2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')	Unknown/uncertainty	Uncertain	Not available
H2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')	Unfavourable inadequate	Uncertain	Habitat is present at four SACs - Bann Estuary, Magilligan, North Antrim Coast (White Park Bay) and Murlough.
H2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ullicetea</i>)	Unfavourable inadequate	unfavourable condition	Habitat is present at one SAC only - Murlough.
H2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	Unfavourable inadequate	Unfavourable inadequate	The habitat is present at 3 SACs and not known from elsewhere in NI - Magilligan, Murlough and North Antrim Coast.
H2190	Humid dune slacks	Unfavourable bad	Overall stable	The bulk of the habitat in NI is present at Magilligan SAC. There are very small stands present at Bann Estuary and North Antrim Coast SACs.
Freshwater habitats				
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i>				
H3130	Isoto-Nanojuncetea	Not available	Unknown/uncertainty	The vast majority of the overall SAC area is contributed by Lough Melvin.
H3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	Not available	Unknown/uncertainty	Not available
H3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamon</i> or <i>Hydrocharitton</i> -type vegetation	Not available	Unknown/uncertainty	The vast majority of the overall SAC area is contributed by Upper Lough Erne.
H3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	Not available	Unknown/uncertainty	Not available
H3180	Turloughs	Unfavourable bad	Overall stable	Extent of habitat at Fardrum and Roosky SAC is 3.96 ha. This is the only known location for the habitat in NI.
H3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	Not available	Unknown/uncertainty	Only the length (in km) of H3260 is known and not the area (in km ²)
Temperate heath and scrub				
H4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Unfavourable bad	Negative	Wet heath occurs as a selection feature on 5 SACs - Garron Plateau, Eastern Mournes, Culcagh Mountain, West Fermanagh Scarplands and Pettigoe Plateau. Together these sites cover over 2,000 ha of the habitat.
H4030	European dry heaths	Unfavourable bad	Negative	Dry heath is a feature on 5 SACs: Pettigoe Plateau, Slieve Gullion, Culcagh Mountain, Eastern Mournes and Slieve Beagh. Together these sites cover over 5,600 ha of the habitat.
H4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	Unfavourable bad	Negative	Alpine heath is a feature on 2 SACs: Culcagh Mountain and Eastern Mournes. Together these sites cover an estimated 53 ha of the habitat.
Natural and semi-natural grassland formations				
H6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	Unfavourable bad	Unfavourable bad	Siliceous alpine grassland is a feature on 1 SAC: Eastern Mournes, which covers an estimated 32 ha of the habitat.
H6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	Unfavourable inadequate	Favourable	Not available
H6230	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)	Overall favourable	Overall stable	Not available
H6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	Favourable	Stable	332.58 ha recognised as qualifying SAC features, an additional 18.6 ha within Monawilkin SAC not qualifying as ASSI feature.
H6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	Overall Unknown	Unknown	The habitat has not been recorded from any SACs but small stands may be present at some. Hence reported as insufficient or no data available.
Raised bogs and mires and fens				
H7110	Active raised bogs	Stable	Overall Stable	There are 15 SACs for the habitat in NI, covering nearly 1500 ha of the habitat.
H7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	Stable	Overall Stable	There are 15 SACs for active raised bog habitat in NI; two of these (Curran Bog and Peatlands Park SACs) include significant extent of degraded raised bog habitat at Grade C. The estimated extent of degraded raised bog habitat at these sites is 169.66 ha, although there are smaller areas of H7120 also present at most if not all of the other SACs (Grade D - insignificant presence).
H7130	Blanket bogs	Unfavourable	Overall Stable	There are 8 SACs for the habitat in NI (Carn/Glenshane, Culcagh Mountain, Eastern Mournes, Garron Plateau, Pettigoe Plateau, Slieve Beagh, Teal Lough and West Fermanagh Scarplands). These cover nearly 10,000 ha of the habitat.
H7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	Unfavourable Bad	Overall Stable	The habitat is represented at 3 SACs in NI - lowland examples occur at Derryleckagh (16.6 ha) and Turmennan (4.6 ha) in Co Down. An upland example is present at Garron Plateau (23 ha) in Co Antrim.
H7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	Unfavourable bad	Negative	There are 9 SACs in NI which are known to contain the habitat, covering very approximately 9 ha of the habitat
H7210	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	Unfavourable Bad	Unfavourable Bad	The habitat has only been recorded at Magheraveely Marl Lakes in Fermanagh. Extent estimated very approximately at 0.008 ha.
H7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)	Overall Unknown	Unknown	The habitat is represented at 1 SAC in NI - West Fermanagh Scarplands. Note that the extent of the habitat at this site has been more accurately estimated at 0.5 ha, rather than the 1 ha that was estimated for the last Article 17 report.
H7230	Alkaline fens	Unfavourable Bad	Unfavourable Bad	The habitat is represented at 4 SACs in NI - lowland examples occur at Magheraveely Marl Lakes in Fermanagh and Lecale Fens in Co Down. Upland examples are present at Garron Plateau in Co Antrim and West Fermanagh Scarplands in Co Fermanagh.
Rocky habitats and caves				
H8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)	Overall Unknown	Unknown	The habitat is represented at 2 SACs in NI - Culcagh Mountain and Eastern Mournes. Extent at these sites estimated at 43.5 ha.
H8120	Calcareous and calcsist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietalia rotundifolii</i>)	Overall Unknown	Unknown	The habitat is represented at 1 SAC in NI - Binevenagh. Extent estimated at 3 ha.
H8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Overall Unknown	Unknown	The habitat is represented at Binevenagh SAC. Extent at this site estimated at 4.7 ha.
H8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	Overall Unknown	Unknown	The habitat is represented at 2 SACs in NI - Culcagh Mountain and Eastern Mournes. Extent at these sites estimated at 67.5 ha.
H8240	Limestone pavements	Unfavourable inadequate	Unfavourable inadequate	Limestone pavement is a feature on 1 SAC: West Fermanagh Scarplands, which covers an estimated 90 ha of the habitat.
H8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Not available	Stable	34 caves fall within this area
Forests				
H9180	Tilio-Acerion oaks of slopes, screes and ravines	Unfavourable bad	Unfavourable bad	There are 2 SACs for Tilio-Acerion woodland in NI (West Fermanagh Scarplands and Banagher Glen). These cover around 150 ha of the habitat.
H91A0	Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	Overall bad	Unfavourable bad	There are 12 SACs for Oakwood in NI. These cover around 842 ha of the habitat. This represents a high proportion of the H91A0 in NI with additional sites protected as ASSI
H91D0	Bog woodland	Overall bad	Unfavourable bad	There are 3 SACs for Bog Woodland in NI. These cover around 8 ha of the habitat. This represents a high proportion of the estimated extent of the habitat in NI.
H91E0	Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	Overall bad	Unfavourable bad	There are 3 SACs for Alluvial Forests in NI. These cover around 160 ha of the habitat. This represents a high proportion of the estimated extent of the habitat in NI.

Northern Ireland Ramsar Sites

Name	Site Code	Area (ha)	Status
Ballynahone Bog	UK12001	243.24	Designated
Belfast Lough	UK12002	432.14	Designated
Black Bog	UK12003	183.42	Designated
Carlingford Lough	UK12004	830.51	Designated
Cuilcagh Mountain	UK12005	2,744.45	Designated
Fairy Water Bogs	UK12008	223.7	Designated
Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs	UK12009	43.1	Designated
Garron Plateau	UK12010	4,650.07	Designated
Garry Bog	UK12011	154.76	Designated
Killough Bay	UK12012	104.23	Designated
Larne Lough	UK12013	395.94	Designated
Lough Foyle	UK12014	2,204.36	Designated
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	UK12016	50,165.84	Designated
Magheraveely Marl Loughs	UK12017	58.78	Designated
Outer Ards	UK12018	1,154.16	Designated
Pettigoe Plateau	UK12019	1,264.32	Designated
Slieve Beagh	UK12020	1,884.68	Designated
Strangford Lough	UK12021	15,581.30	Designated
Turmennan Lough	UK12023	14.83	Designated
Upper Lough Erne	UK12024	5,818.07	Designated



APPENDIX B – BORDER COUNTIES DATA

SACs and SPAs in the Border Counties

County	SAC	SPA
Donegal (73)		
	Aran Island (Donegal) Cliffs SAC (000111)	Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039)
	Ballintra SAC (000115)	Donegal Bay SPA (004151)
	Ballyarr Wood SAC (000116)	Durnesh Lough SPA (004145)
	Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (001975)	Falcarragh to Meenlaragh SPA (004149)
	Ballyness Bay SAC (001090)	Fanad Head SPA (004148)
	Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (002047)	Greers Isle SPA (004082)
	Coolvoy Bog SAC (001107)	Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (004194)
	Croaghonagh Bog SAC (000129)	Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA (004132)
	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC (000133)	Inishbofin, Inishdooley and Inishbeg SPA (004083)
	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC (002303)	Inishduff SPA (004115)
	Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau SAC (001125)	Inishkeel SPA (004116)
	Durnesh Lough SAC (000138)	Inishtrahull SPA (004100)
	Fawnboy Bog/Lough Nacung SAC (000140)	Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (004057)
	Gannivegil Bog SAC (000142)	Lough Fern SPA (004060)
	Gweedore Bay and Islands SAC (001141)	Lough Foyle SPA (004087)
	Hempton's Turbot Bank SAC (002999)	Lough Nillan Bog SPA (004110)
	Horn Head and Rinclevan SAC (000147)	Lough Swilly SPA (004075)
	Inishtrahull SAC (000154)	Malin Head SPA (004146)
	Kindrum Lough SAC (001151)	Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (004099)
	Leannan River SAC (002176)	Rathlin O'Birne Island SPA (004120)
	Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (000163)	Roaninish SPA (004121)
	Lough Golagh and Breesy Hill SAC (002164)	Sheskinmore Lough SPA (004090)
	Lough Melvin SAC (000428)	Tory Island SPA (004073)
	Lough Nageage SAC (002135)	Trawbreaga Bay SPA (004034)
	Lough Nagreany Dunes SAC (000164)	West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)
	Lough Nillan Bog (Carrickatlieve) SAC (000165)	West Donegal Islands SPA (004230)
	Lough Swilly SAC (002287)	
	Magheradrumman Bog SAC (000168)	
	Meenaguse Scragh SAC (001880)	
	Meenaguse/Ardbane Bog SAC (000172)	
	Meentygrannagh Bog SAC (000173)	
	Muckish Mountain SAC (001179)	
	Mulroy Bay SAC (002159)	
	North Inishowen Coast SAC (002012)	
	Rathlin O'Birne Island SAC (000181)	
	River Finn SAC (002301)	
	Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283)	
	Sessiagh Lough SAC (000185)	
	Sheephaven SAC (001190)	
	Slieve League SAC (000189)	
	Slieve Tooley/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay SAC (000190)	
	St. John's Point SAC (000191)	
	Tamur Bog SAC (001992)	
	Termon Strand SAC (001195)	
	Tory Island Coast SAC (002259)	
	Tranarossan and Melmore Lough SAC (000194)	
	West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC (000197)	
Leitrim (9)		
	Arroo Mountain SAC (001403)	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (004187)
	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (000623)	
	Boleybrack Mountain SAC (002032)	
	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC (000625)	
	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC (000584)	
	Glenade Lough SAC (001919)	
	Lough Gill SAC (001976)	
	Lough Melvin SAC (000428)	
Louth (11)		
	Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC (001957)	Boyne Estuary SPA (004080)
	Carlingford Mountain SAC (000453)	Carlingford Lough SPA (004078)
	Carlingford Shore SAC (002306)	Dundalk Bay SPA (004026)
	Clogher Head SAC (001459)	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232)
	Dundalk Bay SAC (000455)	Stabannan-Braganstown SPA (004091)
	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (002299)	
Monaghan (2)		
	Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (001786)	Slieve Beagh SPA (004167)

Sligo (31)		
	Ballysadare Bay SAC (000622)	Ardboline Island and Horse Island SPA (004135)
	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC (000623)	Aughris Head SPA (004133)
	Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC (001656)	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA (004234)
	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC (000625)	Ballysadare Bay SPA (004129)
	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC (000627)	Cummeen Strand SPA (004035)
	Doocastle Turlough SAC (000492)	Drumcliff Bay SPA (004013)
	Flughany Bog SAC (000497)	Inishmurray SPA (004068)
	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (000458)	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (004036)
	Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs SAC (001669)	Lough Arrow SPA (004050)
	Lough Arrow SAC (001673)	Lough Gara SPA (004048)
	Lough Gill SAC (001976)	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (004187)
	Lough Hoe Bog SAC (000633)	
	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog SAC (000634)	
	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (002006)	
	River Moy SAC (002298)	
	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (001680)	
	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs SAC (000636)	
	Turloughmore (Sligo) SAC (000637)	
	Union Wood SAC (000638)	
	Unshin River SAC (001898)	
Cavan (10)		
	Boleybrack Mountain SAC (002032)	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough SPA (004061)
	Corratirrim SAC (000979)	Lough Oughter Complex SPA (004049)
	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC (000584)	Lough Sheelin SPA (004065)
	Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally) SAC (000006)	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232)
	Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (000007)	
	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (002299)	

Ramsar Sites in the Border Counties

County	Ramsar Sites
Louth	Dundalk Bay
Cravan	Lough Oughter
Sligo	Easky Bog
Sligo/Roscommo	Lough Gara
Sligo/Mayo	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary
Donegal	Pettigo Plateau Meenachullion Bog Lough Barra Bog Trawbreaga Bay