

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Draft Tipperary Heritage Strategy 2025-2030

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He has advised South Dublin County Council on the control and management of Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed in the area around Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.

From 1998 to 2019 he was a visiting lecturer in UCD, in the Science and Archaeology Departments, lecturing at post graduate (Master's Degree) level to students in a Sustainable Development Module (MSc. World Heritage Management).

Introduction and Terms of Reference

Introduction

This is a Strategic Environmental Assessment screening for The Draft Tipperary Co. Co. Heritage Strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme.

SEA aims to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans with a view to promoting sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of plans and programmes is required by European Directive 2001/42/EC ('the SEA Directive'). For a specific range of land-use plans, this Directive is transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 456/2005 (European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2005).

For all other plans and programmes in Ireland (including other types of plans in the land-use planning sector), the SEA Directive is transposed into Irish law by S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (the European Communities (Environmental

Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 463 of 2025 (European Union (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2025) SEA is undertaken by a wide range of public authorities who are responsible for preparing plans and programmes.

Role of the Public and the Environmental Authorities in SEA

Specific “environmental authorities” are consulted by a plan/programme maker during certain stages in the SEA process. The public are also consulted and given an opportunity to provide comments when the “Environmental Report” is published alongside a draft plan or programme. There are also requirements to make certain notices and the final decision of adopting the plan or programme available to the public.

Consultation of Environmental Authorities during SEA

The EU SEA Directive requires that the plan-maker consults “environmental authorities” during specific stages in the overall SEA process.

These stages include:

Notifying the environmental authorities during screening for SEA (where required) and inviting submission or observation in relation to whether the proposed plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment;

Notifying the environmental authorities of an SEA screening determination;

Consulting environmental authorities when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report;

Following the publication of the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report, notifying the environmental authorities indicating that a submission or observation may be made in writing to the authority within a specified period, as part of the wider consultation with the public;

Following adoption of the plan or programme which has undergone an SEA, sending a copy of the “SEA Statement” to the environmental authorities.

For clarification, the following environmental authorities are required to be consulted under the following legislation:

S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 463 of 2025 (European Union (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2025)

S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 463 of 2025 (European Union (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2025). SEA may be required for all sectoral plans, including land use plans (except for those specific land use plans covered by S.I. No. 456/2025 (European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025))

The following environmental authorities must be consulted, where appropriate:

Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) – all cases
Development Applications Unit, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage - where there might be significant effects on architectural or archaeological heritage or nature conservation
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications - where there might be significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment.
S.I. No. 456/2025 (European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025)

S.I. No. 456/2025 (European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025), SEA may be required for certain specified land-use plans. The following environmental authorities must be consulted, where appropriate:

EPA – all cases
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage – all cases
Development Applications Unit, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage – where there might be significant effects on architectural or archaeological heritage or nature conservation
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications where there might be significant effects on sea fisheries or the marine environment
Any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of the planning authority S.I. 456 of 2025

The European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 456 of 2025) replace S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (which transposes the SEA Directive (2004/42/EC) as it relates to land-use planning).

The Regulations detail requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) , including the determination of need for assessment, the assessment process itself, the content and scoping of environmental reports, consultation procedures, handling transboundary effects, decision-making processes, information disclosure, monitoring and joint or coordinated assessments.

From the 2 October 2025, SEA of the following should be carried out under the European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 456 of 2025):

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy;

SEA of the following will continue to be carried out under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) until the commencement of the remaining provisions of Part 3 of the Act of 2024: Development Plan; Local Area Plan; and Strategic Development Zones. S.I. 463 of 2025

The European Union (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 463 of 2025) provide for consequential amendments to the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) following the enactment of the Planning and Development Act of 2024 (Act of 2024).

The amendments:

Disapply the Principal Regulations to plans made under Part 3, Part 21 and Part 22 of the Act of 2024. ;

Allow for joint or coordinated assessments for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA); and

Revoke relevant Articles (which inserted regulation making powers for the Minister in relation to strategic environmental assessment into the Planning and Development Act 2000.).

County Tipperary Heritage Strategy sets out the high-level vision, mission and strategic objectives for the management and protection of heritage in the county. The development and expansion of heritage services in the county includes a hierarchy of plans and will involve the publication of Local Action Plans, for elements of heritage such as biodiversity and other heritage disciplines as may arise. These action plans will set out specific objectives and actions for managing and protecting heritage within the context of the County Heritage Strategy. The heritage strategy and associated action plans will ensure that the Heritage Act 1995 and national and regional heritage

policy are translated to local actions and address local needs in a coordinated and effective way. The Heritage Strategy provides the context for Tipperary County Council to work with and support local communities and custodians.

The proposed Strategies will include:

Promoting awareness and appreciation of the Heritage of the county: Understanding is the key to appreciation, and we can only celebrate and raise awareness of our rich heritage when we fully appreciate it. Promoting awareness is at the very core of this plan. Our heritage is shared between all of us and when we work together to promote its value and benefits we are on the road to protecting it. Engagement with all of our citizens is the key and the Heritage Forum is committed to ensure that knowledge and awareness of our heritage reaches the widest possible audience and that its value and benefit is something that reaches everyone.

1. Promote awareness.

1.1 Facilitate collaboration and networking between local heritage groups, key heritage stakeholders and organizations and the local authority through a programme of conferences, seminars and workshops through the life time of the plan.

1.2 To continue funding support for local groups, communities and Council Services to facilitate showcasing their work and local heritage during National Heritage Week

1.3 Highlight Heritage Assets including lesser known sites and artefacts as well as cultural heritage both tangible and intangible through traditional and new forms of media.

1.4 Provide training opportunities for groups and communities to support them in protecting and raising awareness of their local heritage (know your 5k, oral heritage, social media etc).

1.5 Seek to promote engagement with young people through targeted activities during heritage week and explore developing suitable heritage related material aimed at younger audiences.

1.6 Circulate a regular monthly heritage newsletter, highlighting upcoming events, project updates/successes and funding opportunities.

1.7 To advocate for improvements to access and appropriate information/interpretation at heritage sites.

1.8 Work with local authority colleagues through Creative Ireland programme, Commemorations, Culture night, Bealtaine and other relevant programmes to highlight aspects of heritage and its value.

1.9 To work with the relevant statutory bodies to highlight protection afforded to all aspects of heritage and to communicate this to the public

1.10 Collaborate with relevant council services to provide workshops for groups and organisations on funding applications and funding schemes.

2. Conservation and caring for heritage sites and objects.

Protection and conservation of our heritage are central to this plan. We will promote best practice in terms of conserving our heritage and provide advice and training where the need arises to ensure its protection into the future.

2.1 To deliver a programme of training events for local volunteers and heritage groups to provide practical advice and guidance on conservation and maintenance of heritage sites.

2.2 Support relevant staff training within the local authority with regard to heritage assets in council ownership.

2.3 Host grant clinics (in partnership with other council services) for communities and interested parties focusing on heritage funding supports offered through various departments in the council.

2.4 Support guardians of our heritage both public and private through managing relevant funding schemes such as Community Monuments Fund and Historic Towns Initiative and any other relevant schemes that may come throughout the lifetime of the plan.

2.5 Complete case studies on conservation projects documenting best practice and climate mitigation elements.

2.6 Set up a Walled Towns Forum of interested parties from each of the four Walled Towns in the Irish Walled Towns Network- use the forum to promote maintenance of the Town walls in partnership with the Local Authority and/or local groups and also to facilitate interpretation and other projects through the funding scheme.

2.7 Continue to support the inclusion of the rock of Cashel on the UNESCO World Heritage list as part of the Royal Sites of Ireland through active participation on the Working Group and Steering group and in any other areas that arise throughout the lifetime of this plan.

2.8 Commission an audit of archaeological and built heritage assets in council ownership and assess their vulnerability with regards to the impact of climate change.

2.9 Promote awareness of the need for the conservation and proper storage of artefacts and promote services of our Museums, Local Studies, Archives and Heritage Centres.

2.10 Advocate for funds to carry out assessments on Council owned sites to support funding applications for necessary conservation works

3. Research and Heritage Data

Gathering and dissemination of information on the heritage of our county is an important objective of our heritage plan. The data we gather informs much of our projects. Our challenge with the current plan is that we have a geographical change in the area we are working in and we must broaden our horizons to gather the data that tells us all the stories of Tipperary. Material

gathered not only promotes awareness and protection of these sites but can also be used to interpret them.

3.1. Commission/Support surveys and studies of aspects of the county's heritage and landscape

3.2. Support the work of the Irish Community Archive (iCAN) in Tipperary and, in partnership with them, seek to increase the number of Tipperary sites by 10 during the lifetime of this plan

3.3. Use the Heritage Office iCAN website www.heritagetipperary.org as a tool to facilitate making heritage data collected in one off projects accessible to the public where appropriate .

3.4. Seek to publish commissioned research by the Heritage Office where possible either in print or on www.heritagetipperary.org.

3.5. Seek to pilot a publication grant scheme for local authors publishing books on aspects of the county's history and heritage .

3.6. Investigate hidden or overlooked heritage assets as a basis for action 1.3 and explore options with regards to creating alternative heritage trails.

3.7. Share where appropriate datasets or survey reports with relevant Council Service

The values of County Tipperary Heritage Strategy are informed and shaped by the values and goals of the County Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 (LECP) and previous Tipperary County Council's Heritage Council Strategic Plans.

The Heritage Strategy in Context

The Policy Context

County Tipperary Heritage Strategy 2025-2030 is informed by and aligned with national policy: 'Heritage Ireland 2030' the national strategy for the protection, promotion and management of Ireland's heritage; 'Our Place in Time' the Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023- 2028'; The 'National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030'; 'Project Ireland 2040', the 'National Development Plan 2023-2030', the 'Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage' and the 'National Strategy for Vernacular Heritage'.

County Tipperary Heritage Strategy is aligned with local policy and supports the delivery of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan aligning with the National Biodiversity policy.

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening is to ascertain whether the high-level vision, mission and strategic objectives for the management and protection of heritage in County Tipperary, as outlined in the Draft Heritage Strategy 2025-2030, have the potential to negatively impact the natural environment.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the acts as set out.

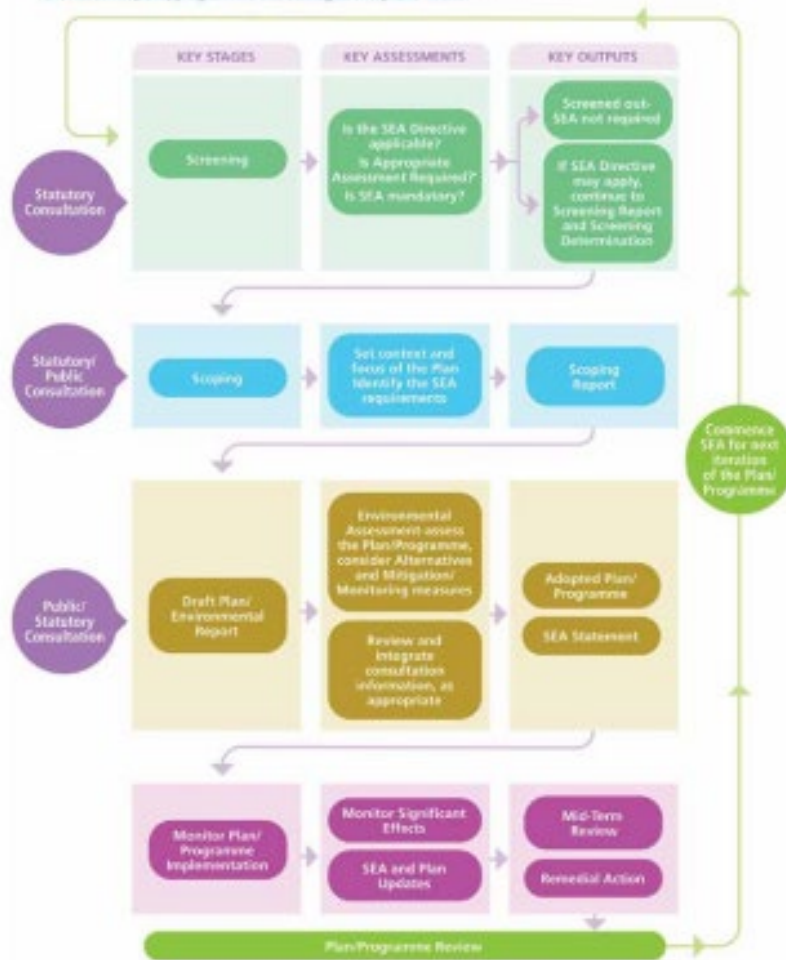
An appropriate assessment screening has concluded that there is no risk of negative impact on Natura 2000 sites within the possible impact zone of the actions outlined in the draft Tipperary Heritage Strategy.

This AA screening was carried out in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and in line with the Guidance for Planning Authorities entitled "*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland*" as published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in December 2009.

The 1992 Habitats Directive requires member states to designate areas of their territory containing a representative sample of important habitats and species. These areas are known as Natura 2000 sites, and in Ireland they include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) and Special Protection Areas (SPA's). Article 6(3) and (4) require that an Appropriate Assessment be carried out for these sites where projects, plans or proposals are likely to have an effect on the protected site.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Process Overview

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process for identifying, reporting, proposing mitigation measures and monitoring environmental effects of plans, programmes and strategies. It aims to ensure that environmental issues are taken into account at every stage in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and review of plans, programmes and strategies of a public nature.



Methodology

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening methodology (as contained in the AA screening by the author) allows a systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme and has followed the methodology as set out in *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities* (December 2009) has been followed.

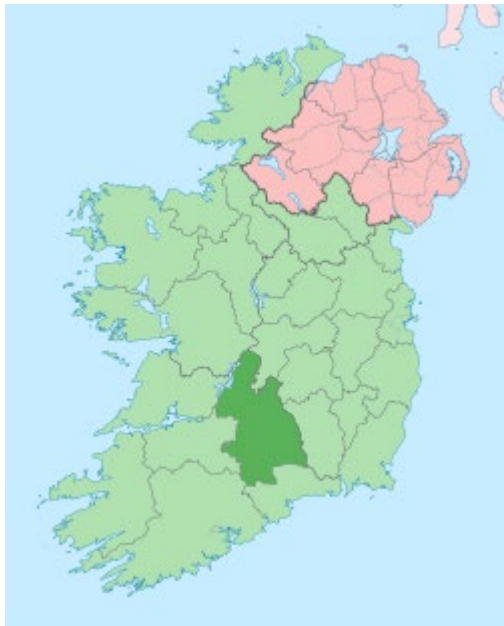
Stage 1 Screening

Description of project and project area characteristics -

The proposed project is the creation of a Heritage Strategy for Tipperary County Council to set out the high-level vision, mission and strategic objectives for the management and protection of heritage in the county.

There are no works proposed other than what is reasonably required to facilitate the creation of this strategic Plan. The County occupies a geographical location that contains a number of Natura 2000 sites and borders counties that also contain Natura 2000 sites.

Tipperary Co Co boundary/ Receiving environment



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Identification of environmentally significant sites and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives.

There are a number of sites within the area covered by the proposed Tipperary County Council Strategic Heritage Plan. This report considers these sites but also sites that are not restricted to County Tipperary, where a potential pathway exists and proximity to the County boundary allows, sites in neighbouring counties.

Conservation objectives (Generic) for Natura 2000 sites:

Conservation objectives can be stated as follows:

- Avoid deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying species and species of special conservation interest or significant disturbance to these species thus ensuring the integrity of the sites are maintained.
- To ensure for the qualifying species and species of special conservation interest that the following are maintained in the long-term:
 - (1) The population of the species as a viable component of the site
 - (2) The distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species

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

- For SACs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected;
- For SPAs, to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA. Where available, Site-Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCOs) designed to define favourable conservation status for a particular habitat or species at that site have been considered.

List of Natura 2000 sites in and proximate to Tipperary:

Site Name: Anglesey Road SAC (002125)

Site Name: Arragh More (Derrybreen) Bog SAC (002207)

Site Name: Ballyduff/Clonfinane Bog SAC (000641)

Site Name: Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170)

Site Name: Bolingbrook Hill SAC (002124)

Site Name: Clare Glen SAC (000930)

Site Name: Galtee Mountains SAC (000646)

- Site Name: Keeper Hill SAC (001197)
- Site Name: Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC (000647)
- Site Name: Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC (000934)
- Site Name: Liskeenan Fen SAC (001683)
- Site Name: Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (004058)
- Site Name: Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC (002241)
- Site Name: Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)
- Site Name: Lower River Suir SAC (002137)
- Site Name: Middle Shannon Callows SPA (004096)
- Site Name: Moanour Mountain SAC (002257)
- Site Name: Philipston Marsh SAC (001847)
- Site Name: Redwood Bog SAC (002353)
- Site Name: River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)
- Site Name: River Little Brosna Callows SPA (004086)
- Site Name: River Shannon Callows SAC (000216)
- Site Name: Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC (002206)
- Site Name: Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585)
- Site Name: Silvermine Mountains SAC (000939)
- Site Name: Silvermines Mountains West SAC (002258)
- Site Name: Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA (004165)

Natura 2000 sites anticipated impacts:

Site Name	Water quality reduction	Area reduction	Disturbance	Fragmentation	Density Reduction
Anglesey Road SAC (002125)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Arragh More (Derrybreen) Bog SAC (002207)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Ballyduff/Clonfinane	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated

Bog SAC (000641)					
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Bolingbrook Hill SAC (002124)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Clare Glen SAC (000930)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Galtee Mountains SAC (000646)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Keeper Hill SAC (001197)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC (000934)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Liskeenan Fen SAC (001683)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (004058)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC (002241)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Lower River Suir SAC (002137)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Killeglan Grassland SAC	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Middle Shannon Callows SPA	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Moanour Mountain SAC (002257)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Philipston Marsh SAC (001847)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Redwood Bog SAC (002353)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
River Little Brosna Callows SPA (004086)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Scohaboy (Sopwell) Bog SAC (002206)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Sharavogue Bog SAC (000585)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Silvermine Mountains SAC	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated

(000939)					
Silvermines Mountains West SAC (002258)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA (004165)	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
River Little Brosna Callows SPA	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Redwood Bog SAC	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Lough Derg North east shore SAC	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Lough Derg Shannon SPA	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Lower River Shannon SAC	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
River Shannon and River Fergus SPA	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated
Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC (None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated	None anticipated

Assessment of Likely Effects

Potential impacts on environmentally important sites from the proposed Heritage Strategy objectives are not anticipated.

Based on the available information and data it is not expected that the proposed project will cause any impact on the sites located within the potential Zone of Impact. It is of such a scale that it will cause neither change nor have any significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any sites within the threshold distance.

More specifically, there will be no reduction in habitat area; no disturbance of key species, habitat or species fragmentation; no reduction in species density; no changes in key indicators of conservation value. Little significant negative impact to local flora will occur and in fact native Flora and Fauna should benefit from the proposed strategy.

Potential negative impacts on sites from the proposed Heritage Strategy objectives of Tipperary Co. Co. are not anticipated.

Based on the available information and data is not expected that the proposed strategy will cause any negative impact on the important sites located within the potential Zol..

More specifically, there will be no reduction in habitat area; no disturbance of key species, habitat or species fragmentation; no reduction in species density;

no changes in key indicators of conservation value and no climate change brought about

Likely Significant Effects

Identification of Potential Impacts

The identification of potential impacts in this report uses the “*source-pathway-receptor*” model. According to this model, for an impact to exist, all three of the following criteria must be met: -

- Some aspect of the plan or project must act as a source of an impact,
- There must be a pathway capable of conveying the impact to a receptor, and
- The receptor must be sensitive to the impact.

This proposed Heritage Strategy will have no significant negative impact in combination or cumulatively with other planned projects proposed for the locale.

No significant effects as a result of the proposed strategy in relation to disturbance, displacement or mortality of faunal species have been identified. Specifically there will be no loss of Key Ecological Receptor habitats or species. There will be no impact on population numbers of Key Ecological Receptors.

There will be no fragmentation of Key Ecological Receptor habitats or species.

There is no possibility for negative impact on aquatic Natura 2000 sites within the potential impact zone.

There will be no effect on the natural range of protected habitats or species, and areas they cover within that range, are stable or increasing

The specific structure and functions which are necessary for the long-term maintenance of species and habitats exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future

The conservation status of habitats and species is favourable.

There will be no effects on the population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats

The natural range of the species will neither be reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future

There is and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis.

Screening Conclusion and Statement

The purpose of this Strategic Environmental Screening is to ascertain whether the high-level vision, mission and strategic objectives for the management and protection of heritage in County Tipperary as outlined in the Draft Heritage Strategy 2025-2030 have the potential to negatively impact the natural environment within the possible Zone of Impact (Zoi).

They are of such a scale that they will cause neither change nor have any significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any important environmental sites within the threshold distance. There are no “in combination” effects from this proposed strategy anticipated. More specifically, there will be no reduction in habitat area; no disturbance of key species, habitat or species fragmentation; no reduction in species density; no changes in key indicators of conservation value, and no climate change brought about to the SAC and SPA sites within the Zone of Impact.

Following the review of the project in accordance with the Guidance as outlined this screening has established that the project poses no potential for impacts on the Natural Environment and as such requires no further Strategic Environmental Assessment.

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May 2026

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Key Legislation & Regulations

- European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 456/2025): The primary national regulation for SEAs of land-use plans.
- European Union (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 463/2025): Updates for non-land-use sectors following the Planning and Development Act 2024.
- SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): The overarching European framework for environmental assessment of plans and programmes.

National Guidelines & Resources

- [EPA SEA Resources and Guidance](#): The central repository for all Irish SEA procedural documentation.
- [SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations \(2026\)](#): Regularly updated guidance for planning authorities.
- Good Practice Guidance for SEA Screening (2026 update): Provides templates and step-by-step processes for the screening stage.
- [SEA Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities \(2022\)](#): Departmental guidance on land-use planning integration. [

- **Second Review of Strategic Environmental Assessment Effectiveness in Ireland (2025):** An EPA-funded evaluation of 20 Irish case studies.
- **[Research 391: Tiering of Environmental Assessment \(2021\)](#):** Study on the link between SEA and project-level EIA.
 - **[Integrating Climatic Factors into SEA \(2019/2020\)](#):** Guidance on aligning plans with climate targets.
 - **[Good Practice Guidance on SEA and Landscape \(2023\)](#):** Managing landscape conservation in the SEA process.
 - **[Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA \(2021\)](#):** Methodologies for exploring plan options.